

# JJC

## Jewish Chronicle



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### Pick of the week

Getting married can be a painful process at the best of times but for Steve and Michaela, the subject of **Modern Times — A Jewish Wedding**, the process was especially fraught.

Michaela is a Jewish girl from Gants Hill. Steve is a blonde, blue-eyed boy from Upminster who isn't Jewish, but is undergoing a conversion.

The documentary follows the couple through the psychological — and, for Steve, the physical — trauma leading up to the big day.

Directed by Stephen Walker, this affectionate film investigates the gulf between Michaela's and Steve's worlds as it takes them from shidduch to chupah. And watch out for a wonderful cameo performance from Bernie Aidallbery — if there was an Oscar for Best Caterer in a Supporting Role, it would be his.

"Modern Times — A Jewish Wedding" is screened on BBC2 at 9pm on Wednesday.

*Joan of Arc as a Jewish heroine is, as playwright Julia Pascal acknowledges, "a novel idea."*

*But having lived in France, Pascal was inspired to write a play on the theme as a reaction to the French National Front's adoption of Joan as a racist icon. "Jean-Marie Le Pen claimed St Joan for his own, so I thought I would convert her into a half-Jewish, half-black Londoner," she says.*

*According to Julia, the drama, which opens next week as part of the New End Theatre's new Jewish plays season, works as a satire and also serves to establish a connection between the black and Jewish communities, between whom relations have often been strained.*

*St Joan premieres at the New End, in Hampstead, on Tuesday and runs until Sunday, April 6. For tickets and details, call the box office on 0171-794 0022.*

Young concert pianist **Elizaveta Kopelman** (right) knows all about the advantages of freedom — in particular, musical freedom. Having been brought up in the former Soviet Union, Elizaveta, now 23, came over to study music in Manchester when she was 17 and immediately benefited from a



more relaxed teaching régime.

"I was given far more freedom to express myself when I started at the Royal Northern College of Music and this made me better prepared for life after college."

That preparation enabled her to win the college's piano recital prize and representation by the prestigious Young Concert Artists Trust. Now she is "really looking forward" to next week's recital, where she plays a selection of Beethoven, Schumann, Ravel and Barber. It's at the Purcell Room on the South Bank on Wednesday at 7.30pm. Call 0171-960 4242 for tickets and details.