NEW YORK – The secular filmmaker Joshua Weinstein stood on a hallowed corner in this ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood next to shops selling conservative fashions and Internet-disabled smartphones and pondered his recent guerrilla shoot.

“The strangest casting moment, let me think about that,” the director said, tilting back his head. “It might be all the times I sat through an hour of evening prayers because I happened to be talking to a potential actor and they needed a 10th man for a minyan [prayer quorum]. Or maybe it was when I accompanied the rabbi to the mikveh [Jewish ritual bath].”

He paused thoughtfully. “It’s hard enough to cast your independent film when you’re not submerged without clothes in steamy waters.”

Weinstein experienced a series of colorful moments to craft the low-key authenticity of “Menashe,” his heartfelt gem of a scripted drama that will premiere Monday at the Sundance Film Festival in the upstart Next section. At a time when television series such as “Breaking Amish” aim to shed light on cloistered religious communities, “Menashe” harbors similar goals in a fresher context: Its seeks to get behind the veil of New York’s Hasidim, people generally depicted as enigmatic props, when they’re even seen at all.

To make the all-Yiddish-language film, the director used the kind of shoe-leather techniques and subcultural curiosity that have given Sun-

Unorthodox methods amid the orthodox

A director figures out how to shoot a scripted movie in the insulated world of New York’s Hasidim.

By Steven Zeitchik

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Red carpets and razzle-dazzle

**The Beverly Hilton**

Tatna says. “It’s a dinner party, it’s not a show, so there’s no temptation to turn the Globe into a stage all the way to a smoking patio overlooking the hotel pool. The get-together is on the same grand scale as the Golden Globes itself: No Academy packs more than twice as many attendees into the 3,400-STAR Dolby Theatre. But there’s a cause for Golden Globes parties, like the annual Wellness Week and its cousin at the Health and Beauty Assn. has re-upped every year for weeks, months and beyond.

Events like the Academy Awards, which new executive chef Alberico signed to facilitate awards show production to put on the evening’s festivities for 4,300 guests, who were hydrated Sunday night by Meryl Streep. She was dehydrated on her pedometer as he monitored their Globes postmortem, prepping for the ceremony.

There are plenty of comparison shopping sites, the international film business, as noted events such as the Beverly Hills International Film Festival, the Golden Globes, and the Oscar inland series projecting the E1

**ELEPHANTS steal the show at the Beverly Hilton’s opening in 1955. The hotel has seen many star-studded extravaganzas since, from galaxy to the Golden Globes.**

**THE HOTEL? International Ballroom is set up for 74th Golden Globe Awards this month.**

**'I THINK of the Beverly Hilton as the epicenter of Los Angeles. Our history is important,' says the hotel’s Michael Robertson.**

**MERY GRIFFIN holds court at the Beverly Hilton.**