



## TV SERIES

Created & Written by Yisrael Lifschutz

*"Ambitious in scope and aggressive in its subsequent execution, there are aspects of this piece that could take off in propulsive fashion. This narrative has all the makings of an historical epic just waiting to be let out into the world."*

- We Screenplay



*LevAri*



## Synopsis

*COWBOY FROM MINSK* (CFM) is the story of Dov Ber Kroll (DB), third-generation blacksmith of the best-selling family saga *Wondering Jew*, by Isaac (Ike) Featherman, DB's great grandson and series narrator. The first ten episodes, while scanning (archival) nations and continents, covers the years 1902-1914, right up to the start of WWI and G-d willing, Season Two.\*

Events that transpire are filtered through the timeless traditions of Torah. It is a worldview that understands the G-dliness of every object and action; a process by which to give fuller meaning to life and, when necessary, to make sense out of that which is seemingly incomprehensible.

DB evolves from shoeing horses in Minsk to riding them as King Kroll & The Kowboys (K for Kosher) in Hollywood's nascent film industry. After his stint in the very anti-Semitic, Russian cavalry in the war against Japan (1904-1905), he emigrates to Palestine where he traces the footsteps of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs--as a postal rider.

In the larger picture, however, he perceives himself as answering the Messianic Calling for the Ingathering of the Exiles; more practically, though, his footprint has more to do with promoting boots-on-the-ground Zionism, i.e. *Aliya* or Emigration to the Holy Land.

Stylistically, the narrative of CFM borrows freely from Judaism's story telling tradition, re-enacting Biblical and Talmudic tales, Kabbalistic and Hassidic anecdotes, and, after arriving in the US, American lore--albeit with a Jewish hook.

Most importantly, CFM is a love story--actually a story of many loves: Love of the Creator and Scriptures; Love of the Land and the People of Israel; Love of Family and Friends and, the Love of his Life, the radiantly beautiful photographer Shifra Kaspi.

According to tradition, man is but half a soul, becoming complete only through the institution of marriage. And charming Shifra, creative in so many ways, is revealed to be the better half! But it is their journeys together, throughout the Middle East and America, that inspires hope and mutual respect for all who enter their orbit.

Meanwhile, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction: For all the light generated, an equal measure of darkness fills the void. Violence, unfortunately, intersects frequently--lives are on the line constantly.

\*Actually there are 16 more scripts for Season 2 and 3: *Optimism*



## **Season 1 Scripts**

*10 Episodes*

**S1/E1:** [The Private War of Private Kroll](#)

**S1/E2:** [Ottomanic](#)

**S1/E3:** [Bible Belt--The Original](#)

**S1/E4:** [Kabbalah Bear & Kabbalah Busta](#)

**S1/E5:** [Poster Boy of Palestine](#)

**S1/E6:** [Laughter in the Dark](#)

**S1/E7:** [Hero of the Empire](#)

**S1/E8:** [Gringo Turf Wars](#)

**S1/E9:** [Americanaan](#)

**S1/E10:** [Amerikahuna](#)



# Cowboy from Minsk Preliminary Budget

Prepared by Sarieli Films (Israel)\*

sarieli films	שריאלי סרטים	Location	\$ 350 000
<b>Cowboy From Minsk TV series 10 episodes estimated cost</b>	<b>\$3 997 808</b>	Equipment	\$ 150 000
Screenplay (Story - Rights & Continuity)	\$ 350 701	Crew	\$ 250 000
Producer's Unit	\$ 179 004	Wardrobe	\$ 200 000
Direction	\$ 350 701	Art	\$ 300 000
Cast	\$ 380 000	Unit & Generators	\$ 100 000
Travel and Living	\$ 80 000	Transportation	\$ 90 000
<b>Total Above The Line</b>	<b>\$1 340 407</b>	Sound & Stock	\$ 45 000
		Catering	\$ 80 000
		Recce/office	\$ 60 000
		Accommodation	\$ 70 000
		Post Production	\$ 350 000
		Archive Footage Rights	\$ 50 000
		Foreign Shoot	\$ 150 000
		Misc.	\$ 50 000
		<b>Total Below The Line</b>	<b>\$2 295 000</b>
		<b>Total Below and Above The Line</b>	<b>\$3 635 407</b>
		1,5% Insurance	\$ 54 531
		2,5% Brokerage 2,5%	\$ 57 375
		2% accounting 2%	\$ 45 900
		1% Banking cost	\$ 20 995
		8% Overhead	\$ 183 600
		<b>TOTAL PRODUCTION COST</b>	<b>\$3 997 808</b>

\*According to Sarieli Films, there may be a 10% contingency fee owing to inflation.



## Film & TV

**“HAG: The Story of the Hassidic Actors Guild”** is a hybrid of fact and fiction, i.e. a mockumentary, focusing on filmmaker Yisrael Lifschutz's (YL) career as an actor and/or consultant--and sometimes insultant--on numerous feature films and TV shows.

Watch **HAG** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6CJ-QoCOI8>

With Hebrew Subtitles - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH\\_Ov9dgkHo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH_Ov9dgkHo)

**HAG\*** features excerpts in which (YL) served as the consultant and actor:

***The Chosen***

Sidney Lumet's ***Stranger Among Us***

***Brooklyn Babylon***

***Giraffe*** (German film in English)

***Pi*** Darren Aronofsky's now classic indie and Sundance winner, for which Izzi also served as one of the producers.

***The Return: A Hassidic Experience*** YL's first film won first prize in the American Film Festival's Lifestyle Category and aired on PBS

***Saturday Night Chai*** Jewish Music National Jewish Television (NJT)

***Mosaica*** People, places and events, hosted by Barry Farber NJT

***Promise of the Jewish People*** Travelogue with ABC Radio's Bob Grant NJT

***PBS' Civilization & the Jews*** (Hosted by Abba Aven; two episodes)

***PBS' Jewish Humor***

***Keeping the Faith***

***Weekend at Bernie's***

Golan-Globus' ***Over the Brooklyn Bridge***

***Goosed*** featuring Joan Rivers

***Bright Lights, Big City*** starring Michael J Fox

***Loving Leah*** (Hallmark)

***Mom: Confessions of a Male Orthodox Model/A Musical Morality Tale***

Re ***MOM***: “Wow and double Wow! You really blew my mind!”

Director Joel Zwick – “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”

Watch ***MOM***: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr1hsL8Zz7I>

\*Izzi and ***HAG*** were the cover story in the Israeli daily Haaretz's entertainment section

[Read The Article in Haaretz](#)



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*LevAri*