

# A “Mamma Mia” Purimshpiel

Written and performed  
for the edification and amusement of  
A few Albuquerque families  
March 2010

## **A note to future performers:**

We had a very small cast when we performed this purimshpiel. Basically, a single person handled all of non-main-character parts. We also didn't do a whole lot of rehearsing and figuring out staging, so there's very little detail about that. What we did do was a lot of adlibbing during musical interludes and while scenes and personnel were changing. We encourage you to do the same.

If you choose to use our songs in the context of your own purimshpiel, that's fine. Have fun and give credit where it's due.

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## Act 1

### Scene 1 - The King's Party

Permanent "sets" -- Palace gates, street scene

Setting: King's Palace; Queen's Palace

Props/costume items:

Tables

Plates

wine cups

wine bottles

crowns for king and queen

Sceptre

Tambourine

signet ring for king

Players: Ahashverosh  
King's partiers (one of whom is Haman)  
Queen's partiers  
King's Chamberlain  
Vashti

### Reader reads Chapter 1, v 1-9 from megillah:

It was back in the days of Ahashverosh. Ahashverosh ruled as King over one hundred and twenty-seven countries from Indian to Ethiopia. In those days, King Ahashverosh sat on his throne in Shushan, the capital.

In the third year of his reign, he made a banquet for all his advisors and other important people -- the leaders of Persia and Media along with leaders from other nations under his rule. He showed off the riches of his kingdom and the majesty of his greatness for a long time -- one hundred and eighty days. At the end of this time, the king made a feast for everyone -- both the important and the simple people -- living in Shushan the capital.

The feast went on for seven days in the courtyard of the king's palace. Sheets of white cotton and blue wool draped the room, held by ropes of fine linen and purple wool to silver rods and marble columns. Gold and silver couches were arranged on green and white marble floors.

Drinks were served in gold and silver cups -- each cup was different -- and the royal wine was plentiful, as expected for a King. And the law for drinking was that no one should be forced to drink. The King ordered all of his officials to fulfill the wishes of each guest.

Also Vashti, the Queen, made a feast for women in the palace of King Ahashverosh.

<<During this reading, the King and his party-goers are sitting around drinking and having fun. Quietly. The Queen and her party-goers are in the Queen's room.>>

**As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 1, Song 1.**

*To the tune of “Dancing Queen”*

Ashashverosh:

You can eat

You can drink

Please have the time of your life

Men at King’s party:

See that king

See his wealth

He is the greatest thing

We’ve been drinking from cups of gold

As much as we want never gets old

Shushan is the place to be

Where the wine flows free

We come to honor a King

Ahashverosh is that guy

Night is young and we all dine

With a bit of indulgence

Everything is fine

Ahashverosh:

I’m in the mood for a dance

So let us call for Vashti

Vashti, the dancing queen

She can dance

In her crown of gold

Dancing queen

Twirling round to the tambourine

You can eat

You can drink

Please have the time of your life

Men at King’s party:

See that king

See his wealth

He is the greatest thing

<<During this chorus, the King whispers in his Chamberlain’s ear, and sends Chamberlain to Queen’s palace.>>

King's Chamberlain:

Vashti, the king wants you to dance  
Wearing for him your golden crown  
Leave your women here  
Come to the palace  
And give the men a dance  
Vashti, what do you say?  
You are the Dancing Queen  
You can dance  
In your crown of gold  
Dancing Queen  
Twirling round to the tambourine

Vashti:

Tell the King  
I'm no fool  
I won't come dance for him now  
I'm the Queen  
I won't be  
Dancing for drunken men

<<Party is over. Party trappings need to make a quick exit to change scene to King's rooms.

Vashti stays in the Queen's rooms for the time being.>>

## **Scene 2 - The King at work**

Setting: King's rooms, Town square, Queen's rooms

Props needed: Writing desk  
Books of law and chronicles  
Scroll #1 for decree

Players: Ahashverosh  
King's advisors (one of whom is Haman)  
Messenger

### **Reader reads Chapter 1, verse 13 from megillah:**

Then the King spoke with his wise men because it was the King's practice to speak with those familiar with ruling and law.

**As reader finishes reading, start the music for Act 1, Scene 1, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "Money, Money, Money"*

Ahashverosh:

I work all night, I work all day

To run this empire all the way

(Advisors: Ain't it sad?)

And still Vashti can say that she

Will never come and dance for me

(Advisors: That's too bad)

What to do? I need a plan

To keep respect throughout the land

Advisors:

You could put Vashti away

Show men you mean what you say

All:

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy

Being King is hard

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy

Being King is hard

Ahhhh... All the things I (he) could do

If I (he) weren't so very busy

Being King is hard

Being King is hard

<<During this chorus, scribe prepares the scroll with the decree, King seals it with his ring, Messenger goes past the Palace gates to the street. The King's Chamberlain helps Vashti move out of the Queen's rooms. >>

**After this action is complete, start the music for Act 1, Scene 2, Song 2.**

*To the tune of "I Have A Dream"*

Messenger:

I have a scroll  
Straight from the King  
To tell you all  
What's happening  
Vashti has been sent off  
To an unknown fate  
Men are now the masters  
Of all within their gate

I have a scroll  
Straight from the King

### **Scene 3 - Search for a New Queen**

Setting: same as scene 2

Props needed:

Same as scene 2

Plus scroll #2

Players: Ahashverosh  
King's advisors (including Haman)  
Messenger

### **Reader reads Chapter 2, verse 1 from megillah:**

After everything that happened, when the anger of King Ahasverosh passed, he remembered Vashti and what she did and how she was punished.

