

"SHUSHANALOT"

A Purim Parody based on

"Monty Python's SPAMALOT"

by

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INTRODUCTION:

1-OVERTURE

OPENING

Background-Map of Ancient Near-East showing Persian Empire. Light comes up on NARRATOR. (There is always music behind the Narrator when he/she talks)

NARRATOR

Persia. Sometime in the late 6th century before the Common Era, or perhaps the middle of 5th century. Of course it all depends on which scholars you ask. Some hold that...

OFFSTAGE VOICE

Get on with it.

NARRATOR

Very well. Now where was I? Oh, yes. Persia. Sometime in the late 6th century before the...

OFFSTAGE VOICE

You already said that. Get on with it.

NARRATOR

Persia.

(nervously glances offstage before quickly going on)

NARRATOR

At the height of empire. Stretching from India to Ethiopia and the Caucasus Mountains to the sands of Arabia. To the west encompassing Sogdiana, Bactria, Arachosia and Gedrosia. To the east, Babylon, Assyria, Armenia, Phrygia, Lydia. To the north, Armenia and Media. Cyrus the great had conquered Babylon and acquired all its great cities, where hundreds of thousands of the Jewish intelligentsia had been exiled en masse by Nebuchadnezzar. The mighty and wise Cyrus, perhaps enlightened by the teaching of Zoroaster, or Zarathustra

Music or Sound Effect of "Also Sprach Zarathustra" interrupts. When it gets to the fading organ, the NARRATOR continues.

NARRATOR

[To Conductor or Sound Engineer]
If I might go on?

SCENE 22-ESTHER'S ROOM AND MORDECHAI AT THE GATE

NARRATOR

Queen Esther's maids came and told her what Mordechai was doing. She sent clothes to Mordechai and urged him to take off his sackcloth, but Mordechai would not accept them. So Esther sent her eunuch Hatach to find out what was going on. Mordechai told Hatach about Haman's plans, gave him a copy of the decree, and instructed Hatach to tell Esther that she must go to the King to plead on behalf of her people. Esther was wary, as no one could see the King unless summoned, and it had been a month since King Achashverosh has last summoned her. So she sent Hatach back to Mordechai with this message.

15-BRAVELY, BOLD HADASSAH

HATACH (sung like a eunuch minstrel)

BRAVELY, BOLD HADASSAH, WENT FORTH TO SEE THE KING
THOUGH SHE KNEW THAT NO ONE SAW THE KING UNLESS HE
SUMMONED
FOR QUEEN ESTHER SHOWED NO FEAR OF DEATH AS SHE
VENTURED FORTH
BRAVE, BRAVE, BRAVE HADASSAH
SHE WAS NOT IN THE LEAST BIT SCARED TO PRESENT HERSELF
TO THE KING
EVEN THOUGH SHE COULD GET HURT, AND WIND UP QUITE
FARSHIMMELED
TO HAVE HER TUCHIS POTCHED AND HER KISHKAS ALL
FARBLUNGET
AND HER CREDIT CARDS CUT UP, BRAVE HADASSAH
HAVE NO MAKEUP TO PUT ON HER SHAYNA PUNIM
NO FUR COATS OR DIAMONDS OR PEARLS TO WEAR
OR HER WIGS THROWN OUT OR HER FUR COATS TORN
OR HER MAIDS KILLED OFF AND HER...

MORDECHAI

That's quite enough, Hatach. I get it. My niece is showing her true J.A.P nature and is afraid to go to the King. Tell her this: "What's bad for the Jews is bad for you, Esther. You won't escape your fate. If you remain silent before the king while your people are threatened, then their salvation will come from elsewhere, whilst you and your father's house will be lost. Perhaps it is for this very moment that you were destined to become Queen.

let my life, and those of my people be spared. For you need me, and your empire needs my people. Let me put it his way...

22-YOU WON'T SUCCEED IN PERSIA IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY JEWS

ESTHER

IN ALL THE GREATEST EMPIRES, ESPECIALLY NOWADAYS
YOU NEED ALL KINDS OF DIFF'RENT FOLKS WITH DIFF'RENT
KINDS OF SKILLS
SO HEAR ME, KING AND HUSBAND, AND GIVE EAR TO MY VIEWS
YOU WON'T SUCCEED IN PERSIA IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY JEWS

HAMAN (SPOKEN)

Hey, wait a minute—that's my song.

