

the beginning of

COME LIGHT THE MENORAH (from **OY!**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

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Place: The living room of Hannah's apartment.

Time: The first night of Chanukah.

Characters: HANNAH and SARA, two sisters

As the play begins, HANNAH opens a box of Chanukah candles onto a table. The doorbell rings.

HANNAH

Door's open.

SARA enters, carrying a box of donuts.

SARA

(as she enters)

Happy Chanukah.

HANNAH

How come there are never enough greens in the box? It's my favorite color.

Sara, used to Hannah's kvetching, gives her a hug.

SARA

Good to see you.

HANNAH

I made some latkes. They're keeping warm in the oven.

SARA

You know, I don't know much about God. But if he created us in his image, and he wants us to eat latkes for eight days, God has thick hips.

HANNAH

Don't talk to me about God. Any deity who created the shikse is not one I want to believe in.

SARA

I'm sorry Marvin dumped you.

HANNAH

I met his new girl friend, Mary Beth Goyim.

SARA

How?

HANNAH

He had the chutzpah to bring her to temple.

SARA

You're kidding.

HANNAH

She told me she wanted to learn about Judaism.

SARA

Well, that's something.

HANNAH

I just don't understand Christians.
How can you pray to anyone that thin?

SARA

How about if we light candles? Then we can
call Mom and Dad so they can brag to the
neighbors that their daughters get along.

HANNAH

Fine. Choose a color.

Sara looks at the candles and chooses one. Hannah begins to get emotional.

SARA

What?

HANNAH

That's the color Murray chose a year ago just
before he ran off with Kelly Katherine Cooper.

SARA

Okay. How about... this one?

Sara chooses a different candle. Hannah gets more upset.

SARA (cont'd)

What?

HANNAH

That's the color Irving chose two years ago
before he dumped me for Geraldine Genovicci.

SARA

Okay.

Sara chooses a different candle. Hannah gets even more upset.

SARA (cont'd)

What?!

HANNAH

That was the color Isidore chose three years ago
before I caught him shtupping Delta Dixie Dixon.

Sara chooses another candle. Hannah gets more upset.

HANNAH (cont'd)

Sara!

SARA

Four years ago you were single.
What could be wrong with pink?

HANNAH

Shiksese wear pink on Easter!

SARA

Look, Hannah, I know you've had a string
of really, really bad luck, but –

HANNAH

Sometimes I think the only way I'll land a
nice Jewish boy is if I convert to Christianity.

SARA

Not all Jewish guys end up with shiksese.

HANNAH

I know. Just the ones I like. The sexy
ones. The smart ones. The ones
you'd be willing to pay retail for.

SARA

One day I'm sure you'll find the right person,
and all this will be a memory.

HANNAH

How you can say that after what you've been through.

SARA

I've always been an optimist. That's why I think you became a pessimist, sis – so you could have your own identity.

HANNAH

Well, I hope one day you'll find the right guy, too, Sara. I really do.

Sara smiles as if she has a secret.

HANNAH (cont'd)

What?

SARA

Nothing.

HANNAH

You've found someone.

SARA

I don't know.

HANNAH

I can tell. You can't hide things from me.

SARA

You might be surprised.

HANNAH

Tell me.

SARA

(downplaying it)

It's noth—

HANNAH

Tell me.

SARA

Well... remember how, when I divorced Larry, I said it was because after eight years of marriage I finally accepted he wasn't my type?

HANNAH

Uh-huh.

SARA

I think no man is my type.

HANNAH

I know the feeling.

SARA

No, you don't.

HANNAH

Oh, yes, I do.

SARA

Oh, no, you don't.

HANNAH

Trust me. Some mornings I wake up
and wish I were a Lesbian.

SARA

Well, maybe you didn't wish hard enough.

HANNAH

Are you... are you saying you're –

SARA

Yep.

HANNAH

Really?

SARA

I know this must be a quite a –

HANNAH

That's so cool.

SARA

Cool?

HANNAH

I'm a Conservative Jewish woman
with a Conservative Jewish life.
Having a Lesbian sister is the closest
I'll ever get to being trendy.