**As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 3, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "Money, Money, Money"*

King:

A King without a Queen is bad  
I'm lonely now and that's so sad  
(Advisors: Yes, we know)  
But how to find a brand-new queen?  
A girl like one I've never seen  
(Advisors: That is so)

Advisors:

So why not ask throughout the land  
For all the girls to come and stand  
Before the King in a fancy gown  
To see which one should wear the crown?

All:

Busy, busy, busy  
I'm (he's) so busy  
Being King is hard  
Busy, busy, busy  
I'm (he's) so busy  
Being King is hard  
Ahhhh... All the things I (he) could do  
If I (he) weren't so very busy  
Being King is hard

<<Pretty much the same action as before. During this chorus, scribe prepares the scroll with the decree, King seals it with his ring, Messenger takes scroll and goes past the Palace gates to the street..>>

**When ready, start the music for Act 1, Scene 3, Song 2.**

*(To the tune of "I Have A Dream")*

Messenger:

I have a scroll  
Straight from the King  
To tell you all  
What's happening  
All the gentle maidens  
All throughout the land  
Are to come to Shushan  
It's the King's demand  
And the one who pleases  
The good King in everything he sees  
Will become the Queen  
And rule from sea to shining sea

I have a scroll  
Straight from the King

<<As the Messenger is reading this scroll, Esther and Mordechai come out and listen to the Messenger in the street.>>

#### **Scene 4 - We meet Mordechai and Esther**

Setting: Street, Queen's Palace

Props needed: Probably nothing beyond costumes, unless we give Esther a small bag

Players: Esther  
Mordechai  
Messenger

#### **Reader reads Chapter 2, verses 5-7 from megillah:**

There was a Jewish man by the name of Mordechai, the son of Yair, son of Shmi, son of Kish, from the tribe of Binyamin who lived in Shushan the capital. He was exiled from Jerusalem in the group forced to leave with King Yechanaya, of Yehuda, who was driven out by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. He brought up Hadassah, also known as Esther, his cousin, because she did not have a father or mother. The girl was beautiful, and when her father and mother died, Mordechai adopted her as his own daughter.

#### **As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 4, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "Slipping Through My Fingers"*

Mordechai:

Esther, you'll go  
To the palace with the other maidens  
Kiss me good-bye  
I've taught you all I know  
You are a Jew  
But you must not speak about it  
And I'll find a way to stay close by

Esther:

You've been like a father all my life  
I'll do whatever you advise me to  
I'll miss you every day we're not together  
Mordechai, the Jew

Both:

Slipping through my fingers all the time  
I try to capture every minute  
The feeling in it  
Slipping through my fingers all the time  
Do I really see what's in your mind?  
Each time I think I'm close to knowing  
You keep on growing  
Slipping through my fingers all the time

<<Esther goes with the Messenger to the harem/Queen's palace where she is greeted by Hagai and unpacks a few things. Mordechai stays in the street -- maybe reading a book?>>



## Scene 5 - Esther before the King

Setting: Queen's rooms, King's rooms/palace, gates outside palace

Props needed: Beauty aids,  
fancy stuff for Esther,  
throne for King,  
wedding ring  
crown  
Scroll #3

Players: Hagai  
Esther  
Ahashverosh  
Mordechai  
King's advisors/courtiers  
Messenger

**As Esther moves into the Queen's rooms (unpacks the bag? maybe a mezuzah), start the music for Act 1, Scene 5, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "Super Trouper"*

Hagai:

All these silly  
Maidens drive me crazy  
But since I met you  
I am not so blue  
'Cause separate from the crowd  
There's you

I was sick and tired of all these girls  
When you showed up last year from Shushan  
All they do is primp and toss their curls  
Making me glad I'm a .... Eunuch  
Just imagine I was glad to meet you, Esther  
Suddenly the future's bright  
And it's gonna be so different  
When you see the King tonight

Tonight

Esther, baby,  
The King is gonna see you  
Shining like the sun  
Smiling, having fun  
You will be his number one

Esther:

Tonight the  
King is gonna  
Choose me from the masses

That could be the scene  
That would be so keen  
'Cause Hagai helped me to  
Be Queen

Hagai:

Prepping lots and lots of pretty girls  
How can all of them be so shallow?  
Some of them just make me want to hurl  
But I know that you're not so callow

Esther:

There were moments when I thought I could not do it  
But you've made me feel all right  
And it's gonna be so different  
When I see the King tonight

Hagai:

Tonight  
Esther, baby,  
The King is gonna see you  
Shining like the sun  
Smiling, having fun  
You will be his number one

Esther:

Tonight the  
King is gonna  
Choose me from the masses  
That could be the scene  
That would be so keen  
'Cause Hagai helped me to  
Be Queen

<<By the time we get to this point in the song, Mordechai needs to be at the palace gates.>>

Mordechai:

And I am here  
Outside the gates  
The sight of you still proves to me  
You're doing great  
And when you become the Queen  
And get your crown  
I'll know that Hagai helped you out tonight

All:

Tonight

Esther, baby,  
The King is gonna see you  
Shining like the sun  
Smiling, having fun  
You will be his number one  
Tonight the  
King is gonna  
Choose you from the masses  
That could be the scene  
That would be so keen  
'Cause Hagai helped you to  
Be Queen

<<Hagai escorts Esther to the King's rooms. >>

**As this action takes place, start the music for Act 1, Scene 5, Song 2.**

*To the tune of "Take a Chance on Me"*

Esther:

After all this time  
I'm the first in line  
Honey, you're still free  
Take a chance on me  
If you need me let me know  
Gonna be around  
If you've got no place to go  
When you're feeling down

King, you're all alone  
Now the pretty birds have flown  
Honey, you're still free  
Take a chance on me  
Gonna do my very best  
And it ain't no lie  
If you put me to the test  
If you let me try  
Take a chance on me  
Take a chance on me  
We can go dancing  
We can go walking  
As long as we're together  
Listen to some music  
Maybe just talking  
You'd get to know me better

'Cause you know I've got

So much that I wanna do  
When I dream I'm alone with you  
It's magic  
You want me to leave it there  
Afraid of a love affair  
But I think you know  
That I want you so!

