

Ani Ohev Otach Rosa

(transl unknown; UK = "I Love You Rosa")

Israel : 1971 : dir. Moshe Mizrahi : Noah Film / SMG

: 91 min

prod: Menahem Golan : scr: Moshe Mizrahi : dir.ph.:

[Gabi Otterman](#)

Michael Bat Adam; Yosef Shiloah; Livana Finkelstein; Avner Chezkiyahu; Moseh Tal;

Yehuda Efroni; Esther Grotes; Elisheva Michaeli; Zehavit; Naomi Bachar; Sharit Yishai;

Zivi Avramson; Aliza Rosen

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2079a	1.5	1	1	562	3	-	3	-	-	No	Unseen



"Cheer up lad, look on it as a Bar Mitzvah present" father advises reluctant groom

Source: Film Review 73-74

Film Review 1973-74 review:

"Leisurely, romantic Israeli film based on an old legend: about the romance between a 13-year old boy and the 21-year old widow of his brother whom custom decrees he must marry. The long and chequered wooing which ends in a happy-ever-after marriage. Scr: Moshe

Mizrahi; prod: Menahem Golan. UK premiere: Classic-Poly, January '73 "

"One of the most interesting films to emerge yet from Israel was LMG's highly romantic but utterly charming **"I LOVE YOU ROSA"**, which was based on an old Jewish legend about the romance of a 13-year old boy who because of Jewish law automatically becomes

the man who must marry his older, deceased brother's wife."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Nothing else is known of Gabi Otterman. Moshe Mizrahi, however, later directed the Simon Signoret film "**LA VIE DEVANT SOI**" (77; UK = "Madame Rosa"), in which she plays an ageing madam with a concentration camp syndrome who raises the by-blows of local prostitutes, notably a half-arab boy (the beautiful Samy Ben Youb), who protects her devotedly until her death.

Several films have touched on this bizarre variant of legitimised pædophilia, in which pubertal boys find themselves saddled with wives old enough to be their mothers. In the Turkish film "**HAZAL**" (80), the story is told from the woman's point-of-view; she elopes with her adult lover to be spared the indignity of marrying a 10-year old boy. He is also, in the process, spared the indignity of having to marry her. In Leonard Nimoy's comedy "**HOLY MATRIMONY**" (94), a desperado (female - why ask?) hits on the ruse of an arranged Hasidic marriage with a 12-year old (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) to throw the authorities off her scent.

It scarcely needs to be pointed out that the cinema's handling of the same situation in reverse - my *Boys' Book of Tabloid Clichés* says: "child brides" - is **very** different in tone. Whether angled for prurience or righteous indignation, an adult man marrying a pubescent girl is never played for comedy or "sentimental romance". As for so-called "gay marriages" with pubescent boys, well, we must just wait awhile for that one...

See subject index under [ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST](#) (to which Israel, like it or not, belongs) and under [SEX & SEXUALITY](#) for other shotgun weddings of this kind.