Yentl

By Arthur J. Johnson piece — produced, co-written, directed by and starring Academy Award winner Barbara Streisand (Best Actress for "Funny Girl")—was well worth the 15-year wait.

Miss Streisand has been planning the film since 1968 and stars as Yentl, a



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Invites you and your party of Special Friends to come out and celebrate New Year's Eve on Saturday, December 31, 1983 from 9 P.M. till 6 A.M. We look forward to you joining us in this Gala of Fantasy and Fun with a continuous Holiday Buffet and Live Entertainment

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Friday Plus's

motherless, Jewish girl devoted to her friendship with Mandy Patinkin, another flawless piece of entertainment. Just as father with whom she lives in Eastern student at the Yeshiva. Soon she finds the film avoids being your standard Europe in 1904. Secretly she is being herself falling in love with him despite comedy about cross-dressing, it avoids taught the Talmud (scholarly Jewish in- his chauvinistic attitude toward women being your average musical, too. terpretations of the Bible) by her father despite the fact that it is forbidden by the Jewish religion for women to be given such instruction.

More interested in learning the Talmud than in "how to tell a herring about learning, not loving. Ultimately consummate the marriage. she rebels against the book peddlers' "Yentl" may sound like "Tootsie on woman chops off her hair, dresses

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Yentl is quickly recognized as a top Talmudic scholar and forms a close

scholars.

(at one point he confesses that his The action never stops for the songs, and confidant.

herself as a man and gains admittance

Movie Review

Although Patinkin doesn't realize that Yentl's thoughts are filled with ideas who, needless to say, cannot physically

sales pitch, "Sacred books for the man, the Roof" as some cynical critics dubbpicture books for the women!" When ed the film prior to its release, but it is her father dies, the headstrong young much more than a comedy about a stubbornness as Yentl's confused best woman in drag. "Yentl" is an often fun- friend, and Miss Irving wonderfully porny and touching drama (with music) about how men and women treat each other, what they want from each other and what they receive.

"Yentl" is also about restrictions and limitations that society places on peo-

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ceptance of roles affects male-female to a Yeshiva, a school for Jewish But don't be put off by the message.

ple based on their sex and how our ac-

Above all else "Yentl" is an almost

fiancee probably has no important and there are no production numbers thoughts) as she becomes his best friend no soft shoe, no ballets on rooftops. Each of the beautifully and carefully written songs by Michel Legrand and his beardless best friend is really a Alan and Marilyn Bergman is a gem from a carp" as she says, Yentl is at odds woman, he does feel a "strange" attrac- which advances the plot and reveals with her society and the role that it has tion to Yentl. Matters are further com- Yentl's thoughts at that particular moreserved for her as a future wife, plicated when circumstances force Yentl ment. Each lyric sung is essential — no mother and fish connoisseur. Despite to marry her best friend's fiance (Amy silly rhymes — and sung to perfection her dying father's wish that she marry, Irving), who then falls in love with Yentl, by that magnificent instrument, Streisand's voice.

> Patinkin, a veteran of Broadway (he was Che in "Evita") and film (he was the Jewish filmmaker in "Ragtime") is the perfect blend of male sensitivity and trays the subtle transformation of a native girl to an interesting woman, thanks to Yentl's prodding.

The script manages to be both entertaining, inspiring and enlightening while never preaching. Striesand's direction never wavers.

And finally, Streisand the actress emerges. After 15 years of mostly mediocre to downright bad films, Streisand's dramatic abilities seemed limited if not altogether non-existent. Many of her roles capitalized on her nasal, Brooklyn-accented asides or her comic timing to save them.

In "Yentl" she proves herself as a refined dramatic actress of tremendous depth and range. Never has she seemed so vulnerable and honest on film. Never before has she seemd so lost inside a character that one forgets it is La Streisand. As Yentl she does her best film work to date.

You don't have to be Jewish, a Streisand fan or a musical lover to fall in love with "Yentl". Just human.

