NOW! That’s What I Call Purim

(Vol. 613)

By Joshua Parkes

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

Esther

Mordechai

Bigtan

Teresh

Achashveirosh

Haman

Host 1

Host 2

Host 3

Host 4

**Musical numbers**

Love Shack (B52s) - All

Come As You Are (Nirvana) - Achashveirosh

Should I stay or should I go (The Clash) - Vashti

You Should See Me in a Crown (Billie Eilish) - Esther

Head Like A Hole (Nine Inch Nails) - Haman

Man in Black (Johnny Cash) - Mordechai

Breathe (Pink Floyd) - Achashveirosh

Blame it on the Rain (Millie Vanilli) - Sung offstage (B+T)

Time of my Life (Theme from Dirty Dancing) - Haman

Rebel Rebel (Bowie) - Achashveirosh

“medley”

Wild Horses (Rolling Stones) - anyone

Satisfaction (Rolling Stones) - anyone

Beast of Burden (Rolling Stones) - anyone

Friends in Low Places (Garth Brooks) - Esther

Disco Inferno (The Trammps) - all

Dare to do be Stupid (Wierd Al) - all

**For reference:**

NOW 103:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRxKEJxPcJY

Freedom Rock:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eGWW8KOQio

PUNK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMuElf1_OoM>

Opening: Shushan! (Love Shack)

It’s five-fifty-five, BCE and we’re heading on down to Shushan!!!

Shushan, yeah, yeah!

I’m heading down the old silk highway

Looking for capitol city

Headed for capitol city!

I got me a cart, big as Jonah’s whale

And we’re heading on down to Shushan.

I got me a chariot, it’s a real road-hogger

So c’mon! And bring your favorite gragger!

Shushan is a little old place where we can read Megillah!

Shushan yeah, yeah.

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan, ancient Babylon!

Sign says stay away fools, Achashverosh rules in Shushan

Well it’s set way back in the fertile crescent

Just a capitol city with reasonable rent.

Millet in the fields, millet on the grindstone

Millet at the bakery, millet in my home!

Shushan is a little old place where we can read Megillah!

Shushan yeah, yeah.

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan, ancient Babylon!

Bang, bang!

On the door, baby!

Bang, bang!

On the door!

Bang, bang!

On the door, baby!

Bang, bang!

Your what!?!?!

Oral history- codified and written down in the first four books of Moses.

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan, baby Shushan!

Shushan is a little old place where we can read Megillah

Shushan, baby (Shushan, baby!)

Shushan! Gone daddy, gone!

Shushan! Gone daddy gone!

ONE

Was that Shushan by the Brucha 52s?!?

TWO

Sure was!

ONE

Wow! I haven’t heard that song since high school! I especially love their follow up hit, “Rome”

TWO

Yeah, I love all those old Purim songs. That’s why I got this: “NOW That’s What I Call Purim.”

ONE

Cool!

TWO

Volume 613.

THREE

Hey, guys. What are you listening to?

ONE & TWO

NOW That’S What I Call Purim, Volume 613.

THREE

Neat! But what’s Purim?

ONE

It’s the story of how the Jews escaped annihilation in ancient Babylon.

THREE

Cool but what does purim mean?

TWO

It’s an old gambling game.

THREE

Wow. Really?

TWO

Yup. (*to audience*) But the only gamble you’ll take is trying to celebrate Purim without NOW That’s What I Call Purim Volume 613.

ONE

It has everything you need for your Purim party.

THREE

So you party on Purim?

ONE

Absolutely! In fact, the story starts with a party that lasted for days.

*Ensemble enters, partying*

TWO

King Achashverosh was treating his whole court with songs like [this]

ACHASHVEROSH

Come to Shusshan (Come As You Are)

Come from afar

To Shushan

We will have a party

With my friends,

All my friends

We will have a party

ACHASHVEROSH

Vashti! Vashti! Entertain our guests!

VASHTI

I am happy to, my king.

ACHASHVEROSH

Wonderful! Do that special dance I love so much!

VASHTI

The special dance? Oh, no, not in front of strangers.

ACHASHVEROSH

Do this favor, or else!

VASHTI

Good Bye I’m Going to Go (Should I stay or should I go)

It’s always Va-ash-ti.

Do me another favor please.

One day it’s fine, the next it’s black

I just want you off my back.

I am going to tell you no.

Good bye, I’m going to go.

TWO

That Vashti was so punk rock!

ONE

That certainly was the end Achashverosh’s party, but your party can continue all night with NOW...

FOUR

Did someone say party all night?

