BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Screenplay by Robin Uriel Russin

MENDOZA the JEW


2023 Glendale International Film Festival Screenplay Competition
Finalist
FEATURE SCREENPLAY
2025 Prague Film Festival
Official Nominee
2022 Oaxaca Filmfest
Finalist
FEATURE SCREENPLAY
2022 Only The Best Film Awards International Screenwriting Competition
Winner
BEST SCREENPLAY
2022 Big Apple Film Festival
Finalist
FEATURE SCREENPLAY
2025 Berlin International Screenwriting Festival
Official Selection
2022 26th Annual Fade In Awards True Story/Biopic Competition
Semi-Finalist
FEATURE SCREENPLAY
2025 Tokyo Film & Screenplay Awards
Best Historical Screenplay
2024 Oxford Script Awards
Official Selection
2023 Manchester Film Festival Screenplay Competition
Co-Winner
FEATURE SCREENPLAY
2022 San Francisco International Screenwriting Competition
Quarter-Finalist
FEATURE SCREENPLAY
MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN


In the late 1700s,
the world was
on fire
The French and American Revolutions redefined
society and spread a doctrine of equality.
{ MEANWHILE }
in a poor neighborhood of East London,
a tough young Sephardic Jew was redefining
the status and the "Sweet Science" of boxing...
MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN



Mendoza was an underdog in both size & social stature.

At just 160 pounds, the boy, barely 16 years old, seemed unlikely to rise in the ranks of tough, bare-knuckle fighters.

And yet, he went on to become the lightest heavyweight championship in history—and the first Jewish champion.





Mendoza grows up tough,

but his willingness to fight for honor worries his family. Like all Jews at the time, they want to keep a low profile and avoid the anger of the Christian majority. But, while working in a teashop, Mendoza gets into a fight with a big brawler of a porter who threatens his employer.

A crowd gathers as Mendoza easily beats up the much larger man. **Richard Humphreys**, passing by, is impressed. Known as "The Gentleman Boxer," he is the trainer of **Prince George, Prince of Wales**, a fan of the still illegal sport.

Humphreys is so taken by Mendoza's spirit and ability that he offers to train him and be in Mendoza's corner as a professional fighter. Mendoza will certainly be a novelty who will attract publicity—and paying gamblers.













MENDOZA THE JEW / SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN



Young Mendoza falls in love with ESTHER

a beautiful neighborhood girl, who adores him but wishes he'd stop fighting and become a peaceful businessman like his father. But in spite of his his family's wishes, Mendoza is born to fight.

Mendoza can't seem to stay out of trouble, though, nearly getting arrested for a prank during the carnival-like celebration of Purim, and for smuggling in order to make money.







Mendoza trains with Humphreys,

and his first professional opponent
is **Harry the Coal-heaver,**
lasting 40 rounds and winning
Mendoza five guineas.

While Esther and his parents are upset that he fights, the other neighborhood Jews are thrilled and give him the nickname "The Lion of Israel."

His instant fame—and Humphreys' intercession—brings him the patronage of the Prince of Wales himself.











Mendoza begins an uninterrupted string of victories.

With each one, his esteem rises in his community—and his fame across all of Great Britain. As his star rises, he begins to outshine his mentor, Humphreys, and starts his own boxing academy. He begins work on "The Art of Boxing," the first scientific approach to fighting. Newly rich, he marries Esther and she becomes pregnant. Now he has a family to worry about.

Humphreys becomes jealous of his former pupil and stops training him. He forces Mendoza to train with **Geoffrey,** a rough former boxer who moonlights as a bouncer at a brothel.







MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN



Humphreys demands a fight with Mendoza to prove who is best– Mendoza accepts the challenge.

Taunting each other in the newspapers, their first fight seems to go Mendoza's way—until Humphreys' second interrupts the action and Mendoza suffers a vicious shot that takes him to the ground. He loses, but he knows he's been cheated.

Furious, Mendoza **demands** a **second** fight with Humphreys.





MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN



This launches one of the greatest rivalries in sports history, that electrifies the public.

As they approach their second match, Mendoza suffers Humphreys' barrage of public insults and Esther's pleas that he quit fighting.

A record purse is at stake. And this time, Mendoza beats Humphreys, clearly. He returns to his academy a champion, and his business thrives.

Bitter at his loss, Humphreys demands a third match to settle the score once and for all--and the public demands it as well. The story becomes front page news, eclipsing the news of the French Revolution and the storming of the Bastille.







MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN

Mendoza again destroys Humphreys in the fight of the century, a victory no one can contest.



MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN

He becomes the true hero of his people.

Mendoza becomes the first Jew in England to meet with the King himself, who is reluctant at first, but then pleased to have a champion to celebrate after his recent humiliation of the war with the Colonies.



CASTING... Mendoza



Asher Dov Angel



Noah Centineo



Ezra Miller



Noah Jupe



Tye Sheridan

MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN

CASTING...

Richard Humphreys



George MacKay

Esther Mendoza



Rachel Zegler

Geoffrey



Tim Roth

Prince George



Samuel Blenkin

Mendoza's Father

Abraham



Mandy Patinkin

Mendoza's Mother

Judith



Sally Hawkins



MENDOZA THE JEW | SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN URIEL RUSSIN