**As this song finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 5, Song 3.**

*To the tune of "Honey, Honey"*

Ahashverosh:

Honey honey, how she thrills me, a-ha, honey honey  
Honey honey, nearly kills me, a-ha, honey honey  
I've never seen her before  
I want now to know some more  
And now I'm about to see  
What she means to me  
Oh, she makes me dizzy

Honey honey, let me feel it, a-ha, honey honey  
Honey honey, don't conceal it, a-ha, honey honey  
The way that you kiss good night  
(Esther: Way that you kiss me goodnight)  
The way that you hold me tight  
(Esther: Way that you're holding me tight)  
I feel like I wanna sing  
Will you wear my ring?

<<King puts crown on Esther's head and hands her a ring.>>

**Reader reads Chapter 2, verse 17 from megillah:**

The King loved Esther more than all the other women, and he favored and approved of her more than all the other girls. So he put the royal crown on her head and made her Queen instead of Vashti. The King made a big feast for all his leaders and servants -- a feast in honor of Esther -- and he said there would be no more taxes for the people in his countries, and he gave out gifts that only a King can.

<<During the following song, one of the King's advisors comes on to hand a scroll to the Messenger and then goes out into the audience to hand out chocolate. Messenger moves over to the street scene.>>

**As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 5, Song 4.**

*To the tune of "Dancing Queen"*

Ashashverosh:

You can eat

You can drink

Please have the time of your life

See my Queen

Watch that scene

She is the Dancing Queen

**As Ahashverosh finishes singing, start the music for Act 1, Scene 5, Song 5.**

*To the tune of "I Have A Dream"*

Messenger:

I have a scroll

Straight from the King

To let you know

What's happening

He has married Esther

She is now the Queen

And reduced your taxes

Isn't that so keen?

I have a scroll

Straight from the King

## Scene 6 - Mordechai at the Palace gates

Setting: Palace gates  
Queen's rooms  
King's rooms

Props needed:  
notes passed from Mordechai to Esther to King  
Stool for Mordechai  
book of Chronicles

Players: Bigthan  
Teresh  
Mordechai  
Palace servant  
Esther  
Ahashverosh  
Scribe

### Reader reads Chapter 2, end of verse 19 through verse 21 from megillah:

Mordechai was sitting at the King's gate. Esther told no one where she was born or what nation she was from, because Mordechai told her not to. When Mordechai told her something, Esther did what she was supposed to do, as she did while he was raising her. In the days when Mordechai sat at the king's gate, Bigtan and Teresh, two of the king's palace guards, became angry with King Ahashverosh, and plotted to kill him.

### As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 6, Song 1.

*To the tune of "Does Your Mother Know?"*

Bigthan:  
I'm so mad  
At the King

Teresh:  
So am I but I can't  
Think of something that we can do  
There's nothing that we can do

Bigthan:  
We could kill  
That old King  
Slip a knife in his ribs  
Or some poison into his cup

Teresh:  
Ah, but you have a great plan

Bigthan and Teresh:  
Well, we could kill Ahashverosh  
Just to get the glory  
Who would think that we'd be the ones?  
Yes, we can kill Ahashverosh  
And we'll tell the story

So all will know that we were the ones.  
<<As Bigthan and Teresh finish, they move off the stage.>>

Mordechai:

Did I hear that? Did I hear that?  
A plot to kill the King  
That's no way to go  
The Queen must know  
Listen to me. Listen to me  
A plot to kill the King  
That's no way to go  
The Queen must know

<<Long musical interlude here. Mordechai writes a note to Esther, flags down a passing palace servant and convinces him to take the note to Esther. Esther reads the note and starts writing a note of her own, which she sends to Ahashverosh via a palace servant.>>

Esther:

Send a scroll  
To the King  
Let him know that these men  
Want to kill him just for the fun  
And Mordechai found them out  
He heard them talk  
At the gate  
Teresh and Bigthan are plotting to kill  
Ahashverosh the King  
And Mordechai heard their plot

All:

They want to kill Ahashverosh  
Just to get the glory  
Who'd have thought that they'd be the ones?  
They want to kill Ahashverosh  
And they'll tell the story  
So all will know that they were the ones.

Did you hear that? Did you hear that?  
A plot to kill the King  
That's no way to go  
The King must know  
Did you hear that? Did you hear that?  
Mordechai the Jew  
Heard the evil plot  
The King must know

**As previous song finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 6, Song 2.**

*To the tune of "Money, Money, Money"*

Ahashverosh:

I work all night, I work all day

To run my empire all the way

(Advisors: Yes, you do.)

And now these goons who work for me

Want to kill me with such glee

(Advisors: What? A coup?)

So string them up upon a tree

And leave them there for all to see

They must learn that's not the way

To force regime change in this day

All:

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy

Being King is hard

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy

Being King is hard

Ahhhh... All the things I (he) could do

If I (he) weren't so very busy

Being King is hard

Being King is hard

Ahashverosh:

And Mordechai the Jew made note

To tell me though he has no vote

(Advisors: What a man!)

