



Ima v'Abaz (4)



Erez is a complicated character -- a gay Woody Allen without the charm. He is the biological father of Hillel, whom he brought into the world with Hillel's mother Talia, a straight single woman who works in the army. Erez' partner of six years – and second father to Hillel - is Sami, a mizrachi gay man far more at peace with his sexuality and his Jewish heritage than Erez. This light-hearted drama was a hit in the winter of 2012/13 on Channel 3, a popular Israeli cable station. In this 4th episode new-born Hillel is due to undergo his circumcision. Will Erez overcome his ambivalence towards such "primitive" rituals? Will Talia cope with her motherly instinct to protect her child from harm? Will Sami's mother attend the ceremony? These questions and more...

A few words about Brit Milah – Jewish circumcision

Jewish boys are traditionally circumcised eight days after their birth, unless the baby is ill, in which case the circumcision is postponed until he recovers. The tradition of circumcision began with the patriarch Abraham, and has been maintained from Jewish father to Jewish son for some 3000 years. Even non-observant Jews tend to observe this rite of passage. The *mohel*, the ritual circumciser, undergoes religious training and qualification, but these days many parents choose to engage a *mohel* who also has medical qualifications, for safety's sake. In a departure from the Sopranos, a Godfather in Jewish tradition is the one who holds the child on an embroidered cushion when he is being cut. It is traditional for the paternal grandfather to receive this honor.



A Wider Bridge works to bring the LGBTQ communities of Israel and North America closer together. Our programs include educational and cultural activities here in the U.S., including this film series, LGBTQ trips to Israel, and our online magazine, www.awiderbridge.org.

A Wider Bridge commissioned these study guides from Makom, and consulted fully in their development. Makom is the think-and-do tank for adult Israel engagement. You can find Makom at www.makomisrael.org and at facebook.com/makomisrael.

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