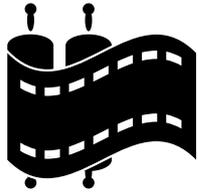


THE PREMIERE
MISTER X
M O S H E N A V O N





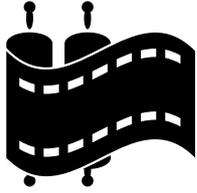
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The famous enterprise 'Horizontal-International', producer of documentary films, signed a contract with a poor family in Detroit. The company was entitled to shoot the complete life of their child right from birth. The company committed itself to pay for the cost of living for the child's whole life. The poor parents unable to feed their child properly were happy. The boy – let's give him the name of 'Mister X', because of this delicate matter – became used to being accompanied by a crew of camera operators. This 'transparent' way of life did not harm the boy's life and as a grown-up he was living happily in the midst of his children, grandchildren and even his great-grandchildren until the age of ninety-three.

A year later the company invited him to the premiere of the film 'The complete Life of Mister X – from birth to death'. Many celebrities from all over the world had been invited. Thousands of filmgoers gathered in a big cinema. The people there were wondering whether they were to sit and watch the film lasting for ninety-three years. Was the company able to fulfill its promises? Everyone was waiting curiously. The film started with the healthy birth of the child and the pained mother weakly smiling. But suddenly the pictures began to change at high speed – until they slowed down again to the normal rhythm of a human life. Here young Mister X proudly presented his university-diploma to his parents. And again the pictures speeded up to the next 'slow' point to show the audience Mister X's first declaration of love. The next slow point

was already the birth of Mister X's daughter. When the last sequence in the cemetery and the end titles were shown on the screen many filmgoers felt they had been made fun of. But then the representative of the company came on stage and asked: 'Dear audience, what have you seen in such a short time?' A well-known film-critic, Mister Y, came forward to the microphone and explained that for the first time in his life he had experienced human life as a rolling wave. While the first wave is rising new smaller waves begin to rise – the children, grand-children and all the distant descendants of the human wave. With an engaging smile the representative declared that this was only about the beginning of a new millennial project. With new nanotechnological measures everyone would be able to have one's life filmed without problems. By and by, all of humanity would gather a huge database of documented memories of its ancestors. Special powerful broadcast stations would permanently transmit all those life-films into outer space so that the lives of every single person would reach far-away galaxies like the light of the stars.... The mesmerized audience could not grasp what a terrific project was about to start with such a cosmic impact on everone.

In the deep silence an elderly man in a black coat and a soft grey hat stepped on stage. His dark eyes looked slightly sad, but they also hid a remote little smile in their depths. 'My name is Epstein', he introduced himself, and 'you have just invented the wheel,' - Epstein told the agents of the company,' although the patent belongs to



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DESIGN BY EYAL NAVON

us, as a matter of fact This product has been running for over 4,000 years so far. We call it the written and the oral Thora. In our communities we turn the Thora rolls each week, each month and each year. We read about the lives of our ancestors and doing this we reflect on what is happening to us – in ancient times as well as at present. In our film not only the human actions are described but also the inner thoughts and feelings are being preserved, as well as our wishes, our creativity and beliefs, which will meet with every new generation – as eternal waves. In fact, it all began when God spoke to our father Awraham: 'Look at the sea and the sky. Your offspring will be numerous like the sand at the seashore and the stars at the sky whose light will reach the limits of all the visible and invisible universes....'

*Dr. Moshe Navon,
liberaler Landesrabbiner
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