

When You Wish Upon A Shul

***By Rabbi Mark Kaiserman, Cantor Sharon Brown-Levy, Jeff Sternstein,
Rob Schnapp, Barry Goldberg, and Andy Seltzer***

Songs:

1. Here's our Shpiel!

To the tune of: Be Our Guest from Beauty and the Beast
Chorus

2. Is That The Way You Treat a Queen?

To the tune of: Cruella DeVil from 101 Dalmatians
Vashti

3. Ahasuerus March

To the tune of: Mousketeer Song
Ahasuerusteers and Chorus

4. Here is a Girl

To the tune of: Under the Sea from The Little Mermaid
Mordechai and Chorus

5. Haman

To the tune of: Gaston from Beauty and the Beast
Haman, LePoo, and Chorus

6. For I'm a Jew

To the tune of: A Whole New World from Aladdin
Esther, King, and Chorus

7. Haman's Lament

To the tune of: When There Was Me and You from High School Musical 1
Haman and Chorus

8. We're All In Shul Together

To the tune of: We're All in This Together from High School Musical 1
Chorus

Cast

Cantor Sharon Brown-Levy	<i>Esther</i>	<u>Chorus/Narrators</u>
Rabbi Mark Kaiserman	<i>LePoo</i>	Marc Brummer
Jeff Sternstein	<i>Haman</i>	Suzanne Klar
Barry Goldberg	<i>King .Ahasuerus</i>	Leah Dollinger
Andrew Miller	<i>Mordechai</i>	Alex Ehrlich
Amy Young	<i>Queen Vashti</i>	Lindsay Ehrlich
David Brummer	<i>BigThan</i>	Harris Engel
Aaron Brummer	<i>Teresh</i>	Ilana Goldin
Allan Robinson	<i>Accompanist</i>	David Heguy
		Diane Kleinman
		Judy Krafchik
		Lenore Lerner
		Sue Levine
		Rebecca Miller
		David Miller
		Sherry Nemiroff
		Abigail Newell
		Michele Pozner
		Amy Roberts
		Brandon Roberts
		Rob Schnapp
		Andrew Seltzer
		Heather Seltzer
		Jennifer Seltzer
		Sam Sternstein

Rehearsal Dates: Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and 21, 2:00 PM

Purim Night: Feb. 27 (Saturday), 6:30 PM

Opening Monologue

It was indeed a long time ago, but we tell the story each year so we never forget times of victory over evil. The lessons they teach are best served fresh...like a good hamantashen.

Here's our Shpiel!

To the tune of Be Our Guest from Beauty and the Beast

Welcome in, please don't stand. Put a grogger in your hand
While you listen to a story of our days in old Shushan.
There are songs about a queen and a villain who was mean
And all his evil doing that still has every one booing.

Here's our shpiel. Here's our shpiel. May it liven how you feel.
The Purim story done a Disney way.
It was a blessed date so let us celebrate.
With a shpiel, here's our shpiel here's our shpiel!

Now let's get to the show there are people you should know
There's a King named Ahasuerus who just really had to go
Tried to make his wife dance when she wasn't wearing pants
But she wouldn't let him test her, so he got a new one...Esther!

Here's our shpiel with a guy simply known as Mordechai
Who always seemed to know just what to do.
It's quite a Purim thriller, in that whole megillah
So we shpiel,

(spoken) To appeal to the happiness you feel

...here's our shpiel, here's our shpiel, here's our shpiel!

(Spoken over music...)

Times were fine for the Jews in Old Shushan. King Ahasuerus and his queen, Vashti, ruled from the royal palace while Mordechai and his cousin Esther worked in its shadow. But as days and nights passed, the arrogance of the king's advisor...named HAMAN... was growing stronger.

However, as in many of the challenges throughout history that have brought us to this day...the Purim story reminds us of how a few brave Jews who did what was right...against all odds...risked their own lives and managed to save a nation...And so we eat!