ALL

Hi Four

TWO

We’re learning about Purim with Now... and you can, too.

THREE

So what happened to Vashti?

ONE

Nobody knows. But Achashverosh had to find a new wife so he threw a beauty pageant.

FOUR

THat’s how he found his new wife, our heroine, Esther. NOW... has all the romantic Purim songs like, “Esther,” “Esther,” “Esther,” and “Oh, Esther.” And who could forget that glam rock classic, “Esther, Esther”

ACHASHVEROSH

Esther, Esther (Rebel Rebel)

Got the palace in a whirl, searching for a beautiful girl

Hey, hey you are alright

Hey, babe be mine tonight

Esther Esther, I am impressed

Esther Esther, your face is the best

Esther Esther, I’m sure you know,

My queen, I love you so

ESTHER

Queen of Babylon (You Should See Me In a Crown)

You should see me in a crown

I will rule Shushan town

I’ll be queen of Baba- Babaylon

Baba- Babaylon

You should give me the queen’s crown

For my husband I have found

I’ll be queen of Bab- Babylon

Baba- Babaylon

MEGILLAH BREAK?

ONE

That’s right, order now and your copy of NOW... will include its own, fold-out Megillah!

TWO

NOW... has everything, just like the story of Purim itself.

FOUR

And what would a great story or album be without a hero and a villain.

THREE

It’s more than just a love story?

ONE

So much more. There’s a plot to kill all the Jews.

THREE

Wait! A plot to kill all the Jews? Who would do that?

FOUR

Our villain, Haman.

HAMAN

Bow Down (Head Like a Hole)

Shushan, I’ll do anything to rule

Shushan, I’ll tell you what I want you to

Shushan, you will answer my call

Shushan, I will rule, rule you all

Yes you will take it, yes you will take it

Yes you will bow down to me

Yes you will take it, oh, you will take it

You will all bow down to me

Bow down to the king’s right hand

You will bow down before Haman

Bow down to the king’s right hand

You will bow down before Haman

MORDECAI

I’m sorry, Haman, but I will not bow to you

HAMAN

Mordecai! You are merely the king’s second advisor. You must bow before me.

MORDECAI

Nope. Sorry, not sorry.

HAMAN

Is that so?

MORDECAI

I am a Jew (Man in Black) **<<JIM?>>**

Now you wonder why I won’t bow down to you. (verse)

Well, Haman, it’s cause I am a Jew

That is why my music always has a somber tone

It’s diaspora, here in Babylon

I try to live by Tukkun Olam

And bowing down to you would just be wrong

So I’ll always treat you with kindness and with love

But I’ll only bow **down** to the Lord above.

HAMAN

Well that’s it then. I’ll just have to kill all the Jews.

MORDECAI

Kill all the Jews?

THREE

Kill all the Jews?

HAMAN

Kill all the Jews

FOUR

Really?

MORDECAI

Really?

HAMAN

Really

THREE

I can see why he’s the bad guy. But wouldn’t the king try and stop him?

ONE <start music: Breathe>

We’ll see. The problem with Achashverosh is that he was also a horrible insomniac

TWO

And NOW... includes his favorite lullaby

ACHASHVEROSH

Read to Me (suggested Pink Floyd Breathe)

Read, read in the night

Help me get some shut-eye

Read, read to me

From recorded history

Choose a tale to help me sleep

About a pair of trait’rous creeps

How they tried to take my life

But were thwarted by Mordecai

FOUR

Wait! What happened there???

*Bigthan and Teresh enter (Millie Vanilli)*

BIGTHAN

Are we all set then?

TERESH

Yes! Tonight, while the king is hosting another one of his parties, we slip into his chambers...

BGTHAN

And when he goes to bed (*kill him gesture*)

BOTH

(poorly lip-synched):

We Will Kill the King (Blame It On the Rain)

We will kill the king- there’s no stalling, stalling

We will kill the king- in his chambers tonight

To make a point or two, we know what to do

We will kill the king-ing-ing-ing-ing.

FOUR

Ugh! The CD always skips there!

*They leave, Mordecai enters*

MORDECAI

I must warn King Achashverosh!

Goes to Achashverosh, whispers in his ear.

ACHASHVEROSH

No wonder I couldn’t sleep! I owe Mordecai my life and I never thanked him. Haman! Oh, Haman!

*Haman enters*

HAMAN

Yes, my king?

ACHASHVEROSH

I need your advice. I owe a debt to a loyal subject. How should I reward him?