So write his name down in my book

And I'll reward him when I look

(Advisors: Ain't that grand!)

<<Scribe writes in book of chronicles.>>

And all who live under my rule

Will know that I'm not a fool

They can't kill me -- I'm the King

Now let us all join hands and sing:

All:

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy

Being King is hard

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy



Being King is hard  
Ahhhh... All the things I (he) could do  
If I (he) weren't so very busy  
Being King is hard

<<During this song, if there are enough players, the King's guard can hunt down Bigthan and Teresh and take them off stage for their punishment.>>

### **Scene 7 - Haman's promotion**

Setting: King's rooms, palace gates/street

Props needed: Table/desk, scrolls, jar of pens,  
books of law and chronicles

Players: Ahashverosh  
King's advisors  
Haman  
Mordechai  
Palace guard

### **Reader reads Chapter 3, verse 1 from megillah:**

After these events, King Ahashverosh promoted Haman, son of Hamdata, the Agagite, raising him up to be more important than all the other ministers.

### **As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 7, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do"*

#### Ahashverosh:

Of all my advisors  
I like you  
I'm no liar  
Be my pal  
Please do, please do, please do, please do

Haman, please try it  
You're the best  
Don't deny it  
Say you do

Haman: I do, I do, I do, I do, I do.

Oh, I've been scheming all my humble past  
And now I've made it  
I'm top gun at last  
I'm the top  
Of the order  
I'm the knees

Of the bees  
Yes, I am.  
I am, I am, I am, I am, I am.

And now all men (but him!) must bow down to me  
<<on words “but him” Haman indicates the King. King could say “but me!”>>  
If they don’t want to  
Oh, just wait and see  
So, thank you, King, for seeing  
I’m the best at agreeing  
Yes, I do!  
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do.

<<At end of this song, Haman moves from the King’s rooms to the streets where he encounters Mordechai.>>

**As Haman moves to street, start the music for Act 1, Scene 7, Song 2.**

<<Mordechai has no lines, just needs to stand tall and strong. It would help if there were other people -- palace servants, advisors, townspeople -- hanging around to bow to Haman.>>

*To the tune of “Mamma Mia”*

Haman:

You must bow down to me  
Out here in the street  
That is what the King said  
Bow down to your feet  
Look at that man standing up so tall  
Who is that man? Why does he make me feel so small  
I shouldn’t feel this way

Palace guards:

Mordechai is the one who’s so odd  
He’s a Jew who bows only to God

All:

Mordechai, here we go again  
Why, why, why don’t you assist me?  
Mordechai, you won’t bow again  
Why, why, why must you resist me?

Haman:

Jew, it's my rank you're dissing  
You should my feet be kissing  
Why, why won't you bow down to me  
Mordechai, tell me so I know  
Why, why will you not bow down to me?

### **Scene 8 - Haman decides to kill all the Jews**

Setting: Haman's house  
King's rooms,  
Town square

Props needed: Dice,  
Scroll #4  
Gold coins  
signet ring  
Sackcloth for Mordechai to put on at end of scene

Players: Haman  
Haman's wife  
Ahashverosh  
Scribe  
Messenger  
Mordechai

### **Reader reads Chapter 3, verses 6-7 from megillah:**

Haman did not want to punish only Mordechai because he had been told about Mordechai's nation. Haman wanted to destroy all of the Jews in the whole kingdom of Ahashverosh. In the first month, the month of Nisan, the twelfth year in the reign of King Ahashverosh, they made a *pur* -- a lottery -- in the presence of Haman to choose the day and month: the twelfth month of the year, the month of Adar.

### **As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 8, Song 1.**

<<Haman is at his house with Haman's wife. During this song, he throws the dice.>>

*To the tune of "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme"*

Haman:

I want to kill that man  
So I must make a plan  
Gimme, Gimme, Gimme  
The Jews on a platter  
Won't somebody help me wipe these Jews off the map

Gimme, Gimme, Gimme

It's no laughing matter  
I will find a way to close these Jews in a trap  
<<Haman goes from his house to palace to progress his plan.>>

**As Haman gets to the palace, start the music for Act 1, Scene 8, Song 2.**

*To the tune of "Money, Money, Money"*

Ahashverosh:

I work all night, I work all day  
To run my empire all the way  
(Haman & Advisors: So you claim)

Haman:

There are people in your empire  
Who don't follow your rules, sire  
(King & Advisors: What a shame!)

I would like to honor you  
By getting rid of all those who  
Don't respect you as they should  
I'll pay you silver if I could

<<Haman takes coins out of purse and puts them on scribe's table.>>

Ahashverosh:

Busy, busy, busy  
I'm so busy  
Being King is hard

All:

Busy, busy, busy  
I'm (he's) so busy  
Being King is hard

Ahashverosh:

Ahhh.. Take my ring and proclaim  
What you wish and give the money  
To those who kill and maim

<<Ahashverosh hands Haman the signet ring. Haman prepares a scroll and uses the king's signet to seal it, gives it to the Messenger, who takes it to read. Mordechai must be in the town square to hear the decree.>>

**After the preceding action is complete, start the music for Act 1, Scene 8, Song 3.**

*To the tune of "I Have a Dream"*

Messenger:

I have a scroll  
Straight from the King  
To let you know  
What's happening  
Haman has decided  
To kill all the Jews  
He has thrown some dice  
To decide the date  
On Adar the thirteenth  
All the Jews will die throughout the land  
All the Jews will perish  
We will cut them down right where they stand

I have a scroll  
It's from the King

<<Mordechai reacts to the bad news. Puts on "sackcloth" over his clothes. Messenger, Ahashverosh, and Haman leave the scene.>>

### **Scene 9 - Mordechai Calls for Repentance**

Setting: Palace gates,  
Queen's room

Props needed: notes to pass

Players: Mordechai,  
Esther,  
Palace servants

### **Reader reads Chapter 4, verses 1-3 from megillah:**

When Mordechai learned of all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went out to the center of the city, and cried a great and bitter cry. He did not enter the King's gate because no one was allowed inside the King's gate in sackcloth. At the same time, in every country, within reach of the King's word and law, there was great mourning among the Jews -- fasting, crying and wailing, and many wore sackcloth and ashes.