Welcome in, please don't stand. Put a grogger in your hand
While you listen to a story of our days in old Shushan
There are songs about a queen and a villain who was mean
And all his evil doing that still has every one booing

Here's our shpiel. Here's our shpiel. May it liven how you feel
The Purim story done a Disney way
It was a blessed date so let us celebrate
With a shpiel, here's our shpiel...about a story that is real!

Now let's get to the show there are people you should know
There's a King named Ahasuerus who just really had to go
Tried to make his wife dance when she wasn't wearing pants
But she wouldn't let him test her, so he got a new one...Esther!

Here's our shpiel with a guy simply known as Mordechai
Who always seemed to know just what to do
It's quite a Purim thriller, in that whole megillah
So we shpiel, here's our shpiel, here's our shpiel, here's our shpiel!

Transition One

Narrator: Today you may know it as the Epcot exhibit wedged between Morocco and Canada, but 2500 years ago Shushan was a center of Jewish life in Persia (with the best bagels and an unexplainable affinity for all things Disney). Beyond the line that led to the gift shop, over the woods, that shimmered with lost balloons with ears and a funny tail, was a castle. And in that castle was a king named Ahasuerus, who ruled over all of Shushan.

King: Where is my QUEEN?

Narrator: He had a hard time holding onto a wife, but he had a good lawyer who convinced him that it was completely within his kingly rights to request his wife to dance naked in public at his whim. He wouldn't even let her wear her ears (queen removes ears). Fearful of the possibility this could end up on YouTube and affect her long term credibility, the queen refused.

Is That The Way You Treat a Queen?

To the tune of Cruella DeVil from 101 Dalmatians

Vashti:

He's wanting me nude. I find it so rude.
He tells me to dance. He's got some attitude.
The king is getting mighty drunk and mean.
Is that the way you treat a queen?

I think of the days when a queen was the one
To host all the parties and make all the fun
But there are parts of mine I don't want seen
Is that the way you treat a queen?

At first I thought the king was sort of dashing
He seemed to be a jolly sort of guy
But when the wine will flow
He's not the guy I know
And makes me show things I don't want to show.

I'm leaving this place and saving my face
I'll find me a new guy with style and grace.
A nudie palace ain't my kind of scene.
Is that the way you treat a queen?

Transition Two

Narrator: The king was upset by Vashti's refusal to dance naked.

King: C'mon Vashti, Pluto's naked, Donald Duck walks around without his pants on, and even Ariel lets her fins flap in the breeze once in a while.

Vashti: No. You want to see an exhibition, go see The Carousel of Progress!

Narrator: Vashti's refusal made the king angry and he decided it was in his best interest to have her killed. The people of Shushan grew to fear the king, as they now saw that he had the power to decide who shall live and who shall die...who shall get the FastPass and who shall wait in the long, windy twisty line, only to be disappointed by not being tall enough to ride without a parent.

This power intimidated the people of Shushan. But this power was also very attractive to the king's advisor ...his name was HAMAN. He joined with the people of Shushan in trying to win the king's favor.

Ahasuerus March

To the tune of The Mousketeer Song

(Musical fanfare as cast and King comes on stage)

(Haman conducts and sucks up to the king)

AHASUERUSTEERS: *Ahasuerus! Ahasuerus!* (*Chorus vamping as kids march in*)

Who's the leader of our land that's made for him and us?
A-H-A-S-U-E-R...(cast fade in confusion over how to spell song)

(Return with great enthusiasm)
Parties! Palace! Pasta! He can really make a fuss.
A-H-A-S-V-R... (fade out)

Ahasuerus! (*Ahasuerus!*) Ahasuerus! (*Ahasuerus!*) (*Chorus in italics*)
Forever let his kingdom reign on high!
High! High! High! (*Chorus*)

Come along and praise the king, who's earned an A plus plus.
A-H-A-S-U-E-R.. (mumbling)

(Dancing and other business – introductions, discussion on spelling name)

AHASUERUSTEERS:
Ahasuerus! (*Ahasuerus!*) Ahasuerus! (*Ahasuerus!*) (*Chorus in italics*)
Forever let his kingdom reign on high!
High! High! High! (*Chorus*)

Come along and sing and shout, of him we must discuss.
(slows down; kids up signs with letters of name)

AHASUERUSTEERS: Alef-Chet-Shin

ONE KID: Sh'know we want to see you soon!

