



keyword search News NYC Life Eats Music Film Arts People Classifieds About Us

Daily Voice <

- Runnin' Scared
The Kalahari in Harlem is Open For Business <
3:32 pm
 - Status Ain't Hood
Nine Inch Nails' The Slip: A First Impression <
2:35 pm
 - La Daily Musto
Britney Goes Off-Broadway Where She Belongs <
1:50 pm
 - Sound of the City
Radiohead Kicks Off World Tour, Thom Yorke Shows Up Looking Like Lounge Singer <
1:39 pm
 - Fork in the Road
Indiana Primary Special: Pork Tenderloin Sandwich <
1:02 pm
- > more blogs

Podcasts <

Status Ain't Hood
T.I. is back from house-arrest exile, and he's got a lot to say

Gallery <

Superhero Fashion
by Sam Horine
> more galleries

NYC Guide <

Tamil Nadu Bhavan, a New, Strictly Vegetarian Indian Restaurant in Curry Hill
by Robert Sietsema

- best of nyc
- eats
- drinks
- shopping
- film
- music
- events
- home

Promotions <

Les Nubians
Enter to win tickets to see Les Nubians on Friday, May 9th at Blender Theater at Gramercy!
Adam Green

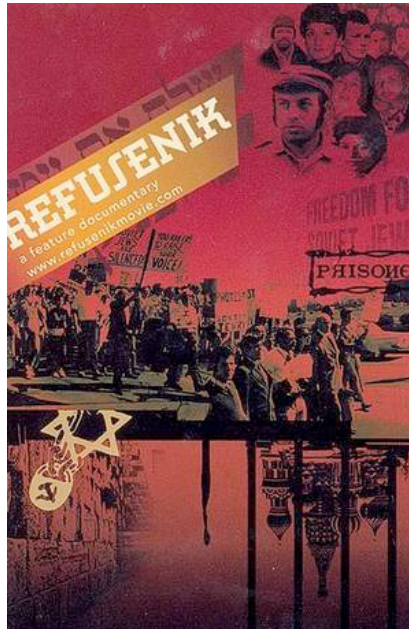
Film

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Tracking Shots
Refusenik: A Heroic Portrait

Brave Soviet Jews get their tribute
by Ella Taylor
May 6th, 2008 12:00 AM

The brave Soviet Jews in Laura Bialis' absorbing portrait of the refusenik movement of the 1960s and '70s had to contend not only with official Soviet repression of religious expression and their own concomitant ignorance of their heritage, but with the virulent anti-Semitism that had flourished in Russia for centuries. In one respect, however, the dissidents lucked out: Their plight resonated powerfully with civil-rights campaigners, campus radicals, and ethnic-pride activists all over the West. Sources from all of these now-graying groups and archival footage tell a straight-ahead but moving story of how a pro-Soviet Jewry movement composed mainly of housewives and students badgered their own governments to put pressure on the Soviets to let their people go—by that time, from the Siberian labor camps, mental hospitals, prisons, and house arrests that were punishment for applying to leave for Israel. For all its euphoric ending, though, *Refusenik* tells a partial story: Successive waves of Soviet émigrés (many of whom went immediately to more prosperous countries instead of Israel) flooded the tiny country with overqualified new citizens who ended up doing the work they'd been demoted to back home—sweeping streets and manning elevators. Today, their leader, Natan Sharansky, is one of Israel's leading hawks on the occupied territories, showing the darker side of the intransigent courage that got him through nine years in a Soviet jail.



Refusenik
Directed by Laura Bialis
Abramorama and the Foundation for Documentary Projects
Opens May 9, Quad Cinema

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Tracking Shots by Vadim Rizov
- The Favor
Tracking Shots by Vadim Rizov
- Made of Honor
Tracking Shots by Robert Wilonsky
- XXY
Tracking Shots by Nick Pinkerton
- Fugitive Pieces
Tracking Shots by Ella Taylor
- Former Scientist Actor Wants his Confessional Files Back (8)
Tony Ortega
- Dirty Blonde: Brooklyn, a Place to Impress Strangers (4)
Dirty Blonde: Annie Fischer
- Mr. Roboto: Fits to Print (3)
Mr. Roboto: Brendan I. Koerner
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Ellen Page makes this stuff work

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Tarsem's The Fall: A Singular Spectacle

Just like the "Losing My Religion" video!

The Fall

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As Chris Eigeman turns director

Turn the River

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A nutty performance in a too-busy movie

Noise

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PERSONAL OF THE DAY



duoo

"It would be great to meet other artists; whether it be painters, filmmakers, musicians, whatever."

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