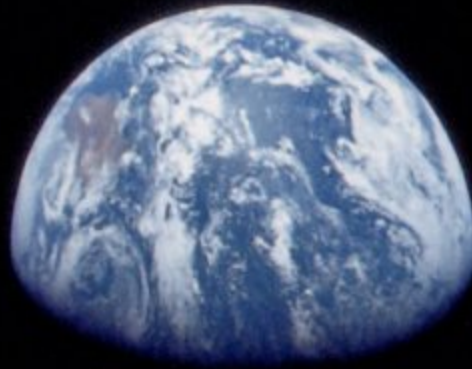


# One Small step for a Man



One giant leap towards manhood

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# SYNOPSIS

Joseph Peltz's Bar Mitzvah is fast approaching and he could not be more unprepared. Doubting his religion and the predetermined path that his traditional father has set out for him, Joseph sets out to find answers. With the great dream of becoming an astronaut always finding a way to rear itself in life, Joseph is discovering how difficult it is to bury it at his father's request.

Joseph's last meeting with Rabbi Simmons before his Bar Mitzvah does not start well for Joseph having overslept and in turn arriving late. Joseph both respects and fears the Rabbi, he knows the Rabbi is only following Jewish law but feels that there is no compassion in the matter. The Rabbi explains its his Jewish call of duty to become a man.

After arriving home from the meeting to find his mother, Stephanie, and father, Michael, arguing about their son's lack of discipline Joseph confronts Michael. Michael squashes Joseph's dream as he runs upstairs followed by his empathetic mother.

Stephanie sends Joseph out to the local deli where he meets two renowned old men, Abraham and Reuben, who have a habit of bickering and fooling around. They tell stories of their own Bar Mitzvahs and how enjoyable they were. As Joseph picks up his order the owner explains how long Abe and Reuben have been meeting and how things that one holds close to their heart will not simply fade. Joseph returns home with a fresh mind and new outlook on his religion.

The morning of Joseph's Bar Mitzvah and he is already dressed when his mother bursts into the room.

All the family arrive at the synagogue when suddenly Joseph gets cold feet and sprints home, into his room and locking it.

Moments later a knock at the door is heard, reluctantly Joseph opens it to find a 6ft tall astronaut fully equipped for flight. The astronaut leads Joseph outside to where a moon buggy is parked. The two jump into the buggy and return to the synagogue.

Joseph parts ways with the astronaut and heads into the synagogue hall to begin the ceremony.

As Joseph recites his piece, we see bootprints leading from the entrance to where Joseph's family are sitting. Michael leans into frame placing a moonboot into a duffel bag as Joseph continues his Bar Mitzvah perfectly.

# CHARACTERS

Joseph is very much an introvert young boy who has a wilder imagination than any of his family will realise. Joseph is conflicted between following his dreams and disappointing his family.

Michael, Joseph's father, has always believed in family first and Jewish traditions. Michael believes that Joseph will eventually conform to what he wants but is growing impatient of his son's waning religious beliefs.

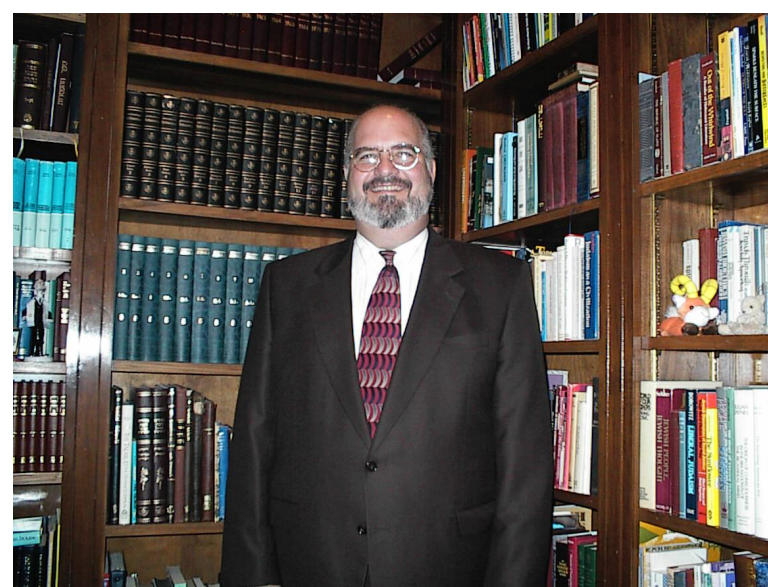
Stephanie, Joseph's Mother, is a very appeasable woman. She agrees with Michael's but does not want to see her son disheartened and his dreams diminished. Stephanie secretly supports Joseph's dream, often supplying him with space related news clippings and materials for him to make equipment with.