**As reader finishes, start the music for Act 1, Scene 9, Song 1.**

<<During this song, Mordechai and Esther are passing notes back and forth, using palace servant(s).>>

*To the tune of “Knowing Me, Knowing You”*

Mordechai:

What a catastrophe  
Sackcloth, ashes on me  
All the Jews are gonna die  
Tears in my eyes  
Is this how our story ends  
Is this good-bye?

Esther, go to the King  
This is something you can do  
Esther, you are a Jew  
You will have to tell him  
Go to the King

Esther:

Going to the King unbidden is death,  
Do I have to go?

Mordechai:

Esther, go to the King  
It is what you must do

Your life will not be spared  
Sorrow will be shared

Mordechai and Esther:

All the Jews are gonna die  
It's our doomsday  
Soon there will be emptiness  
Nothing to say

I (you) will go to the King  
This is something I (you) can do  
Tell him I am (you are) a Jew  
I (you) will have to tell him  
Go to the King

Esther:

Going to the King unbidden is death  
But I have to go  
Knowing I am a Jew  
It is what I must do

<<Mordechai leaves the stage after this song. Esther moves to center stage. Spotlight.>>

**As this song, start the music for Act 1, Scene 9, Song 2.**

*To the tune of "Thank You for the Music"*

Esther:

Ask all of the Jews

To fast and pray

Ask them all to start

Today

Pray with me for 3 days

I ask with sincerity

Please pray for me

Because the King may not grant me my life

So ple-ease pray and fast for me-e

As I go to the King

## Act 2

### Scene 1 - Esther approaches the King

Setting: Queen's rooms, King's rooms

Props needed: Bling, throne, sceptre

Players: Esther,  
Ahashverosh,  
Haman,  
King's advisors

### Reader reads Chapter 5, verse 1 from megillah:

On the third day, Esther put on royal clothes, and she stood in the inner courtyard of the king's palace. She faced the King's palace, while the King sat on his throne in the throne room and faced the entrance of the palace.

### As reader finishes, start the music for Act 2, Scene 1, Song 1.

<<During this song, Esther prepares to see the king. A palace servant or Hagai can help if there are enough players.>>

*To the tune of "Super Trouper"*

Esther:

It's time for me to go and see the King  
And tell him about my people  
I will have to put on all my bling  
Even though the fast made me feeble  
So I'm hoping he'll be glad to see me coming  
And that he will spare my life  
Though he hasn't called me lately  
He knows I'm still his wife  
Tonight the  
King is gonna  
Raise his sceptre to me  
And then we will see  
If he still loves me  
And then we'll see what he  
decrees

<<Ahashverosh sees Esther approaching. Palace guard blocks Esther's path until King extends his sceptre to her, allowing her to approach.>>



**As Ahashverosh extends the sceptre, start the music for Act 2, Scene 1, Song 2.**

*To the tune of “Honey, Honey”*

Ahashverosh:

Honey honey, how she thrills me, a-ha, honey honey  
Honey honey, nearly kills me, a-ha, honey honey  
I’m sorry it’s been a while  
I’m happy to see you smile  
Do you want half my empire  
If you ask for it  
I will give it to you

Esther:

Honey honey, I’m so happy, a-ha, honey honey  
Honey honey, you look so snappy, a-ha, honey honey  
I’d like to invite you  
Haman your advisor, too  
To come to a banquet at eight  
Is that a date?

<<King and especially Haman enthusiastically agree and all move to Queen’s palace/rooms.>>

## **Scene 2 - Esther’s first banquet**

Setting: Queen’s rooms

Props needed: Table,  
Chairs,  
banquet stuff,  
beer

Players: Esther,  
Ahashverosh,  
Haman,  
Palace servant

<<Servant doesn’t speak, but can help with getting table ready, clearing, etc.>>

**As soon as the banquet table is set, start the music for Act 2, Scene 2, Song 1.**

*To the tune of “Our Last Summer”*

Esther:

Now you both are here  
At my banquet  
Would you like a beer?

Haman:

Esther, you’re a dear  
To invite me here

To your banquet  
Though why remains unclear

Ahashverosh:

I've offered you half of my empire  
And if you want it, Esther, I will make it yours

Esther:

I am so happy that you came  
I would invite you once again  
Oh, yes....

<<Esther and/Ahashverosh exit. Palace servant clears off table and also exits. Mordechai needs to be in the street so that Haman sees him as he passes.>>

### **Scene 3 - Haman and his machinations**

Setting: Palace gates,  
Haman's house

Props needed:

Players: Haman,  
Mordechai,  
Haman's wife

**As Haman leaves the Queen's rooms, start the music for Act 2, Scene 3, Song 1.**

<<Mordechai is standing tall in the street as Haman passes on his way home.>>

*To the tune of "Mamma Mia"*

Haman:

I've just come from the Queen's  
(She invites me to lunch)  
Now I'm seeing you stand  
And it's more than a hunch  
Mordechai -- you -- won't you ever bow  
You are a Jew, and I'm going to make a vow  
I want to kill you right now.  
Mordechai is the one who's so odd  
He's a Jew who bows only to God

Mordechai, here we go again  
Why, why, why don't you assist me?  
Mordechai, you won't bow again  
Why, why, why must you resist me?