AHASUERUSTEERS: Vuv-Resh-Vuv-Shin

ANOTHER KID: Why? Because to misspell it would be a shin!

AHASUERUSTEERS: *King Aha-suerus!!!!* (*Chorus*)

Transition Three

Narrator: After the king sent the crocodiles and hyenas to get rid of Vashti, he searched everywhere for a new queen. He tried, Match.com, JDate.com, and even Queen.com, although that led to some unsuitable material. His fingers were nearly exhausted when he got a message on his Facebook page from Mordechai promoting his cousin, Esther, to be the new queen.

This gave the king an idea. He set up a survey on his Facebook page, and after reviewing hundreds of applicants, he selected Esther as his most compatible mate after some more convincing from Mordechai.

Here Is a Girl

To the tune of Under the Sea from The Little Mermaid

MORDECHAI: The nights can be cold and lonely, with Vashti not by your side
 You sit here just sad and moping
 It's time to find you a bride.
 Just look at the world around you, right here on the palace lawn
 Such beauties that you can re-view
 There's no way you can go wrong!

(women begin appearing)

Here is a girl
 Here is a girl
 Want someone neater?
 Try someone sweeter!
 Give it a whirl.
 You need a woman bright and fun

(King gets up to leave)

No, King, come stay – now don't you run!
 Instead of waiting,
 You should be dating!
 Let's find you a girl.

Out here all the girls are pretty
 Kind, caring, and they are clean.
 Smart, funny, and also witty
 They all want to be your queen.
 You're king, so just go and choose one
 It's time to find you a wife
 We'll find one that can't be outdone.
 Let us get on with your life.
 Uh, Oh

Here is a girl (Chorus in italics)
Here is a girl
Choose someone smarter
Don't be a martyr
Give her a twirl

She is my cousin, I admit (aside to audience)
 Make your relationship legit
 It's she you should marry
 No need to tarry
 Here is a girl

Here is a girl
Here is a girl
I'm not a jester,
Go marry Esther!
She is a pearl.

*You need to find yourself a miss
Someone to give a great big kiss
Come now, stop stalling
Wedding bells calling
Here is your girl!*

(Chorus in italics)

Transition Four

The King: Hey there gorgeous. What'd you say your name was?

Esther: Why it's 'Esther' your majesty.

The King: Esther huh? What a beautiful name. Funny that I don't ever remember seeing you before.

Esther: I have a feeling you and I may travel in different circles.

The King: Oh really, why is that?

Esther: Well, if you must know, I'm a J... just moved here from... Sumeria!

The King: Well Esther, I don't care where you're from, all I know is you make my heart twitter and it's still 2000 years before the anyone can blog! Will you marry me and be my queen, queen of all Persia?

Esther: Oh Ahasuerus I will.

The King: (To Audience) It's good to be the king! (They hug)

Narrator: So King Ahasuerus and Esther were married. But there was no chupah in this wedding since Esther kept her identity as a Jew a secret. Meanwhile there was trouble brewing in the kingdom. Two of the King's guards, Bigthan and Teresh, had a secret of their own. Together they were plotting to kill King Ahasuerus.

(Enter Bigthan and Teresh dressed as Goofy and Pluto)

Bigthan: Okay. Okay. Now here's da plan. You go and distract the King and I'll hit him over the head with this here bat, roll his body up in a magic carpet, and throw him in the Tigris River.

Teresh: (Shakes head no)

Bigthan: What's that? What's that? Oh yeah, too messy. Okay, well how about we give him a poison apple to eat?

