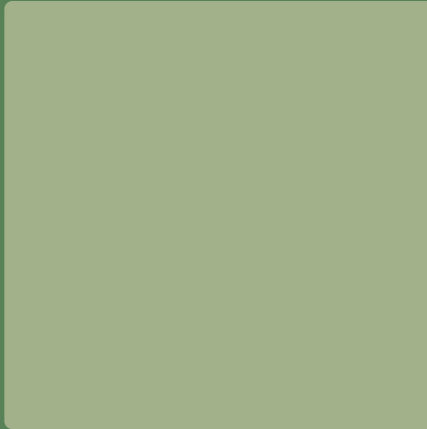


# Yeshiva



## Logline

A troubled teenager gets kicked out of his public school after he makes an off-color joke on social media. His parents decide to enroll him in an ultra-religious Jewish school to try to straighten him out.

### Introduction

Yeshiva will explore the eclectic world of a religious Jewish school in America from the perspective of **Shai**, a culture-shocked rebellious teen forced to attend after his parents take him out of public school.

Taking inspiration from shows like **Rami, Dave**, and **Atlanta**, Yeshiva will take a look at how a secular teenager navigates complex spiritual and interpersonal conflicts in the modern world, infused heavily with irreverent humor.

When Shai first walks into the school, he has no interest in connecting with anybody. As anyone who has spent time in a prison or religious facility will understand, he simply wants to do his time and get back to his normal life.

But Shai will find himself slowly becoming a bigger part of life at Yeshiva as he builds relationships with the interesting characters that inhabit the school, including acid-tripping Rabbis, hyper-orthodox girls, reluctant converts, and reluctant drug dealers.

Yeshiva is a silly, surreal, and often touching show about relationships, religion, and community. At its heart, Yeshiva is a **coming-of-age story** with an ensemble cast of interesting characters; that will showcase the wide range of Jews in America.



Eytan Raphaely - Writer

## Accolades:

8/10 on The Blacklist

Finalist, SF Indie Film Fest - San Francisco IndieFest Screenplay Competition 2023

Quarterfinalist, Outstanding Screenplays TV Pilot Competition (2022)

Quarterfinalist, Screencraft TV Pilot Script Competition

Quarterfinalist, Screenwriters Network - SWN Screenplay Competition TV Pilot

Quarterfinalist, Filmmatic TV Pilot Awards Season 7

Quarterfinalist, ScreenCraft Comedy Competition (2023)

## Executive summary

### Format

Series

### Genre

Comedy/Drama

### Budget

\$1-2 Million

## Based on a True Story

When I was 16, I, like most people that age, was trying to discover where I fit in the world. My siblings had the roles of valedictorian and prodigious talent covered, so I would need to find a different route.

I decided I wanted to be cool. So I acted out, did drugs, and got into trouble as much as a middle-class Jewish kid could.

Did this make me any cooler? No, but for a bit, it definitely felt like it.

Until my parents decided to try to straighten me out by sending me to Yeshiva, an orthodox Jewish school. A place that combines all the worst parts of the education system with all the worst parts of organized religion. I was miserable. Plus, I learned that it's scientifically impossible for me to feel cool with a yarmulke on.

To fully understand the gravity of the situation, I think it's important to understand this core principle for Jewish people. There's being Jewish, and then there's being Jewish Jewish. The Orthodox community is Jewish Jewish.

They're like the superfans of the Jews, and the rest of us are more like casual observers. We know the star players (Hanukkah, Matza, Larry David) and don't have much interest in the other stuff.

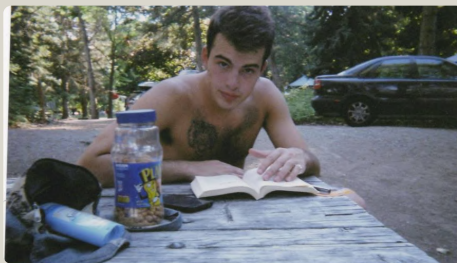
So when I got sent to Yeshiva, it felt like I was an outcast from the "normal" world, and my only possible refuge was coming from a gang of religious fanatics. I was in a backward world where we had to pray three times a day, couldn't eat bacon, and definitely couldn't touch girls.