Film Capsules

By Arthur J. Johnson

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN- The original and best James Bond, Sean Connery returns in this 14th of the 007 series. With Connery's return comes the wit that's been missing from the Roger Moore films. Barbara Carerra almost steals the show as the wicked Fatima Blush. Rated PG. Some sex and violence but no more than is seen on prime time

MR. MOM- This audience-pleaser is little more than a situation comedy about a man forced to become a "househusband" when he loses his job and wife returns to work. Not very original, but children love it. Michael Keaton and Terri Garr star. Good, dean fun and fine for kids of all ages. Rated PG.



Friday Plus, December 23, 1983

lizabeth Ashley, repeating her "Coma," and "Paternity." Ms. Ashley is Mercedes McCambridge, will star in the ROAD. hit Broadway play "Agnes of God" at the the young infant is found dead, a court- The Quality of Mercy. Miss McCamto investigate the crime.

"Agnes of God" opened on Broadway March 30, 1980, and ran for 599 performances. Pielmeier's script was originally performed at the National Playwright Conference of the Eugene O'Neil Memorial Theatre Center, and had its professional premiere at the Actors Director Michael Lindsay-Hogg has ly staged locally at Center Stage.

for "Take Her, She's Mine," also receiv- Millionairess," and "The White Devil." ed Tony nominations for "Cat On A Hot Television and film credits include "Nas Tin Roof" and "Barefoot In The Park." ty Habits," "Let It Be," "Ladies in

original Broadway role, and the author of the bestselling biography Academy Award winner, ACTRESS: POSTCARDS FROM THE

Morris A. Mechanic Theatre from Jan. Mercedes McCambridge, Oscar win-10 through Jan. 28. Written by John ner for "All The King's Men," began her Pielmeier and directed by Michael career in radio and has worked exten-Lindsay-Hogg, "Agnes of God" is a sively on the stage. A busy film career mystery psycho-drama set in a convent includes "Cimmaron," "A Farewell To about a young nun—played by Maryann Arms," "Johnny Guitar," and most Plunkett—who gives birth to a baby recently "The Exorcist." She has also under mysterious circumstances. When authored the books The Two Of Us and appointed psychiatrist (Ashley) is sent bridge portrays the Mother Superior in "Agnes of God."

> Maryann Plunkett made her Broadway debut in "Agnes of God" as the young nun. In regional theatre she has played Polly Peachum in "The Threepen ny Opera" and Joan in "The Lark."

Theatre of Louisville. It was subsequent- staged several productions for Broadway and London, including "Whose Life Elizabeth Ashley, Tony Award winner Is It Anyway?," "Home," "The Her many films include "Ship Of Fools," Waiting," and "Brideshead Revisited."

Meet Emery King

Emery King, an NBC News White House correspondent, is as versatile as he is well traveled.

King covers the fast-breaking events of a globe-trotting President for the Saturday and Sunday editions of "NBC Nightly News" with the same aplomb and dedication to detail that was characteristic of him when he was starting out in radio in his own hometown of Gary, IN. During the week, King covers the White House for "A News," the NBC news service that is fed to the NBC Television affiliates every day.

His recent "Nightly News" assignments have included road trips with President Reagan on his historic vicit to the DMZ in Korea, and to Augusta, GA, where tragedy nearly stuck when a man crashed his truck through the gates of the Augusta National Golf Club and demanded to speak with the President. The man was apprehended and the President unharmed.

Earlier this year, King covered the special economic summit meeting in Williamsburg, VA. He was one of the first to report that President Reagan had decided to appoint Robert McFarlane as his next National Security Advisor.

He joined NBC News in April, 1980. WJOB in Hammond, IN. King attended Since then, he has been a regular con- Purdue University from 1967 to 1971 tributor to "NBC News at Sunrise" and where he studied speech and drama. "Today." He was co-writer and reporter - Black and White," which was telecast September 9, 1981.

Before coming to NBC, King was a reporter for WBBM-TV, Chicago, from



EMERY KING

1977 to 1980. He covered politics and the Illinois State House. From 1973 until 1977, he was a reporter/anchormar with WBBM NewsRadio in Chicago.

