

The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

THE NOSE KNOWS WOMEN, MEN, COMEDY AND PLASTIC SURGERY*

*Note: The Yiddish words for “plastic surgery” are “plastic khirurgye.”
The Yiddish word for “nose” is “noz.”

by
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The title of a documentary by Joan Kron is titled, “TAKE My Nose.” It’s about “the shame and desire surrounding cosmetic (“kosmetik”) surgery.”

Kron covered nips and tucks for Allure magazine (“zhurnal”) for decades and chronicles the way comediennes helped popularize plastic surgery. The documentary covers Fanny Brice through Totie Fields, Joan River and Kathy Griffin.

David M. Bader (“Haikus for Jews - For You A Little Wisdom”) wrote:

The spitting image
of her father. Down the road
rhinoplasty, yes?

hollywoodlife.com (June 14, 2016) reported that 54-year-old actress, Meg Ryan (“When Harry Met Sally”) is adamant that she hasn’t had any work done on her face.

In 2012, a Jewish “dokter” from Miami was scolded by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons for producing a video mocking Jewish noses. Dr. Michael Salzhauer (AKA “Dr. Schnoz”) created a music video called “Jewcan Sam:

A Nose Job Love Song,” in which a yarmulke-wearing young man needs a nose job in order to get a girlfriend (“khaverte” or “frayndine”). The video shows a man before and after his nose job, which was performed by Salzhauer. The doctor said the video was produced as a “tongue-in-cheek” parody. Source: FoxNews.com

And in 2007, Halle Berry made a Jewish joke during an appearance on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, while showing distorted photos of herself. One photo enlarged the size of her nose, and the award-winning actress commented, “Here’s where I look like my Jewish cousin!” She’s not the first (“ershter”) person to make an ethnic joke about a group that is not her own.

Grab a #2 pencil and let’s see how well you fare on this not-so-serious quiz.

1. Where is the nose job capital of the world?
 - A) Hollywood, CA
 - B) New York City
 - C) Iran
2. Who said, “When I was young, everyone would say ‘you gonna have your nose done?’ It was like a fad, all the Jewish girls having their nose done every week at Erasmus Hall High School, taking perfectly good noses and whittling them down to nothing. The first thing someone would have done would be to cut my bump off. But I love that bump, I wouldn’t cut my bump off”?
 - A) Fanny Brice
 - B) Totie Fields
 - C) Barbra Streisand
3. Who said, “For every successful actor or actress, there are countless who don’t make it. The name of the game is rejection. You go to an audition and you’re told you’re too tall or you’re too Irish or your nose is not quite right. You’re rejected, you’re rejected for this and that and it’s really tough”?
 - A) Liam Neeson
 - B) Dinah Shore
 - C) Doris Roberts

4. Who said, "I remember looking up to Barbra Streisand, and thinking, 'Finally, someone who has a Jewish nose, who didn't get a nose job'?"
 - A) Lea Michele
 - B) Roslyn Kind, Barbra Streisand's younger half-sister
 - C) Drew Barrymore

5. Who said, "I'm proud of myself. I could beak and go get all this plastic surgery and get my nose fixed and get lips or do whatever, but I haven't chosen to do that because I know I'm a great person. I'm pretty damn hot, if you ask me?"
 - A) Khloe Kardashian
 - B) Roseanne Barr
 - C) Julia Louis-Dreyfus

6. Who said, "I was told repeatedly, you would be pretty if it weren't for that nose. You'd work more if it weren't for that nose. Hey, have you considered getting a nose job? You would think I had a nose the size of Texas. I was young and impressionable and I was told that enough that I started to believe it, so I got a nose job?"
 - A) Patricia Heaton (Debra, "Everybody Loves Raymond")
 - B) Kathy Griffin
 - C) Anna Wintour

7. Fill in the blank.

A wife wants a nose job and the husband ("der man") doesn't want to spend money, but he doesn't want to come off looking like a cheapskate ("shnorer") either. He says, "You look beautiful ("sheyn"). It's a perfect ("perfekt") nose. A nose like that you only see in the movies.

She says, "But look, isn't it a little funny looking and crooked ("krum")?"

He tells her, "Such a nose I can't believe. It's absolutely stunning. You gonna talk yourself ("zikh") out of this _____ . Meanwhile, the nose

starts in New York and ends in Turkey, but he's desperate to save \$5,000.

- A) "shtimmung"
- B) "mishegoss"
- C) "umet"

Source: "How to Talk Jewish" by Jackie Mason

8. Who said, "I arrived in Hollywood without having my nose fixed, my teeth capped, or my name changed. That is very gratifying to me"?
- A) Rosemarie DeWitt
 - B) Kate Winslet
 - C) Barbra Streisand
 - D) Idina Menzel
9. Who asked Bill Maher, "Why do people think you're Jewish?"

Maher replied: "The nose, my nose. I think it's the nose. I think they think my one is Jewish. They do. I'm funny and I have a big nose."

- A) Bill Murray
 - B) Martin Short
 - C) British singer, Adele
10. In 1914, Maurice Fishberg examined the noses of 4,000 Jews in New York. What percentage did he find could be described as either aquiline or hooked?
- A) 14%
 - B) 12%
 - C) 2%
11. Which American writer commented that Fanny Brice "cut off her nose to spite her race"?
- A) Dorothy Parker
 - B) Art Buchwald
 - C) Robert Benchley

ANSWERS:

- 1. C
- 2. C

3. A
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. A
11. A

“shtimung” means “mood”; “umet” means sadness or gloom.

MARJORIE WOLFE agrees with Birnbach, Hodgman, & Stone (“1,003 Great Things About Being Jewish”):

“The Worst Themes for Bar or Bat Mitzvahs: CORONER: CSI Scarsdale, Moses Parts the Red Carpet, Let’s Help Jacob Write His Thank-You Notes and PLASTIC SURGERY.”

Search for Stories Beginning with the Letter

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>
<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>W</u>		<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>

Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and "Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com

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