ESTHER

YOU MAY HAVE THE BABYLONIANS AND THE HINDUS AND THE
MEDES
AND ASSIMILATE ALL OTHER TRIBES YOU CHOOSE
THE EGYPTIANS AND THE LYDIANS, SOME ANATOLIAN
PHRYGIANS
CAN ALL CONTRIBUTE THINGS WE ALL CAN USE
ONE HUNDRED TWENTH-SEVEN PROVINCES FROM INDIA TO CUSH
EACH ONE OF THEM CONTRIBUTING THEIR DUES
YET YOU STILL NEED ACHASHVEROSH
THE FORMER SLAVES THAT BEAT THE PHAROAHS
'CAUSE YOU WON'T SUCCEED IN PERSIA IF YOU DON'T HAVE
ANY JEWS

THE LYDIANS HAVE THEIR GOLD MINTS
ETHIOPIANS HAVE SUCH BOLD TINTS
AND FROM PHOENICIA STRONG SEA-FARING BOATS
EGYPT SENDS YOU ENGINEERS, SOME PAPYRUS AND SOME BEERS
THE MEDIANS KNOW HOW TO MAKE WARM COATS

BABYLONIANS LIKE TO CULTIVATE AND GARDEN, DON'TCHA
KNOW
FROM LEBANON TALL CEDARS AND SOME GOATS
BUT TO MAKE UP FOR ALL YOUR SINS
YOU MEN WHO CUT THEIR FORESKINS
'CAUSE YOU WON'T SUCCEED IN PERSIA IF YOU DON'T HAVE
ANY JEWS

(short dance break)

ESTHER

IN TWO THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW
THERE'S A PLACE WHERE FOLKS GO WOW

ESTHER

...and for me, and all the Jewish people, there is light and joy.

MORDECHAI

Henceforth the 14th of Adar shall be a day of rejoicing and feasting. And in our rejoicing, and sending food to one another, we shall not forget our obligation to the poor and the needy, and we shall all send them gifts.

24-FINALE

FEMALE CHORUS

WE ARE NOT YET DEAD
CAUSE ESTHER USED HER HEAD
TURNED THINGS UPSIDE DOWN
AND HAMAN'S DEAD INSTEAD
NOW WE'LL CELEBRATE, AND POOR FOLKS WILL GET FED
EAT AND DRINK ON PURIM 'CAUSE WE'RE NOT YET DEAD

MALE CHORUS

HERE'S TO MORDECHAI
HE'S OUR KIND OF GUY
WHEN THINGS WENT AWRY
HIS WITS HE DID APPLY
SO EACH YEAR ON PURIM THE MEGILLAH'S READ
MAKING US ALL THANKFUL 'CAUSE WE'RE NOT YET DEAD

ESTHER

So you see, it's all a show, happy ending and all, and that just make me want to sing.

ESTHER

THOUGH IT SEEMED WE WOULD LOSE
HAMAN'S PLAN WE DEFUSED
AND WE ALL TOOK OUR CUES, AND
SAVED THE JEWS, SAVED THE JEWS

KING

Hmm. I wonder. In two thousand years, I wonder who will be ruling here.

MORDECHAI

Ayatollah.

KING

No you didn't.

MORDECHAI

No I didn't what?

KING
You didn't tell me - who will be ruling here in 2000 years?

MORDECHAI
Ayatollah!!

KING
But you haven't told me. Who will be ruling here in 2000 years?

MORDECHAI
AYATOLLAH!!!!!!

KING
Ayatollah who?

MORDECHAI
That's right.

KING
Who is ayatollah?

MORDECHAI
Exactly

KING
Exactly who?

MORDECHAI
I don't know.

ALL THE REST OF THE CAST
Third base!

KING
Sigh. I'll never understand these Yids.

SHAMASH
Well, I know what my future is going to be!

KING, ESTHER, MORDECHAI
What?

SHAMASH
I'm going to become ... a cantor!

I WILL SING WHILE YOU PRAY
VOCAL SKILLS I'LL DISPLAY
I WILL BE A PARAGON
WHEN I AM A HAZZAN