ewish son

Film offers glimpse of great cantors of the past

By Daniel M. Kimmel

Voice of Israel" and, visually, a 1931 movie called "The is terribly dated. It comes from the footage he is introducing then in his 80s - allows that Wohlberg - a cantorial expert Golden Age," the late Dr. Max In "Great Cantors of the

Movie Maven

some cantors achieved star-Hershman, and Joseph Shlisky. Yossele Rosenblatt, Mordechai legendary voices of the past as or pop stars, it showcases such comparable to opera singers dom in the Jewish community Coming from a time when though, are another story. it's pretty dull. The voices, They stand there, some in

High Holidays, backed by male they might have worn on the formal clothes, some in robes

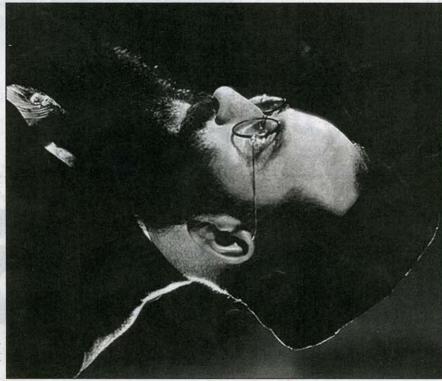
> choirs, and preserve their mupure gold if you are. video that is deadly dull if change, as Wohlberg notes, sical style on film. Styles torget the past. It's the sort of but it's important that we not you're not interested, and

cerpt from the post-war Yiddish film "We Who Remain" in are seeing his final performdie during this trip and so we called forth. Rosenblatt would liturgy at the Biblical locations syncing - selections from the Cantors in the Cinema," is an sings at a memorial service for which Moshe Koussevitsky ances. Also included is an ex-Here's Cantor Rosenblatt in ble to see anywhere else. cerpts that would be impossipendium of short films and exeven more fascinating comthe Holy Land, singing - or lip The companion disc, "Great

On the light side, and one of

style East European cantor, a solutely amazing to see Waldand jazz tempos to the service. one who promises to bring pep and then a "modern" American strictly formal German one, mittee auditioning chazzans for sing us the story of a shul comthe real finds of the collection, man playing all the cantorial more than 70 years, and abmittees haven't changed in Waldman. He comes out in top is the short film "Cantor on It's amusing to see shul comhat and tails like Fred Astaire to Trial" featuring Louis "Leibele' the holidays. There's an old

of the 20th century, the can-Adolph Katchko and David ones from Moishe Oysher, cantorial offerings, including Roitman. In the early decades able on the original VHS releases, with seven additional includes some extras not avail-The combined DVD release



A re-release of "Great Cantors of the Golden Age" is now available.

gogues, but even going on character to try to reconcile tour to perform in theaters. In packing in not only synaof Jewish liturgical music, with his family. blatt that moves Al Jolson's just such a concert by Rosenthe 1927 "The Jazz Singer," it's tors shown here were the stars

one large feast, this offers a taste of one of the great chapters in Jewish music. Whether in small doses or

"Great Cantors of the Gold-

en Age/Great Cantors in Cinego to www.jewishfilm.org. able. Call (781) 736-8600 or ance rights separately availma" is available through the Film for \$50. Public perform-National Center for Jewish

riety of film-related topics and mel@rcn.com. cate. He lectures widely on a vaviews Jewish films for the Advocan be reached at daniel.kimbased film critic and author, re-Daniel M. Kimmel, a Boston-