Esther Stardust and the Spiel from Mars

By

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A note from the author:

Purim Spiels have historically been a method by which marginalized Jewish communities could satirically comment on the larger societies in which they live. Purim Spiels are, by their very nature, parody, and should be approached as such.

All notes on melodies for songs are Suggestions Only. It is up to the user to make decisions about music.

Feel free to edit these scripts as you see fit. Update cultural references, add inside jokes- make them your own.

Most importantly, Have FUN!

**Cast**

Vashti – Life on Mars? Suit

Achashverosh – Thin White Duke

Haman – Jareth the Goblin King

Esther – Aladdin Sane

Mordechai – Halo Ziggy

Bithan – Mime Clown

Teresh – Eyepatch Ziggy

Scribe – 80s

INTRO

Song: Life in Shushan (Is There Life on Mars?)

It’s not always an easy thing

Living under a Persian king.

We once had a land of our own

Till we were driven from our homes

But Messiah’s nowhere to be seen

So we’re doing the best that we can

In the village we call Shushan
Where we hold on to Zion’s dream

The diaspora’s a saddening bore

Seems like we lived it ten times or more

But it’s the lot of the Jews

As we ask you to focus on

Vashti grooving in the dance hall

Oh man, look at this empire grow!

It’s the freakiest show.

Take a look at this edict written by Haman,

Oh, man! Hear us wail and moan.

It’s written in stone.

This is life in Shushan.

Just look at what’s hap’ning now:

Delphi and Khirrah having a row.

Babalonia is starved for rain.

There’s etrogs on sale again.

See the Romans amassing hordes

Soon they’ll be expanding abroad

Achashverosh is out of bounds.

Now they’re worshipping golden cows.

But our story is a thrilla’

Written down in the Megillah

It’s about to be told again

As we ask you to focus on

Vashti grooving in the dance hall

Oh man, look at this empire grow!

This is our Purim show.

Take a look at this edict written by Haman,

Oh, man! Hear us wail and moan.

It’s written in stone.

This is life in Shushan.

SCENE 1

*Achashverosh’s Palace. It’s a week-long party, a real freaky scene!*

Attendant

You throw a great party, King Achashverosh!

Achashverosh

Thank you, I know. It’s been going on for weeks but it only seems like days!

Attendant

And this new dance hall is the nas!

*Mordecai enters*

Achashverosh

It is nice, isn’t it? I call it Studio 54 BCE.

Mordecai

That's very forward thinking.

Achashverosh

Mordecai! Good to see you again.

Mordecai

Hello, King Achashverosh.

Achashverosh

That’s my second advisor with me. Now it’s a party!

Mordecai

My king, doesn’t a dance hall need dancing?

Achashverosh

 You’re right. Vashti! Vashti!

*Vashti enters.*

Song: Vashti! (Let’s Dance)

Achashverosh:

Just dance!

Vashti, come and dance for your sire.

Just dance!

To the sound they’re playing on the bovine lyre.

Just sway!

Don’t be afraid to show your pretty face.

Just sway!

Sway through the crowd that fills this space.

(And) if I say run,

Don’t ask me why.

And if I say jump!

You ask how high.

Because my love for you

Depends on what you do.

If you should fall out of favor

You will know my power!

Vashti:

I won’t dance!

I don’t fear your wrath at all

I won’t dance!

I’m here and standing tall

No way!

Just look me in the eyes.

No way!

You know it’s not right, seriously not right!

And so I will run

Away from here

And so I will say

Good-bye

Because my love for you

Was used and torn in two

If you should find another bride

You must respect her power.

Vashti

King Achashverosh, I cannot remain with a man who treats me this way. Good bye.

*She leaves.*

Achashverosh

Now what? How am I to rule Babylon alone?

Attendant

You must find a new queen, sire. Perhaps a contest to find one?

Mordecai

And I know just the contestant!

SCENE 2

*At Mordecai’s high rise apartment. He and Esther speak.*

Mordecai

And then Vashti left!

Esther

Well, of course she did! And now Achashverosh has no queen. Serves him right.

Mordecai

He is searching for a new bride. In fact, he is holding a contest to find a new wife. I think you should enter.

Esther

Me? How can you think I would be married to such a man???

Mordecai

As much as he needs to find a new bride, he needed to learn his lesson. So while the palace arranged the contest, I leaned on him to take a ticket back to Suffragette City.

Esther

He drinks all the time.

Mordecai

He left his shame on the other side.

Esther

So he drove it away?

Mordecai

Yes, and that is that.

Esther

Very well then. But I won’t live these twenty years just to die for fifty more.