Rabbi Simmons maintains the importance of religion in Joseph's life. He has a passive aggressive approach to making sure Joseph carries on with his Bar Mitzvah and does not disappoint his family

Abraham and Reuben are two old friends, known in the community for their habit of bickering and fooling around. They provide a huge sense of comic relief in Joseph's religious beliefs crisis. Furthermore they unknowingly show Joseph that you can hold on to something you cherish for as long as you like. For Abraham and Reuben, it's the friendship they share, for Joseph it is his life goal of walking on the moon.









# LOCATION

Joseph's room must be where he can escape from his family, it should seem like a completely different world. Whilst I want it to feel like a different world it must maintain the appearance that only Joseph could have decorated.

Joseph would have taken it upon himself to furnish the room without the support of his father. As a result of this it is a very lacklustre attempt, patches of newspaper clippings cover his wall,

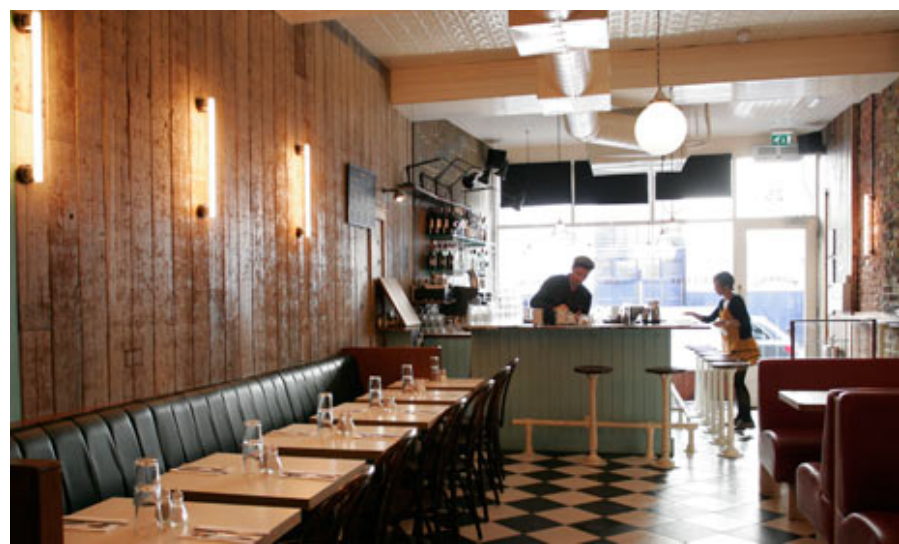
The rest of the house should look plain to represent the lack of imagination that the Peltz family has, bar Joseph. The audience must feel that Joseph's passion and creativity are extremely valuable, the contrast between Joseph's room and the rest of the house will convey this.

Joseph's final meeting with Rabbi Simmons takes place in the Rabbi's office. With a mature and formal look, the Rabbi hopes that this will be transferred onto his students, particularly Joseph. Using fluorescent lighting to give the scene a colder feeling, representing Joseph's attitude towards the Rabbi.

The meeting between Joseph, Abraham and Reuben takes place in a well furnished Jewish Diner - a warmly lit haven where Abraham and Reuben spend most of their days. Joseph feels very at ease here, especially with the company of the bickering duo.









# SPACE

Joseph has a wild and colourful imagination therefore I'd like to keep the moon scene very simple as if Joseph had constructed the planets and stars. himself, out of paper mache and old pieces of cardboard.

When Joseph comes face to face with the astronaut, it is real not like the cardboard cut outs he has been dreaming of. His ambitions have finally been realised so the spacesuit and moon buggy must look completely authentic.

Joseph would have constructed his own space suit however due to limited resources it would lack accuracy but it would make it up tenfold in charm and creativity.

