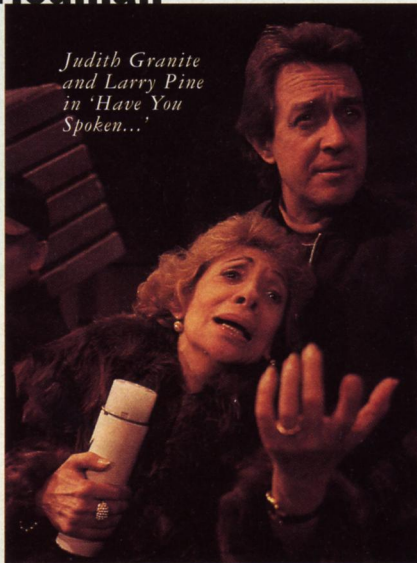


Bruce Jay Friedman

I'm feeling a lot more comfortable about my writing, if not my bank account," says Bruce Jay Friedman, referring to his self-imposed exile from Hollywood two years ago. The screenwriter of *Splash* and *Stir Crazy* finally walked away from the movie business with the usual uninspired roundup of complaints. "You put in a year of your time and you get a list of six or eight actors, and if none of them are available, you have to eat your work," he says. "And even if you're lucky enough to get a film made, the producer's nephew can change your work." Happily, the result of all this disillusionment has been a burst of activity for the writer who gained notoriety for *The Lonely Guy's Book of Life* (1978). Ironically, he met his wife-to-be literally the day he turned that manuscript in, thereby invalidating every gloomy and morose observation in it.

Friedman has a sequel of sorts to that work called *The Slightly Older Guy*, due in June, and a new play called *Have You Spoken to Any Jews Lately?* "It's about two friends who meet in a deserted vacation community during the off-season," he explains. "They can't get anyone on the phone; they can't reach the Carnegie Deli. They get the clear impression that they may very well be the last two Jews on earth. It's not futuristic, but it's set slightly in the future when Israel no longer exists as we know it and has moved to Miami Beach. Shamir is in the Fontainebleau Hotel; Rabin is in the Doral; and Sharon is in Isaac Singer's old condo on Collins Avenue."



*Judith Granite
and Larry Pine
in 'Have You
Spoken...'*