

## **An Open Letter to Mel Gibson, by Dan Hershfield**

Host Intro: Actor/director Mel Gibson made news this week for making anti-Semitic comments when he was pulled over for drunk driving. Dan Hershfield is a Jew with something to say to Mr. Gibson.

Host Extro: Sounds like a good offer to me, but WWBD: What Would Braveheart Do?

(“We don’t need another hero: The theme from Thunderdome”, Tina Turner)

Dear Mel,

First off, I’m sorry to do this over the radio. I realize a phone call would be much more intimate, but it would be a long-distance call, and since we Jews own the media but don’t own the phone companies, this was cheaper. But I digress...Mel, I want to be something you sorely need. I want to be your Jewish friend.

Oh, Mel, we’d have so much fun. You would let me stay in your guest house, and I would build a wall around it: it’s what we do! We’d go to all your premieres together, and I could say things like “Oy, so salty this popcorn is!”, and you could proudly tolerate me.

Frankly, I think this friendship has ‘reality show’ written all over it. I even wrote us a theme song: “He’s Hollywood. He’s Tel Aviv. He likes to party. He likes to grieve.”

Now, I've got to be honest here, Mel. It may be too late to save you with the Jews. Your father's a Holocaust denier, and the sad truth is a lot of us thought that *Passion of the Christ* was more or less *Triumph of the Will* in Aramaic. But that's okay, Mel, we don't need them.

What we need are the regular folks, and we don't even need them to be sure that you're not a racist, we just need them to see the big picture. Because really, was what you did so bad? I say, let he who hasn't been arrested for drunk driving or spouted some anti-Semitism cast the first stone. We're all human beings, and none of us perfect. Maybe you hate Jews, but love puppies...and Schnapps...and really, that doesn't make you evil, just flawed. And why should you be held to a higher standard than the rest of us? Sure, maybe Fox News won't come calling the next time a Terry Schiavo appears on the scene, but who needs that? You're a movie star, baby! All you need is for people to think "Well, maybe he's not *so* bad", and I can give you that!

So give me a call, Mel. I know how distasteful our friendship will be for you, and I'm willing to take it slow. Just remember, you need me now, but you won't need me forever. People have a very short attention span, and besides, your four-hour ABC miniseries on the Holocaust will be coming out soon enough, and that should mend some fences. Unless that's another war you think the Jews were responsible for...

Call me, Mel. Call me.