SCENE 3

*The palace. Achashverosh surveys the contestants as mordecai and Esther enter. Mordecai goes to the king.*

Achashverosh

Mordecai! I’m so happy you’re here! I have seen almost every beautiful woman in the empire but I can’t explain it, none of them appeal to me.

Mordecai

Perhaps because you now know there is more to desire than beauty.

Achashverosh

I believe you are right, Mordecai. My wife must be intelligent and strong as well as beautiful!

Mordecai

In that case, may I present my niece?

Achashverosh

This is your niece??? Come out of the garden, baby, you’ll catch your death in the fog. I am Achashverosh.

Esther

Thank you, Achashverosh. But Friday night is the perfect time for a walk in the garden. The fog doesn’t bother me in such a lovely palace.

Achashverosh

How very wise!

Esther
My name is Esther.

Song: Esther (Blue Jean)

Achashverosh

Esther! I just met a girl named Esther

Esther, she’s got a beautiful face and a strong will

So I will remember to let her know that I need her

Oh, Esther, is heaven any sweeter that Esther?

She got sharpened mind

And a Semitic nose

Sometimes I feel like (Ooh he’s a brand new king)

My best for Esther (Ooh, with a brand new queen)

Esther can send me (Ooh, Esther send me)

Esther can send me (Ooh, Esther send me)

One day I’m going to write a poem in a letter

One day I’m going to give that poem to Esther

Oh, Esther you don’t need to ever wait in line

Esther! Look out world **ah** you know I’ve got mine

She got unbleached roots

She’s my everything

Sometimes I feel like (Ooh he’s a brand new king)

My best for Esther (Ooh, with a brand new queen)

Esther can send me (Ooh, Esther send me)

Esther can send me (Ooh, Esther send me)

Achashverosh

Esther, I will be king and you- you will be queen!

MEGILLAH 1

SCENE 4

*A town square in Shushan. Mordecai conducts business. Haman enters.*

Haman

Citizens of Shushan, I have returned! You may now bow to the first advisor to the throne! Go on, bow before me. You know you should. I didn’t fall to earth yesterday.

*Mordecai does not bow. Haman takes issue using complex melodies.*

Mordecai the Jew (The Man Who Sold the World)

Haman:

We met in the town square

At around half-past ten.

I know he saw me there

But did not bow just then.

Which came as a surprise,

I looked into his eyes,

Why do you stand alone?

Second Advisor to the throne.

Mordecai:

Oh, no. Not me.

I won't bow down to you.

You're face to face

With Mordecai the Jew.

Haman:

I would not shake his hand.

I made my way back home

There I hatched a plan

For vengeance of my own

The answer came to me:

**(I’d)** Get a royal decree!

You will not die alone,

Second Advisor to the throne.

If you won't bow

I know just what I'll do.

I'll build gallows

And I'll kill all the Jews

SCENE 5

*The palace. Achashverosh is having trouble sleeping.*

Achashverosh

Ugh! Another sleepless night. I need something to ease my mind. Perhaps if I read from the royal chronicle... Scribe! Oh, Scribe!

*Scribe enters.*

Scribe

Yes, your majesty?

Achashverosh

Scribe, please read to me from the royal chronicle. Something obscure, but exciting.

Scribe

Of course, your majesty...

And so in the evening two conspirators arrived at their plans.

Achashverosh

Ooh, this is exciting!

*Bigthan and Teresh enter.*

Bigthan

It’s all set!

Teresh

You have the key?

Bigthan

Right here.

Teresh

Excellent! Tomorrow night the whole palace will be celebrating Achashverosh’s trip to Berlin. While they are eating we can sneak into his room.

Bigthan

And there we’ll wait until he comes to bed.

Teresh

And then it’s ashes to ashes!

Bigthan

Funk to funky!

Teresh

Station to station!

Bigthan

Oh, quit clowning around. After tomorrow, we’ll rule Babylon!

*They exit. Mordecai enters. He has overheard the whole thing*

Mordecai

This is terrible! I must warn the king!

*He goes to Achashverosh, whispers in his ear, and exits.*

Achashverosh

I remember now! Mordecai warned me of the plot. He saved my life and I never truly thanked him. Well, thank you, master scribe. I must set this wrong aright!

Scribe

You are welcome, your majesty.

*Scribe exits.*

Achashverosh

I must find a way to repay Mordecai. But how? I know, I’ll ask my first advisor. Haman! Haman!

*Haman enters.*

Haman

Yes, your majesty?

Achashverosh

Hey Man, don’t leave me alone.

Haman

Never.

Achashverosh

Hey Man, O Henry get off the phone.

Haman

Henry???

Achashverosh

Hey Man, I gotta straighten my face, a rough sleepless night has put my spine out of place.