From 1972 to 1973, he was with radio station WWCA in Gary, IN, as r reporter, and in the years 1970-72 he held a similar job with radio station

King and his wife, Jackie, live in the with Correspondent Garrick Utley of the Washington, D.C. area. According to acclaimed NBC White Paper "America Jackie, "Emery plays a beautiful classical piano." But it's hard to think of the highly visible King having enough time on his hands to be able to play any kind of piano.

mount Theatre Productions, "Agnes of lighting by Roger Morgan.

Produced by Baltimoreans Kenneth God" has scenery by Eugene Lee, Waissman and Lou Kramer, and Para- costumes by Carrie Robbins, and

Smithsonian Events

DAY, FRIDAY-NOON Wednesday, Dec. 21, 28 Bowed Stringed In- Carmichael Auditorium struments is the theme FREE for demonstrations from collections.

Thursdays, Dec. 22, 29 Varietie of Lute Lessons Jan. 7 Christine Niehaus vocal and instrumental provides the focus. Dec. 22 Lute songs of the late 19th and early 20th Fridays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Howard Bass. Dec. 29 Music for the Baro-

Fridays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 FREE Keyboard instruments from spotlighted.

Holiday Celebration

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY,

Variety of Folk Instruments. the hammered dulcimer by Tabby Finch.

Jan. 12 Traditional, contemporary and Scottish songs. performed by folk duo demonstrated by Tabby

Fridays, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 Keyboard instruments from tian Carter, violinist Marilyn keyboard collection. Sponfeatured.

Hall of Musical Instrumer

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King, Jr.

Players

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MON., DEC. 26-SAT., DEC. 31 NOON-4 P.M.

Music, puppets, craft and FREE food demonstrations, and other adventures related to Christmas, Hanukkah and TUES., JAN. 17, WED., JAN. P.M. the New Year are 18—8 P.M. Saturday, Dec. 31.

FRIDAY-NOON

Mostly Music 25 American folk music is Parera" Stradivarius violin) played on traditional instruments by Cathy Fink. Thursdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 vais" Stradivarius 'cello). P.M. Each Thursday's theme is Co-produced with Hand-Made, Hand-Held-A Smithsonian Associate Program. Jan. 5 British and American Hall of Musical Instrument folk songs, performed on TICKETS

MONDAY, JAN. 30-8 P Plano in America

neth Slowik. Hall of Musical Instrumer RESERVATIONS

Mostly Music Wednesdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Wind instruments are presented. Thursdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

Black History Month provides the thematic link for

Keyboard instruments from Alice Kosloski and lutenist Jan. 21 The Washington the Museum's collections Jazz Ensemble presents are spotlighted. Hall of Musical Instruments

FRI., FEB. 3-SAT., FEB. 4

SATURDAY, JAN. 14-1-4 Black American Culture Saturday After Noon The annual Black American "Of Songs, Peace, and History Month presentation Struggle": In commemora- is entitled "Spirituals and

tion of Dr. Martin Luther Black American Choral Carmichael Auditorium Call

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SATURDAYS, FEB. 4, 18-2

Saturday Live Feb. 4 Polish music of the late 16th-18th centuries. performed on violin, 'cello, Piano trios by Smetana and viola da gamba, lute and Brahms are performed on concerting.

the Feb. 18 A performance of Museum's collection by folk music and dance by the Orkis Fiddle Puppets.

" ("Paders wski" Steinway), Hall of Musical Instruments Marilyn MacDonald ("Ex FREE

and Kenneth Slowik ("Ser- MONDAYS, FEB. 6, 27-8

Treasures from the Collection Feb. 6 Derek Adlam per-

forms works by C.P.E. Bach, J.S. Bach Froberger and Haydn on the newly restored Hass clavichord (Hamburg, 1756) and the Places": Salon music, from (Munich, 1795?).

the turn of the century to Feb. 27 Ton Koopman plays Jan. 19 Irish harp music, the 1930s, is recreated by music of Sweenlick, pianists Joshua Rifkin and Froberger, Frescobaldi and James Weaver, soprano Louis Couperin on three Julianne Boyd, harpist Do- rare instruments in the are MacDonald and 'cellist Ken- sored by the Friends of Music at the Smithsonian. Hall of Musical Instruments RESERVATIONS

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