<<During this last chorus, Haman's wife and house need to reappear.>>

**When Haman gets “home”, start the music for Act 2, Scene 3, Song 2.**

*To the tune of “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme”*

Haman’s wife:

You want to kill that man  
So you must make a plan

Haman:

Gimme, Gimme, Gimme

Haman’s wife:

Why not build some gallows?  
Higher than the highest building now in the town

Haman:

Gimme, gimme, gimme

Haman and Haman’s wife:

We can kill off that fellow  
That’s one sure way to bring that Mordechai down.

<<Gallows get added to Haman’s house at end of scene.>>

**Scene 4 - The King can’t sleep**

Setting: King’s rooms,  
Town square

Props needed: Table/desk, scrolls,  
book of chronicles,  
Horse,  
Fancy robes for Mordechai

Players: Ahashverosh,  
Scribe,  
Haman,  
Mordechai,  
Townspople  
Queen’s Chamberlain

**Reader reads Chapter 6, verse 1 from megillah:**

During the night, the King could not sleep. So he asked that the book of records, his diary, be brought to him, and read to the King.

**As reader finishes, start the music for Act 2, Scene 4, Song 1.**

*To the tune of “Money, Money, Money”*

Ahashverosh:

I work all day, I work all night

To hold this empire with my might

(Scribe: Is that so?)

And sometimes I can't seem to sleep

Even though I count those sheep

(Scribe: So it goes)

My records bring, and read them through

Maybe they will give me a clue

About something I can do

Else put me to sleep, it's true.

Both:

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy

Being King is hard

Busy, busy, busy

I'm (he's) so busy

Being King is hard

Ahhhh... All the things I (he) could do

If I (he) weren't so very busy

Being King is hard

Being King is hard

Scribe:

Here's the story of a man

Who overheard an evil plan

(Ahashverosh: Who was that?)

His name was Mordechai the Jew

His information helped save you

(Ahashverosh: Oh, right. That)

Ahashverosh:

What did I do for Mordechai

To pay him back for my life?

Scribe:

Nothing, Highness, it's a shame

We just recorded here his name

<<Scribe shows Ahashverosh the page in the book of chronicles and both are properly distraught. In the meantime, Haman comes up the palace gates.>>

**As Haman approaches, start the music for Act 2, Scene 4, Song 2.**

*To the tune of “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme”*

Haman:

Is there a king in there?  
Someone to grant my prayer  
Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!  
I want to kill someone  
Someone who is dissing me and threatens your reign  
Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!  
Please let me kill this man  
This man is such a menace that he must be slain

**King gestures Haman to come into his rooms -- start the music for Act 2, Scene 4, Song 3.**

*To the tune of “Money, Money, Money”*

Ahashverosh:

As you can see, I work all night  
To run my empire, it's a fright  
(Haman: As you say)  
And sometimes things fall through the cracks  
I don't want to be seen as lax  
(Haman: What the hey?)  
What can be done to honor him  
Whom the king fills to the brim  
With respect and honor now  
How to do it, tell me how

All:

Busy, busy, busy  
I'm (he's) so busy  
Being King is hard

<<As this song ends, Haman steps away a bit from the King. **SPOTLIGHT** on Haman.>>

**Start the music for Act 2, Scene 4, Song 4.**

*To the tune of “One of Us”*

Haman (to self):

My time has come  
Why else would he ask me?  
The King honors me  
Oh, what should I tell him?

<<Spotlight off. Haman steps back to King>>

Haman (to King):

Give him your horse  
And your robes fine and fancy  
And lead him through the streets  
On the horse in your robes  
Call before him  
I want all to know:

This is how the King  
Honors those who serve him  
Honor him as well  
Ahashverosh:  
Haman, you're a genius  
Go do this for Mordechai the Jew

<<Timing is critical as there is no separation in the music. Haman leads Mordechai on the horse in the robes while singing. Palace servant should with this. Mordechai needs to be handy.>>

Haman (leading Mordechai):  
This is how the King  
Honors those who serve him  
Honor him as well

Haman (to self):  
Sorry for myself  
Feeling stupid  
Feeling small  
Wishing I had  
Never spoke at all  
Never spoke at all

<<Haman goes from this scene back to his house while Mordechai and horse leave.>>

**As this song ends and Haman starts to Haman's house, start the music for Act 2, Scene 4, Song 5.**

<<Haman reaches his house only to find the Queen's Chamberlain waiting for him.>>

*To the tune of "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme"*

Haman:  
I want to kill that man  
But he has foiled my plan

Queen's Chamberlain:  
Haman, Haman, Haman  
It's time for the banquet

You now must get ready to visit the Queen

Haman:

Gimme, gimme, gimme

I'll go to the banquet

Then for Mordechai -- well, he will know what I mean

### **Scene 5 - Esther's plea**

Setting: Queen's rooms

Props needed: banquet stuff,  
Couch,  
sign for garden

Players: Esther,  
Haman,  
Ahashverosh,  
Palace servant

### **Reader reads Chapter 7, verse 1 from megillah.**

The King and Haman came to drink with Queen Esther.

### **As reader finishes, start the music for Act 2, Scene 5, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "Our Last Summer"*

Esther:

You're here once again

At my banquet

How have you both been?

Haman:

Esther, you're so nice

To invite me twice

To your banquet

Though once would have sufficed

Ahashverosh:

I've offered you half of my empire

And if you want it, Esther, I will make it yours

Esther:

My needs are simple, few and small

I hope that you can grant them all

Oh yes....

