

Another new release from NCJF, *Yippee: A Journey to Jewish Joy*, is directed by Paul Mazursky, who had his first hit in 1969 with *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice* and who also made two of the outstanding American films of the 1980's, *Down and Out in Beverly Hills* and *Enemies: A Love Story*. Although Mazursky says this is his documentary debut, *Yippee* is really more of a personal travelogue: rambling, loosely constructed and very rough around the edges. It's the video record of the resolutely secular Mazursky's 2005 trip with his optometrist to Uman in the Ukraine to join 20,000 other Jews—

from Hasidic to New Age—as they celebrate Rosh Hashanah by praying ecstatically at the grave of sage Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, the great grandson of the Ba'al Shem Tov. Alas, the film doesn't offer many insights into the pious, mostly because Mazursky's glibness and ego get in the way. Hardly anyone gets to speak much before he interrupts, frequently with the same lame joke he repeats half a dozen times. That at age 75 he was even curious enough to make the pilgrimage is admirable; one can only hope that on his next visit he talks less and listens more.

WJD