Teresh: (Shakes head no)

Bigthan: Oh yeah, that's been done before. I thought it sounded familiar. Well how's this: We'll force him to sit through a Board of Trustees Meeting at Temple Emanu-El. After three hours of that if he doesn't die he'll want to kill himself!

Teresh: (Shakes his head in agreement)

Narrator: As God's will would have it, Mordechai overheard Bigthan and Teresh's evil plot to kill the King. Fortunately, Mordechai was able to warn Ahasuerus in time and he did not have to sit through the Board meeting. (Oy, if only we could all be so lucky). The king was saved and Bigthan and Teresh were hanged. As his reward, Mordechai was given a cushy government job by the gates of the kingdom, but this led to an even greater problem.

The king, you see, had a really mean and evil advisor. He was so cruel he made Scar from the Lion King look like a pussy cat. He was so evil he made Cruella De Vil seem like a member of PETA. He was so bad even Sharpay from High School Musical was scared of him.

The name of this evil man was... Haman! Not only was Haman mean, but he had an ego the size of Alice in Wonderland after she ate the mushrooms. He was so full of himself that he demanded everyone in Shushan to bow down before him.

LePoo: Make way. Make way. Here comes the great and powerful Haman; a legend in his own mind. Bow down before this most important man. (Crowd bows down).

Narrator: But when Mordechai crossed paths with this scoundrel, he refused to bow.

LePoo: Bow down you insolent man. Don't you know who is before you? It's the great Haman.

Mordechai: I am a proud Jew and I bow to no man. (Crowd gasps). When I bow it is only when I worship the one true God, Ruler of the Universe, Creator of all things.

LePoo: But Walt Disney hasn't been born yet.

Mordechai: Not Disney you fool, I'm talking about the one and only God Almighty.

Narrator: Well as you can imagine, Mordechai's refusal to bow to Haman made Haman very mad.

Haman

To the tune of Gaston from Beauty and the Beast

HAMAN (*spoken*): Who does that Mordechai think he is? That Jew has tangled with the wrong man. No one refuses to bow down to Haman!

LEPOO (*spoken*): Heh heh. Darn right.

HAMAN: Dismissed! Rejected! Publicly Humiliated! And I'm the King's right hand man!

LEPOO: I thought you were a lefty?

HAMAN: This is the final straw. My career. My wicked ways. Ruined.

LEPOO: Ruined? Who, you? Never! Haman, you've got to pull yourself together.

LEPOO (*sung*): Gosh it disturbs me to hear you, Haman
Upset cause he won't bow down
Everyone here dreads and fears you, Haman
It's time to get rid of that frown.
There's no man in Shushan reviled as you
You're ev'ryone's favorite crook
Ev'ryone's awed and inspired by you
Even though you're a bit of a shnook.

LEPOO: No one's cruel as Haman
No one's cool as Haman
No one has quite as sloppy a drool as Haman
For there's no man in Shushan so vicious
It's *his* team you want to be on
He is desperate and also ambitious
And he cheats playing checkers and also Mah-jong.

CHORUS: *No one steals like Haman
No one squeals like Haman*

LEPOO: No one takes away poor orphan's meals like Haman

HAMAN: As a criminal, yes, I'm intimidating

CHORUS: My what a guy, that Haman

CHORUS: *He is so great
He is so hot*

LEPOO: Haman's number one
And he's the best despot

CHORUS: No one fights like Haman
Tramples rights like Haman

CHORUS 1: *No one looks half as good in their tights as Haman*

CHORUS 2: *For there's no one as hungry for power*

CHORUS 3: *As you see he is really quite mean*

CHORUS 4: *Ahasuerus he'd gladly devour!*

CHORUS: *Wait 'til you see what he'll do to the queen*

CHORUS: *No one lies like Haman
Is despised like Haman*
LEPOO: No one's ever attracted more flies than Haman.
HAMAN: I try to bite them with my ivory chopsticks!
CHORUS: *(Bang) Nice try for Haman!*

HAMAN: When I was a lad I was angry and mad
With everyone I'd disagree
And now that I'm grown I am evil and bad
So the Jews better bow down to me!