My people fear

For their lives, O Great king, and so do I

So grant us life

Ahashverosh:

Who has threatened you,  
My dearest Queen,  
And your people, too?

Esther:

It was Haman  
Who sits here by your side, oh yes

Now you both know why  
At my banquet  
I ask you to reply

Ahashverosh:

Haman, is this true  
You would kill her, too?  
At her banquet

Haman:

I swear I never knew

Ahashverosh:

I'm all out of sync  
At your banquet  
I must go and think  
Let my anger shrink  
So please pardon me  
From your banquet  
I'll be back for tea

<<During this song, Palace servant can be setting/unsetting the table. At the end, Ahashverosh moves offstage.>>

**As soon as Ahashverosh leaves, start the music for Act 2, Scene 5, Song 2.**

*To the tune of "S.O.S"*

Haman:

I've made a big mistake  
How could I be so blind?  
I try to talk to you  
But you have closed your mind  
Whatever happened to my plan?  
I wish I understood  
It used to be so nice  
It used to be so good

Haman (appealing to Esther):

So since you're near me  
Esther, can't you hear me?  
S.O.S  
The hope you gave me



Nothing else can save me  
S.O.S  
If you yawn  
How can I even try to go on?  
If I fawn  
Over you, will I live till the dawn?

Esther:

You seem so far away  
Though you are standing near  
You wanted me to die  
But 'twill be you, I fear

Haman:

I really tried to make it work  
I wish I understood  
What happened to my plan  
It used to be so good

<<Haman throws himself onto Esther, who is reclining on her couch.>>

Esther (calling for King):

King Ahashverosh  
Darling can't you hear me  
S.O.S  
The love you gave me  
Nothing else can save me  
S.O.S

Ahasverosh (returning from garden with palace guard):

Oh, Haman  
Why do you even try to go on?  
You'll be gone  
For your crimes, you will die before dawn.

<<Palace guard restrains Haman.>>

**Start the music for Act 2, Scene 5, Song 3.**

*To the tune of “Money, Money, Money”*

Ahashverosh:

I work so hard to do what’s right  
Please take this Haman from my sight  
(All: My, oh my!)

Palace guard:

There are gallows at Haman’s  
He meant to use them for someone  
(All: Mordechai!)

Ahashverosh:

Haman has gallows at his house  
So hang him there, pathetic louse  
He built them to hang Mordechai  
How ironic - he’ll swing high

All:

Busy, busy, busy  
I’m (he’s) so busy  
Being King is hard  
Busy, busy, busy  
I’m (he’s) so busy  
Being King is hard  
Ahhhh... All the things I (he) could do  
If I (he) weren’t so very busy  
Being King is hard

<<During this chorus, Haman is lead off by Palace guard and body is seen hanging from gallows.>>

**Scene 6 - Aftermath of Haman’s downfall**

Setting: King’s rooms,  
Town square

Props needed: Table/desk, scrolls, jar of pens,  
Scroll #5 for decree,  
signet ring

Players: Esther,  
Ahashverosh,  
Mordechai,  
Advisors, scribe  
Messenger

**Reader reads Chapter 8, verse 1 from megillah.:**

On the same day, King Ahashverosh gave Queen Esther the household of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordechai came before the King because Esther told him how they were related.

**As reader finishes, start the music for Act 2, Scene 6, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "Winner Takes it All"*

Esther:

Just so that you know  
Mordechai's my uncle  
He has been my guide  
He, who would have died

Ahashverosh:

I will give to you  
All Haman's possessions  
With all you've been through  
The least I can do

Esther, Ahashverosh, Mordechai:

The winner takes it all  
The loser standing small  
Beside the victory  
That's their destiny

Ahashverosh:

Mordechai shall be  
A friend and guide to me  
I think that makes sense  
He'll be our defence

Esther:

There's just one more thing  
Ahashverosh, King,  
Jews will still be killed  
I will not be thrilled

Aren/Mordechai:

Haman once threw the dice  
His mind as cold as ice  
And for Jews far and near  
Death grows very near

Esther, Ahashverosh, Mordechai:

The winner takes it all  
The loser has to fall  
It's simple and it's plain  
Why should we complain?

Esther:

What shall we do now  
To set aside your decree  
Can the killing stop  
The Jews come out on top?

Mordechai:

Maybe they can stand  
With swords in their hands  
Let the Jews fight back  
Let them take a whack

Ahashverosh:

Mordechai, please take  
My ring, for goodness' sake  
I can't revoke my word  
Though that would be preferred  
Send out a decree  
And say it comes from me  
Let them take up arms  
In cities and on farms

<<During the rest of this song, Scribe prepares the scroll according to Mordechai's direction,  
then hands it off to the Messenger.>>

Esther:

I don't wanna talk  
'Cause death makes me feel sad  
But I understand  
About the King's command

Ahashverosh:

I apologize  
If it makes you feel bad  
Seeing you so down  
Makes me want to frown  
But you see

The winner takes it all

All:

The winner takes it all

The game is on again  
My lover and my friend  
A big thing or a small  
The winner takes it all

The winner takes it all

**Immediately start the music for Act 2, Scene 6, Song 2.**

*To the tune of "I Have A Dream"*

Messenger:

I have a scroll  
Straight from the King  
To let you know  
What's happening  
On Adar the thirteenth  
Jews may take up arms  
To defend their families  
From those who would do harm

I have a scroll  
Straight from the King

**Reader reads Chapter 8, end of verse 15 though verse 17 from megillah:**

And the city of Shushan was joyful and happy. And for the Jews there was light and happiness and joy and honor. And in every country and every city, every place that the King's command and law reached, there was happiness and joy for the Jews; a feast and a holiday. And many people from nations of the land pretended that they were Jews because they were afraid of the Jews.