Haman

How may I help your majesty?

Achashverosh

It has come to my attention that I owe a great debt to one of my subjects. How would you suggest I show my appreciation to someone who is a great and loyal friend to the throne?

Haman

He must mean me!

Well, your majesty, I would allow him to wear your crown. And then I would shower him with riches: golden years, silver screens, and diamond dogs. Also, an apartment on top of Manhattan Chace and the opportunity to sashay on the boardwalk would be fine for a man of such esteem. And one last thing of course, I want my MTV!

Achashverosh

Excellent! See to it that this is all made ready for Mordecai.

Haman

Mordecai???

Achashverosh

Yes, Mordecai. Thank you, Haman.

Haman

I am... happy to help. But your majesty, you remind me of the page.

Achashverosh

What page?

Haman

The page with the power.

Achashverosh

What power?

Haman

The power of Voodoo.

Achashverosh

Who do?

Haman

You do.

Achashverosh

Do what?

Haman

Remind me of the page. Sign here.

Achashverosh

Of course. What did I just sign?

Haman

Oh, just a royal edict to eliminate an enemy of the throne.

Achashverosh

Scary monsters?

Haman

And super creeps.

Achashverosh

Oh, good! I knew I could count on you, Haman.

*Haman exits in triumph.*

Achasverosh

That’s reassuring. For a moment there I thought I’d signed away half my royalties!

MEGILLAH 2

\*The Appeal\*

Brian

In 1982, David Bowie first proclaimed, “I want my MTV.” At the time, MTV was an upstart channel trying to be added to the cable TV lineup. Thanks to the involvement of Bowie and others who for the purposes of right now matter a little less (looking at you, Jagger), the tiny channel that had to occasionally pause while technicians loaded the VHS tapes became one of the top ratings earners on cable.

Congregation Sinai is a lot like MTV. We do things our own way, striving for modern practices of Judaism while remaining true to our religious and cultural roots. Just as MTV eventually welcomed all genres of music, not just rock n’ roll, at Sinai we welcome congregants and families of any background. And let’s face it, like a brand new Bowie video on a Saturday Night, Congregation Sinai is pretty cool. Is there another congregation that brews its own beer? Amiright, parents? Trappist monks, don’t answer that.

But also like MTV, Congregation Sinai is still sometimes viewed as an upstart. As proud as we are of our warm and welcoming community, we are still a small congregation. That is why it is so important for us to come together to support this center of our Jewish life.

Congregation Sinai’s Campaign for Tomorrow has recently begun. This is a three million dollar fundraiser over the next five years. These funds will be used specifically to ensure that we can continue to provide a home for Cantor Richard here at Sinai. Cantor Richard, by the way deserves our extra thanks tonight for coordinating the amazing music for our spiel. This would not have happened without him.

The Campaign for Tomorrow, or CFT, will also pay off the debt that we incurred building our beautiful Worship and Learning space. Ending this financial obligation will allow us to look ahead to new improvements for us all to enjoy.

Finally, the CFT will also serve as a fund for capitol improvements to the synagogue. Improved classroom materials, new technology, a new screen for our amazing projector presentations will all be possible thanks to the CFT.

And here’s the best part: thanks to many generous congregants, we are already \_\_% there! But we still need you, every one of you to consider how you can help. Congregation Sinai is for everyone, but our congregation needs everyone as well. So please take a commitment form this evening and consider how you can help.

And remember:

I want my CFT

(Everyone joins in one by one with I want my CFT)

SCENE 6

*Mordecai’s home. Esther is paying him a visit.*

Esther

Congratulations on your new apartment, Uncle Mordecai.

Mordecai

Thank you Esther

Esther

Any time. But you look troubled, Uncle Mordecai. Is something wrong?

Mordecai

Yes. I’m afraid I have grave news...

Haman (Starman)

Mordecai:

Saw Achashverosh a while ago

Where he sat on Babylon’s throne

He gave me the crown off the top of his head

I rode through the town on top of his horse

There was gold given to me of course

But I despaired at the words he next said:

You know Haman, he’s got a royal decree.

He’ll kill everyone of us, including you and me.

We must stop Haman from what he plans to do.

You must tell Achashverosh that you are a Jew.

You must tell Achashverosh

You must tell Achashverosh

You must tell him you’re a Jew

I had to tell someone so I came to you

And I know just what we should do.

Please tell the king that he would be killing you, too.

Look out the window, please see the light.

You can save us you can do it tonight:

Tell Achashverosh or he’ll get us locked up in fright

Esther:

Because Haman, he’s got a royal decree.

He’ll kill everyone of us, including you and me.