CHORUS: *No one hates like Haman
Desecrates like Haman*
LEPOO: And my dinner I think he just ate that Haman
HAMAN: I find cruelty is often so therapeutic.
CHORUS: *It's our belief
He's the world's greatest thief
And we just can't ignore
That he has a loud snore.
Each law he will transgress
Who is it? Can't you guess?
Ask his fans and his few hangers-on
There's just one guy in town who acts just like a clown*
LEPOO: And his name's H-A-M...
CHORUS: *Haman!*

(Mordechai enters)

LEPOO *(spoken)*: Hey, Haman. There's that Jew, Mordechai. Maybe he's come to bow down to you?

HAMAN *(spoken)*: Well, Jew. Have you come to your senses? Ready to declare your loyalty to me?

(Mordechai looks at Haman, bursts in laughter, and exits)

HAMAN *(angry)*: That does it! No one laughs at Haman. No one. You've laughed for your last time...the last...*(suddenly gets an idea)*

HAMAN *(sung)*: LePoo, I'm afraid I've been thinking
LEPOO *(sung)*: A dangerous pastime
HAMAN: I know
But that silly old Jew is just trouble.
And he passed without even 'hello.'
Now the wheels in my head have been turning
Since I looked at that horrible Jew
See I promised myself I'd be worshipped by all
And right now that plan has gone askew.

HAMAN *(spoken)*: If I . . . *(whisper)*

LEPOO *(spoken)*: Yes?

HAMAN: Then we . . . *(whisper)*

LEPOO: Kill the Jews!?
HAMAN: Then the King...
LEPOO: Now I get it!
BOTH : Let's go!

BOTH (*sung*): No one schemes like Haman
HAMAN: No one dreams like Haman
LEPOO: Likes to persecute to the extreme like Haman
CHORUS: *Soon the Jews we will all be annihilating*
My what a crook!
Haman!

Transition Five

Narrator: Now that song is almost as bad as Haman! Haman had a plot to kill all the Jews and then take over as ruler of Shushan. Once again Mordechai overheard Haman's evil scheme.

But how could he ever convince King Ahasuerus that Haman, his most trusted advisor, was up to no good? Mordechai knew there was only one person he could turn to for help.

Mordechai: Esther, you must see the king right away, tell him what Haman is up to and convince Ahasuerus not to order the destruction of the Jews. The fate of our people is in your hands.

Esther: But Uncle Mort, if I go to the king unannounced and reveal I am a Jew, he may order my execution as well.

Mordechai: Now Esther don't get excited, I don't want you to lose your head. (Pause. Esther shoots a look back at Mordechai) Poor choice of words.

Esther: I guess a girl's got to do what a girl's got to do.

(Esther runs off stage. In the next scene the King is surrounded by his entourage. Esther runs on stage).

Guard: I tried to stop her, your majesty.

King: Esther, what are you doing here? You know it is forbidden to see the king unannounced. Oh... darling... something's wrong... you're all upset. (To the entourage) Leave us. Come here Esther; tell your king what's wrong.

For I'm a Jew

To the tune of A Whole New World from Aladdin

ESTHER: I've got something to say
Although this may be goodbye.
Tell me, highness, how would I
Get the last name Shapiro?

