

the beginning of

**GOOD NEWS FROM ALBERT** (from **OY!**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

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Lights up on two areas: On one side of the stage, ALBERT EINSTEIN picks up a phone and dials it. On the other side, ALBERT EINSTEIN'S MOM answers it.

ALBERT  
(very excited)  
Hello, Mom? It's Al.

MOM  
Al who?

ALBERT  
(excitement disappearing)  
Your son, Albert. Albert Einstein.

MOM  
Oh, yes. It's been so long since I've heard from you, I couldn't quite place the voice.

ALBERT  
Ma...

MOM  
I haven't heard from you for a month.

ALBERT  
What do you mean? I called you last week.

MOM  
Last week was in a different month.

ALBERT  
Mom, I have very, very good news.

MOM  
(very excited)  
What's her name?

ALBERT  
It's not a woman, Mother.

MOM

You know, the temple singles group is having a dance Saturday night, and I thought –

ALBERT

Ma, I'm not comfortable at those things.

MOM

Nobody's comfortable at those things. That's why they get married.

ALBERT

I'm not interested.

MOM

You know, Mr. Brilliant Physicist, life is more than just matter and energy. You need a woman, too.

ALBERT

I know that.

MOM

Then why don't you get a haircut?

ALBERT

I like my hair this way.

MOM

Sometimes I look at those pictures in the papers of you hobnobbing with all those geniuses, and I think, "What they must think of my Albert, looking like a shlump."

ALBERT

Mom, will you stop nudging me about my hair?

MOM

And you're not eating well, are you?

ALBERT

Ma!

MOM

You think you can hide that by wearing floppy sweaters, but I know you're thin. It doesn't take an Einstein to see that.

ALBERT

I think I gotta go.

MOM

You said you called for a reason.

ALBERT

Oh, right... I won the Nobel Prize today.

MOM

Mazel tov! Is there money in that?

ALBERT

Some, but more importantly, it's one of the biggest honors in the world.

MOM

So the money's bupkis, huh?

ALBERT

I'll probably go down in history.

MOM

(sad)

Ohhh. I see.

ALBERT

I thought you'd be happy.

MOM

I suppose now that you're going to be so famous, you won't need to call your mother anymore.

ALBERT

Mom!

MOM

Well, I read somewhere that once Disraeli became Prime Minister of England, the frequency of calls to his mother dropped 72%.

ALBERT

Where do you read these things?

MOM

*Jewish Mother's Quarterly.*