<<During this reading, everyone can be arming themselves. Doesn't much matter who the good guys and the bad guys are, though it might be funny (to the adults, at any rate) for the Jews to be wearing black hats and their foes to be wearing white hats.>>

**Scene 7 - The Day of Battle**

Setting: Town square,  
King's rooms

Props needed: weapons

Players: Mordechai,  
Ahashverosh,  
Esther,  
Townsppeople, guards, any other characters

**Reader reads Chapter 9, verse 1 from megillah:**

And so, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, when the King's word and law were to be carried out -- on the day that the enemies of the Jews believed they would become their masters -- the opposite happened. And the Jews took power over their enemies.

**As reader finishes, start the music for Act 2, Scene 7, Song 1.**

<<During this song, the fight is going on. In some cases, audience participation will be encouraged.>>

*To the tune of "Under Attack"*

Mordechai:

The thirteenth of Adar  
There was quite a fight  
And not only in Shushan  
And all the Jews were prepared at break of light  
To defend with their might

Our enemies were strong  
Yet it's clear to me  
They didn't have a strategy  
It was like taking candy from a baby  
And they found that they were

All:

Under attack  
They're being taken  
About to crack  
Defences breaking  
None of the Jews would let them go  
No mercy to show  
'Cause they all were the foe

Under attack  
They're taking cover  
Jews on their track, no need to hover

Ahashverosh:

Thinking nothing can stop them now  
Should I want to I'm not sure I would know how

Mordechai:

<<probably won't sing this, but will say the names of Haman's sons -- he will need a short break in the music and/or action in order to accomplish this>>

Par- shan- da- tha, Dal- phon,  
*This is get- ting cra- zy*  
As- patha, Par- a- tha  
*I should tell them so*  
A- dal- ia, Ar- i- da- tha  
*Real- ly let my an- guish show*  
Par- mash- ta-, Ar- i- sai, Ar- i- da- i and  
*I feel like I was trapped with- in a night- mare*

Vai- za- tha, Ha- man's sons  
*I've got no- where to go.*  
All ten hung up on the gal- lows  
*(Still un- de- ci- ded I sup- pose)*

Esther:

Yes, it's what I wanted  
But scary as hell  
Staring down the deepest well  
I hardly dare to think of what would happen  
Where I'd be if I fell

All:

Under attack  
They're being taken  
About to crack  
Defences breaking  
None of the Jews would let them go  
No mercy to show  
'Cause they all were the foe

Under attack  
They're taking cover  
Jews on their track, no need to hover  
Thinking nothing can stop them now  
Should I want to I'm not sure I would know how

<<Everyone leaves the stage.>>

## **Scene 8 - Holiday of Purim established**

Setting: Town square

Props needed:

Players: Esther  
Mordechai  
company

### **Reader reads Chapter 9, verses 20-23 from the megillah:**

Mordechai wrote all these events down, and sent the announcement to all the Jews in all King Ahasverosh's countries, both the ones nearby and far away. They were to keep the fourteenth and fifteenth of Adar every year, as days when the Jews rested from the enemies, in the month which switched from sorrow to joy, and from mourning to holiday. These days were to be made days of feasting and joy, and of sending food to each other, and gifts to the poor.

And all the Jews agreed to continue to celebrate always as they had done that year, as Mordechai had written them.

### **Reader reads Chapter 10, verses 1-2 from the megillah:**

And King Ahashverosh put a tax on the country and on the islands. And all the strong and heroic deeds, and the episode of the greatness of Mordechai, whom the King raised to prominence, are written in the history of the Kings of Media and Persia.

<<Esther and Mordechai come back on.>>

### **As reader finishes, start the music for Act 2, Scene 8, Song 1.**

*To the tune of "Thank You for the Music"*

Esther:

Thank you for the fasting  
You did for me  
Thanks for all the prayers  
And piety  
Who can live without it?  
I ask in sincerity  
What would life be?

Esther and Mordechai:

Without our faith in God, what are we?

Esther:

So I say thank you for the fasting  
For doing it for me.

Mordechai:

Now that we're safe  
And all of the danger is past  
Now that we're rid  
Of Haman and all that at last  
It's time for a party



To celebrate life  
With feasting and gladness  
Absence of strife  
And gifts of food  
<<rest of company comes out from behind screen to join in on next line>>  
All: Well, you gotta admit, that sounds good.

All:  
So we say  
Thank you all for Purim  
The songs we're singing  
Thanks for all the food  
You're bringing  
Who can live without it?  
And we mean levity  
What would life be  
Without a song and a joke,  
What are we?  
So we say thank you all for Purim  
For sharing it with us.

**Chapter 10, verse 3 -- The very end**  
*To the tune of "Adir Hu:*

*Ki Mordechai ha'y'hudi*  
*Mishneh lamelech Achashverosh*  
*V'gadol la'y'hudim*  
*V'ratzu l'rov echav*  
*Doresh tov l'amo*  
*V'dover shalom l'chol-zaro*

כִּי מֶרְדֵּכַי הִיְהוּדִי  
מִשְׁנֵה לַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ  
וְגָדוֹל לַיְהוּדִים  
וְרָצוּי לְרַב אֶחָיו  
דֹּרֵשׁ טוֹב לְעַמּוֹ  
וְדוֹבֵר שְׁלוֹם לְכָל-זָרָעוֹ