I felt like the world was going crazy, and it was my mission to try to bring everyone back to normalcy. I would rebel against my rabbis endlessly, arguing about how this scripture doesn't make sense or how this Jewish law doesn't apply in the modern day (I'm looking at you, Genesis 9:20–27). But it all backfired; because you know what rabbis love more than anything?

Debating. They can't get enough of it.

And these rabbis couldn't get enough of me. I was their favorite student because I was the only one angry enough actually to listen to them. I was their white whale. In their eyes, if they could turn this tattooed, weed-smoking delinquent into a devout Jew, they were a shoo-in with the big G-d.

But I wasn't going to make it easy for them



## Main characters



### Shai Rossi (16)

Shai has wanted to fit in his entire life, but somehow despite his best efforts he often finds himself at the brunt of the joke.

He often makes bad decisions in a vain attempt to impress others.

He's cheeky and has a strong disdain for authority figures, including his parents.



### Noam Rossi (42)

Shai's Dad, Noam, is a psychiatrist and an Israeli immigrant.

He has a high opinion of himself and is quick to temper if his ego is bruised.

He's annoyed at how Shai's behavior has put a strain on their household and finds his wife's anxiety about the situation cumbersome.



### Ela Rossi (42)

Ela, Shai's Mom, is willing to do anything for her family and often pushes her wants and needs to the side, for the good of her children.

Shai and Ela often bump heads as he finds her overbearing.

She met Noam when they were in high school and they have been together ever since. She tends to acquiesce to her husbands needs.



### Rabbi Margolese (34)

Jonah Margolese, mid-30s, Camp counselor vibes, a more modern kind of rabbi.

You wouldn't be surprised to see someone like him with an acoustic guitar singing prayers at a casual get-together.

His students find him easy to walk over because he's both trusting and naive.



### Rabbi Ezra (40)

Ezra first appears as a stoic and extremely orthodox-traditional, but will turn into much more.

He is secretly a practitioner of Kabbalah, (mystical Judaism) and is a part of a sect of psychedelic roller skating Rabbis.



### **Yossi Goldberg (16)**

Yossi is like if Woody Allen was a teenager and not a sexual deviant. He is very religious and already acts like an elderly Jewish man. He thinks he can change Shai, bring him to the Jewish light.



### **Francisco "Fez" Hernandez (16)**

Fez is a 16-year-old who finds himself at a crossroads of cultural and religious identity.

He is in the process of converting to Judaism and isn't completely sold on it quite yet.



### **Amos Steersman (14)**

Amos is Shai's reluctant underling. He is deeply involved in his Jewish studies but is easily enticed by Shai's secular experiences.

Amos is managing several mental health conditions, including ADD, ADHD, anxiety, seasonal depression, and BPD, for which he takes medication.

# Themes

Shai's journey reflects the universal challenges of adolescence and identity, with core themes of family, coming-of-age, and religion.

The tone is often shifting between light-hearted humor and deeper, more serious undertones.



## Season Arc

The first season of the show will be about Shai finding his community in an unlikely place. When he first arrives at Yeshiva, he wants to get it over with while rebelling as much as possible. He's only going kicking and screaming.

After being forced to practice his religion to such an extreme degree, Shai becomes staunchly anti-religious, willing to argue with anyone who sees things differently than him and ironically trying to convert other Yeshiva students to his atheist line of belief.

Further along in the season he will cross paths with other annoying atheists, fratty Christian bros, and psychedelic rabbis, all while learning more about his classmates.

Shai will come to realize that we're all just struggling to make life make sense and that being an asshole doesn't really make you any smarter.

## Comparable Shows



"Ramy"

A comedic drama that follows similar themes of being a first-generation and navigating the challenges of a spiritual journey alongside the cultural expectations of his community.



"Atlanta"

Much like Atlanta, Yeshiva isn't afraid to delve into surreal forms of comedy or follow secondary characters to learn more about them.



"Barry"

While not going as dark as murder, Yeshiva isn't afraid to be dark when it furthers story development.

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