I'm not all that I seem.
I'm much more than a princess
But tonight I must confess
And become a true hero

For I'm a Jew
A Hebrew and an Israelite
Yes, I'm a Streisand fan
Part of this clan
Love me - save my people

KING: So you're a Jew
This is a fact I never knew
But should I love you still
Or let them kill
Your people now that I know you're a Jew

ESTHER: Haman will kill us all
He is this story's scoundrel
Please don't let all our blood spill
Help my people to survive

ESTHER: For I'm a Jew
KING (*Echo*): This is such a surprise
ESTHER: Haman's lies are all untrue (I really should have known better – *King*)
How can you disagree?
Sign the decree
And save our lives for I am a Jew

KING: So you're a Jew
ESTHER (*Echo*): Your highness, I love you
KING: Your people Haman will pursue
BOTH: We can stop Haman now
We won't allow
Anyone to hurt a single Jew.

KING: For you're a Jew
ESTHER AND CHORUS: *A Hebrew too*
KING: I've heard your plea.
ESTHER AND CHORUS: *You've heard my plea.*
KING: So naturally,,,
BOTH AND CHORUS: *We'll save the Jews*
ESTHER AND KING: Just you and me!

Transition Six

Haman:

Well, on a positive note, the King liked my building skills. However, since he told me I'd be the first to use it, I wished I'd built a Jacuzzi instead of a gallows.

But, hey, it's not my fault I turned out to be such a bad person. It was my evil step-sisters who made me like this with their constant demands of clean the rooms, make our beds, and make those strange triangular-shaped fruit-filled pastries. Well, anyway I know I've got a while before I will be put to death since Mordechai told me I will be hanged on the **exact** date of a Jewish holiday and the next Jewish holiday I can find is Passover, which is a month away. So I have lots of time to look back on my life.

Haman's Lament

To the tune of When There Was Me and You from High School Musical 1

Haman: It's funny when you find yourself
Waiting for the gallows.
I'm waiting here but all I want
Is the straight and narrow.
Why did I let myself be mean?
Craving some respect.
And now I have to pay the price
For wanting their lives wrecked.

Chorus: I know my heroes aren't yours:
Cruella, Ursala, and Scar.
And there's the evil queen,
Hook and Jafar.
But everybody knows so well
Oh, that without my evil,
could you know good?
Haman and Mordechai

Haman: If I could do it over again
Their pets I would be stealing.
A poisoned apple would make them feel
Like I was their boss.
But Mordechai came and saved them all.
Now Jews together rejoice.
I'm only left with one regret:
That I didn't steal their voice.

Chorus: Now I know my heroes aren't yours:
Cruella, Ursala, and Scar.
And there's the evil queen,
Hook and Jafar.
But everybody knows so well
Oh, that without my evil,
could you know good?
Haman and Mordechai
Haman and Mordechai

Transition Seven

Narrator: That was the end of Haman and the dawn of a new day for the Jews of Shushan. The king encouraged the Jews to defend themselves and even encouraged them to express themselves in such movies, TV shows, and Straight-to-DVD classics as:

Pirates of the Timeshare in the Caribbean

The Sorcerer's Shabbos Goy

Snow White and the Seven Lawyers

101 Complaints

The Suite Life of Saul and Murray

Chana Montana

And the ever-popular....Hebrew School Musical

We're All In Shul Together

To the tune of: We're All in This Together from High School Musical 1

Together, at Temple, we celebrate this day.
It's Purim, yeah Purim. We hope you liked our play.
Forever, forever, we're glad that Haman's done
Together, together let's have some hamantashen

We're all in shul together
Where we read
Right to left
And we pray
For new carpet.
We're all in shul together
Like we said
Haman's dead
And we're glad
To see him gone.

Mordechai's
the hero
with some help
from Esther
who's the queen
and she's Jewish
They all lived
ever after
happily
With the help
of our shpiel
based on Disney.

We're all in shul together
Where we read
Right to left
And we pray
For new carpet.
We're all in shul together
Like we said
Haman's dead
And we're glad
To see him gone.

Emanu-El everywhere
Wave your groggers
In the air
That's the way we do it.
Let's get to it,
C'mon everyone.

We're all in shul together
Where we read
Right to left
And we pray
For new carpet.
We're all in shul together
Like we said
Haman's dead
And we're glad
To see him gone.