We must stop Haman from what he plans to do.

I must tell Achashverosh that I am a Jew.

I must tell Achashverosh

I must tell Achashverosh

I must tell him I’m a Jew

MEGILLAH 3

SCENE 7

*Achashverosh’s palace. He and Haman are in conversation.*

Haman

See? The palace is best protected by a giant maze surrounding it.

Achashverosh

Interesting... But what are these huge gallows for?

*Mordecai and Esther enter.*

Achashverosh

Mordecai, Esther, my queen. Welcome. What can I do for you?

Song: I am a Jew (Ziggy Stardust)

Esther:

I have heard the news, about an edict you signed

To kill all the Jews, signed in your own hand

But it goes to far

I don’t understand why you would listen to Haman

Achashverosh:

He is first counsel, and he came when he saw danger

Like ninja from Japan, they were here all hiding

And they will all hang

How could I refuse to let him kill the Jews?

So I signed the order, to make sure that Shushan was safe

He is my first advisor

He does all that he can and so I do trust Haman.

Esther:

Husband change your mind, he’s got you with some voodoo

The Jews are just fine, please don’t be unkind

With this edict you signed

He took it all too far but there’s something more:

So what if I told you, that your wife was also a Jew?

She waits for Messiah

Like her uncle Mordecai, she loves to cook with matzah brei!

Achashverosh, I am a Jew!

Achashverosh

You’re a Jew?

Esther

Yes. I am.

Achashverosh

Well, that explains the Friday night walks. But that means...

Esther

That I would be killed as well.

Achashverosh

Well, we can’t have that.

Haman

Too late! Once an edict is issued it can’t be rescinded.

Mordecai

But! You can issue a new edict, your majesty, stating that the Jews can defend themselves. And that Haman should be charged with attempted murder of the queen.

Achashverosh

A splendid idea! Let it be written. Guards, arrest Haman!

Haman

No, your majesty how could you do this? No....

Mordecai

Thank you your majesty. That was nearly the end of us.

Achashverosh

Well, we couldn’t have that happen. After all, I, I will be king.

Esther

And I, I will be queen.

Mordecai

And we can be heroes, just for one day!

All

Happy Purim!

Revised appeal text

**Brian**

In 1982, David Bowie first proclaimed, “I want my MTV.” Back then, MTV was an upstart outlet angling to be added to the cable TV lineup. Thanks to Bowie and others who, for the purposes of right now matter a little less (looking at you, Jagger), that tiny channel, which had to occasionally pause while technicians loaded the VHS tapes became one of the **top** ratings earners on cable!

 Like MTV, Congregation Sinai has come a long way. We’re a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll and a whole lotta klezmer. We mix up something old, something newish, something borrowed, something Jewish. In a word, Sinai sets the pace for Milwaukee Jewish cool. After all, is there another congregation that brews its own beer? Amiright, parents? (Trappist monks, don’t answer that).

Yes, we are the little congregation that can, and our eclectic and fresh approach is re-**jew**-venating.

But such excellence doesn’t grow on trees. It takes hard work and a forceful flow of fiscal fortitude to keep this Judaic Juggernaut moving forward.

 To this end, we are unveiling our new ***gofundme*** page to help bring our emerging brand of Beer to the market. You know Gordy Goldbaum and Alan Silverman as Sinai’s talented brewmeisters, who have brought their heady magic to our summer concerts, the sukkot barbecue and the Chanukah dinner, are now ready to unleash their new brand, Meshuga-beer.

You may recall from years past their paradigm smashing Hanukah brews, Gelty Pleasures, Maccabee Malt, and Hoppy Hanukah, will be joined by new, bold, flavors such as “Oy Vey IPA” and “B’nei Mitzvah Brew.” And don’t forget their time-honored Shabbat offering, Mi Pi El.

*David and Richard (plays) start singing the song, preferably with beer steins in hand*

 And new offerings are arriving to the stable of meshuggah kosher craft beers:

· Need a pick me up before heading to services? Then “Davening Dunkel” will hit the spot!

· Ready to welcome Shabbat? Then Lecha Dodi Lager will have you up and facing the door for more.

· Studying sacred texts? Then a Torah Tripel will double your fun!

· And the perfect quaff for Purim? Why it’s Persian Pale Ale, no doubt!

And this year a new surprise: Gluten free beer for Passover! Try our Pesach Pilsener – it’s got no leavening but it will give your plenty of answers for the four questions! And our Elijah Pale Ale pairs nicely with a Hillel Sandwich.

And should Governor Evers gain a second term, we may well be expanding our line to include a new line of edibles, like Tijuana Talmud!

And now back to the Spiel!!!!!!!!!