

“Benjamin is that masculine staple of Jewish comedy, the *luftmensch*, full of dreams and ideas but lacking in the means to implement them. Senderl, by contrast, has the stereotypical qualities of the Jewish wife: he is earthbound, enabling, practical. . . . [Abramovitch’s] satirical target here is not so much the ‘feminized’ Jewish man but a gender system that marks productivity and practicality as female attributes, and views them as unusual if not unnatural when they appear in a man.”

—from Naomi Seidman, “Theorizing Jewish Patriarchy in Extremis”