

**Megillah Madness:**  
**“A HAIRSPRAY PURIMSPIEL!”**

Script and New Purim Lyrics by Rabbi Billy Dreskin, Cantor Ellen Dreskin and Aiden Dreskin  
Music adapted from Marc Shaiman's and Scott Wittman's *Hairspray*

\_\_\_ Three years into his reign, Ahashuerus threw a party.

**CAST** For a hundred and eighty days!

\_\_\_ In the course of which, he called for his queen, Vashti, “to display her beauty.”

**CAST** And that’s when the king’s problems began.

\_\_\_ Here’s what happened.

SAMPLE  
SONG: GOOD GOD, SHUSHAN'S LAID LOW

\_\_\_ Vashti’s departure sent a shudder of fear throughout the kingdom.

\_\_\_ The men in power worried about a nascent hashtag-metoo movement.

\_\_\_ Dispatches were posted in every province urging men to control their women.

\_\_\_ And King Ahashuerus searched for a new wife who would never question his authority.

**CAST** Who did he find?

\_\_\_ A beautiful, soft-spoken, non-threatening young woman named Esther.

**CAST** But doesn’t she ...

\_\_\_ Shh. All in good time.

\_\_\_ Encouraged by her cousin Mordekhai, Esther won the king’s heart.

\_\_\_ They married, but Mordekhai instructed Esther *not* to reveal she was Jewish.

\_\_\_ Just then, a plot on the king’s life was uncovered by Mordekhai.

**CAST** Powerful coincidence, don’tcha think?

\_\_\_ The would-be assassins, Big-tahn and Te-resh, were caught and executed ...

\_\_\_ ... and the king appointed a royal adviser.

**CAST** Mordekhai?

\_\_\_ Nope. Some guy who was a conspiracy theorist and nativist ...

\_\_\_ ... a former investment banker who ran his own news service.

**CAST** What was his name?

\_\_\_ **Haman.**

\_\_\_ He seemed to hate everyone, including Jews and especially Mordekhai ...

\_\_\_ ... who wouldn't bow down to a descendant of Israel's arch-enemy, Amalek.

\_\_\_ **CHANT 3:4-5**

\_\_\_ *At first, the king's courtiers watched Mordekhai in amazement.*

\_\_\_ *Then, to see just how determined Mordekhai was, for he had explained to them that he was a Jew, the courtiers reported him to **Haman.***

\_\_\_ *And when **Haman** saw that Mordekhai would not kneel or bow low to him, **Haman** was filled with rage.*

### **SONG: I CAN'T HELP MYSELF**

\_\_\_ Filled with rage and self-importance, **Haman** ...

\_\_\_ ... drew up plans to annihilate the Jews.

\_\_\_ He gathered his poker buddies and they cast lots ...

**CAST** *Pu-reem* in Hebrew!

\_\_\_ ... to select a day for genocide.

\_\_\_ The lots landed on the thirteenth of Adar ...

\_\_\_ ... and **Haman** ...

\_\_\_ ... convinced the king to approve his plan.

**CAST** And the king agreed?

\_\_\_ Just like that!

\_\_\_ In every province, eleven months hence, mass destruction would ensue ...

\_\_\_ ... and every Jew would be killed in the largest pogrom ever.

**CAST** What happened then?

\_\_\_ The king went back to his party ...

\_\_\_ ... while across the kingdom, there was great mourning among the Jews.

\_\_\_ Mordekhai tore his clothes ...

\_\_\_ ... put on sackcloth and ashes ...

\_\_\_ ... and stood outside the palace gates ...

\_\_\_ ... until the queen's personal assistant, Ha-takh, came over to find out what was up.

\_\_\_ Mordekhai gave Ha-takh *this* message for Queen Esther.

### **SONG: IT TAKES TWO**

\_\_\_ At first, Esther told Mordekhai there was nothing she could do.

\_\_\_ Because one could only speak to the king if summoned by him.

**CAST** But she was his wife!

\_\_\_ And a Jew, who would *not*, just because she was queen, escape the wrath ...

**CAST** ... of **Haman**.

\_\_\_ And besides, he told her, maybe this is precisely *why* you've become queen.

**CAST** Did that change Esther's mind?

\_\_\_ She and all the Jews in Shushan fasted for three days.

\_\_\_ On the third day, she appeared before the king ...