



KIRSCHENBAUM PRODUCTIONS

Gayle Kirschenbaum in "My Nose," one of the short features being screened at the Washington Jewish Film Festival.

When Mom's Nose Is Out of Joint

Whatever your holiday woes this season, be glad you don't have a mother like Gayle Kirschenbaum's (and if you do, get thee to a psychotherapist). The 13-minute documentary "My Nose" is about Kirschenbaum's decision whether to smooth out the bump atop her schnoz, but the film reveals more about the director's relationship with her mother, who has been "campaigning" for her daughter to have a nose job since she was a preteen. In a display of dazzling self-confidence (or masochism), Kirschenbaum asks random men to describe her nose. "It's like an intermediate ski slope," one says. Ouch.

"My Nose" is one of seven short films screening tonight at the Washington Jewish Film Festival's "Shorter Films, Bigger Lives" night. The festival kicked off Thursday and continues through Dec. 9.

The best narrative short of the bunch is director Rachel Israel's film "Brandon" about a bad first date. Actor Paul Wozniak steals the show as the title character, a goon who blows bubbles in his milk and

says things like "Your glasses are scintillating. It's like you got four sets of eyes."

Don't miss "Unattached" about the meat market... er, social scene for Modern Orthodox singles on Manhattan's Upper West Side. The prospect of being unmarried at 25, 30 or (the horror!) 35 is so shameful that some of director J.J. Adler's sources requested to be interviewed with their backs to the camera. The most infuriating moment is when Rabbi Allen Schwartz of Congregation Ohab Zedek says, "If every woman in this room said, 'You don't touch me till you marry me,' then these guys will step forth a lot more quickly. Because they're getting a lot of the stuff that they're getting in marriage, just without the commitment." Yeah, blame those loose women. I'm sure the "singles crisis" has nothing to do with their communities, families or synagogues.

The films screen at 10:15 at the DCJCC. \$10. 1529 16th St. NW. 202-777-3210.

— Rachel Beckman