HAMAN

(*aside*) Surely he means me! (*to Achashverosh*) Well, Your Majesty, I think a reward of gold and jewels is in order. And a parade in my- I mean, their- honor. The should even ride your horse!

ACHASHVEROSH

Excellent! Please prepare it for Mordecai.

HAMAN

Mordecai????

ACHASHVEROSH

Mordecai.

HOSTS

Mordecai.

HAMAN

Very well, Your Majesty, but there is a favor I would ask

ACHASHVEROSH

Of course, whatever you like.

HAMAN

I need you to sign this edict eliminating an enemy of the empire

ACHASHVEROSH

An enemy of the empire? Of course I’ll sign!

HAMAN

Thank you, Your Majesty

HAMAN

Royal Decree (Time of My Life)

Now I’ve got a Royal Decree

And I will build some great gallows

Yes, I swear, it’s the truth

I will kill all the Jews

M’wa-hahahahaha

MEGILLAH BREAK?  
  
MISHLACH MANOS PITCH

TWO

Do you know what one of my favorite parts of Purim is?

FOUR

The costumes?

THREE

The parties?

TWO

Close...

ONE

What?

TWO

Hamentashen

THREE

Mine, too!

FOUR

And NOW... has all your favorite hamentashen songs by the Rolling Doughs. Like,

Hamentashen (Wild Horses)

Ha-men-tashen, you’re my favorite treat... (intro + x2)

THREE

And:

I Can’t Get No Hamentashen (Satisfaction)

I can’t get no Hamentashen

I can’t get no tasty noshen

And I try, and I try and I try

I can’t get no

I can’t get no

I can’t get no Hamentashen

TWO

And who could forget:

Hamentashen (Beast of Burden)

I wanna have some hamentashen (verse)

I am hungry and ready for noshin’

At Purim time it’s my favorite thing to eat

I wanna have some hamentashen

I’m so hungry, I won’t use caution

How I love that tasty Purim treat.

It has cakey dough (bridge)

It is filled just so

With jam or nuts

Or cheese or poppy seeds...

THREE

Boy, they sure made a career out of rhyming tashen and noshing

TWO

But wait! Did Haman kill all the Jews???

FOUR

Obviously not!

TWO

So what happened?

ONE

Well, Mordecai and Esther sat down and talked it over...

THREE

Right. Esther was Mordecai’s niece.

FOUR

And so...

ESTHER

Friends Who Say Kiddush (Friends in Low Places)

Well I’ve got friends who speak Yiddish

And on Friday nights they say Kiddush

Before the wine. And it is fine.

Now, I’m not big on shrimp or bacon

When you get right down to it, I’m sick of fakin’

I tell you true, I am a Jew

Oh, I got friends... who say Kiddush.

ACHASHVEROSH

You’re Jewish?

ONE

She’s Jewish?

ESTHER

I’m Jewish

TWO

She’s Jewish.

ONE

(*mind blown gesture*)

FOUR

That’s right!

THREE

NOW.... will Blow. Your. Mind!

ONE

So what happened?

TWO

Well, once the king gave an edict, it couldn’t be taken back.

FOUR

Oh, no!

HAMAN

Oh, yes!

THREE

But Achashverosh wrote a new edict stating the Jews could defend themselves. And they did!

HAMAN

Oh, no!

FOUR

Oh, yes! NOW... has all your favorite Haman’s demise songs including “Gallows Pole”

ONE

“Hey, Man, You’re Done, Haman,” “All Your Sons In One Breath”

THREE

“I’ll Eat Your Hat,” and of course, “Hang, Haman Hang”

ALL

Hang, Haman Hang (Disco Inferno)

Hang, Haman hang!

(On your own gallows)

Hang, Haman hang!

ONE

Wow! Celebrating Purim is so much fun!

THREE

And NOW... makes it even easier than ever!

FOUR

With NOW... you can Dare To Do Purim

Dare To Do Purim (Dare To Be Stupid)

Dress up like Esther and listen to me

It’s time to relive our past

Don’t worry if your costume is a disaster

The day goes by real fast

You know it’s time to eat hamentashen

Leave shalach manos for your neighbors to find

Watch a spiel and read the Megillah

Uncle Moshe had too much wine.

You better spin all the graggers you can

When you hear Haman’s name

Have a party with all your friends

Like they did in Shushan

Party at a synagogue

Put on a costume

Eat hamentashen

What can you do?

Dare to do Purim

Lampoon a hit song

Read the Megillah

Read it all in one breath

I’ll show you how

Dare to do Purim

Dare to do Purim

Happy Purim!!!!