

West End Synagogue

Purim 2007

The Producers do Purim

BY DAVID PRAGER & KEN KLEIN & FRIENDS

CHARACTERS

David	David Prager
Ken	Ken Klein
Mordechai	David Prager
Esther	David Goldfarb (Sung by Kate Myslinski)
Big Macher	David Goldfarb
Haman	Josh Greenberg
Queen Vashti	Nancie Martin
Contestant 1	Kate Myslinski
Contestant 2	Karen Wight
Contestant 3	Pauline Hahn

SETTING

West End Synagogue

TIME

Evening – the day after Purim

ACT I

SCENE 1

(Applause is heard in the distance)

DAVID

Congratulations!

KEN

(Shaking hands) Thank goodness that's over with . . .

DAVID

We could never come up with something that clever again!

KEN

Absolutely not. We've managed to fool 'em all these years. Just think, our names and talent mentioned in the same sentence. (Wistful pause) I only wish my parole officer could see me now.

DAVID

Yeah, but one more time and they're liable to find the book you stole all the jokes from! You know, the one that's out of print.

KEN

Or worse, your copy of "The Plagiarist's Guide to Obscure Musicals.. Well, anyway, thank goodness it's finished -- whew! – I'm just glad we'll never have to do it again! (Toasting, clink glass)

TOGETHER

Never!

DAVID

Next year – in the audience! Next year – instead of playing to drunks, we can be them!

KEN

I'll drink to that!

(Enter Big Macher)

BIG MACHER

Congratulations, you two! I have *good* news and even *better* news! First, the good news: You guys have been appointed to do the Purim Shpiel again next year!

KEN

(Protesting) Whoa! That's not good news. Good news is something like your daughter and her unemployed boyfriend moving in with you. Good news is a termite infestation. This – this isn't good news.

DAVID

No way! No way! I'd rather be circumcised again.

BIG MACHER

I love you guys You're such a couple of kidders – but, sorry. You're in. That's all there is to it! Look, it's your *talent*. You're too good! Besides, with our budget, we couldn't get anyone else . . .

KEN & DAVID

(Incredulously) We had a budget?

KEN

We can't go through this again! I'd rather sit through another JRF dinner!

BIG MACHER

Come on! Buck up, men! Have fortitude! (Puffing himself up) Think of Douglas McArthur: when he left the Philippines, did he say: "Don't worry, *somebody's* coming back?"

No!

In the midst of a bitter winter, when it was time for George Washington's troops to cross the Delaware, did he say: "Nah! I'll wait for the ferry?."

No!. (KEN & DAVID P. grumble along, "No!.")

Did Moses on Mount Sinai say: "Yeah, yeah, so there's Ten Commandments – but 65% is passing?"

NO!!! (Ken & David begrudgingly join)

Did Joan of Arc say... (interrupted)

KEN & DAVID P.

David, enough already! We get the point! Give us a break!

BIG MACHER

Can I just squeeze one Al Sharpton?

DAVID

No!

BIG MACHER

OK. Where was I? Oh yeah. (Puffs up again) No! Those heroes took on the mantle. They rose to the occasion. They embraced their destiny. In short, *those shmegeggies fell for it!* Now it's *your* turn.

Besides, you guys are too good. Look, do you think if we had anyone else we'd ask *you*??

Wait, let me rephrase that. . . (Pause)

DAVID

All right, all right. I'm afraid to ask, but David, maybe you should tell us the even better news you said you had.

BIG MACHER

Oh yes. The *really* good news. Yes (smiles)

KEN

And? And? . . .

BIG MACHER

The big news is: (pause) I'm here. (Pause) I'll be your *star* again.

(Reaction shots from Ken and David)

I'll save you like I did last year! It will be a triumph of star power and sex appeal over weak material – just like last year! Don't you think I'm tired too? But I owe it to my adoring public . . . (EXITS)

KEN

Oy vey. There's no way out. I'm getting hemorrhoids just thinking about it.

DAVID

I can't believe. We're gonna have to do it all over again.

KEN

Trapped. (Both sit down forlornly) Trapped like a meat-eater at a vegetarian convention.

(PAUSE)

DAVID

Trapped ! Like a midget at a nudist's colony!

KEN

Hey, I don't get it!

DAVID

Ken, visualize, visualize! (Ken groans silently)

Wait! I've got an idea.

KEN

Ugh! We're in trouble now. Last time you had an idea, we ended up doing the whole Friday night service to a merengue beat.

DAVID

Hey! It wasn't so bad. (sings) Shema, boom! chick'a boom! Yisrael! Bo...

KEN

(Annoyed) David, for ¯ Shabbat Shalom!. You had the whole synagogue in a conga line!

DAVID

(Remembering wistfully) Yeah! And who knew Lenore Schultz could move like that. But -- okay, maybe it was little showy, but it was upbeat! (Sings) Shabbat Shalom, Hey!.

Anyway, *this* is really a great idea.

KEN

What?

(Leans in)

DAVID

Listen, I have a solution. We really don't want to do this again, right? So the answer is, do a lousy job.

KEN

David, doing a lousy job doesn't mean that next year you don't have to do it all over again. Take my wedding night for instance.

DAVID

Ooh! I see what you mean. But see, what we have to do is be not just 'lousy'. We have to be so god-awful they'll *never* ask us to do it again.

KEN

Aha! I see. We just have to come up with the worst Purim shpiel ever invented. (Pause)
Say David, has anyone ever thought of this idea before?

DAVID

Nah! It's 100% original. (Ken looks extremely dubious)

Ken, I'm a lawyer? Would I lie? (Ken buries his head in his hands.) Anyway, this idea can work. We just have to come up with the grossest, most insensitive, politically wrong-headed, thoroughly offensive Purim shpiel ever created.

KEN

Gross, insensitive, wrong-headed, offensive – with our minds, how hard could *that* be?
That's what we need – a play that will close in one night!

DAVID

All we have to do is produce a monumental flop!

KEN

(Toasting) A Flop!

DAVID

(Toasting) A Flop!

KEN & DAVID

(Clinking glasses) To the Purim Producers!

-BLACKOUT-

SCENE 2

(Ken and David with pens & pads, working on the shpiel amidst piles of crumpled papers)

KEN

This will never work. We need an opening that's really awful. This stuff is just too good.

DAVID

You're right. We need some really bad openings lines , like "Hi! I'm an unattached straight lawyer. Do you come here often?" (Raises eyebrows a la Groucho Marx)

KEN

David, will you focus!

DAVID.

Oops! Sorry! How's this: (gets up)

ANOTHER PURIM, ANOTHER SHPIEL

A TIME FOR HAMAN TO BE A HEEL ,

A CHANCE FOR GUYS TO WATCH VASHTI PEEL;

ANOTHER PURIM, 'N ANOTHER SHPIEL!

FOUR WEEKS TO GO, WE REHEARSE AND REHEARSE,

THREE WEEKS, YOU'RE SURE THAT IT COULDN'T GET WORSE.

TWO WEEKS TO GO AND IT STILL LOOKS LIKE SPIT

YOU CALL UP JANET, AND SAY "I QUIT!"

ANOTHER...

KEN (interrrupts)

Hey! Not bad, not bad! (Realizes the problem) Ach! Still too good! (forlorn)

DAVID

Rats! I thought that just might be lousy enough!

KEN

Wait! I got it. We'll do the whole show like it's a Gershwin musical, and we'll relocate the whole story from Persia to the rural American south. You gotta

Admit – this idea stinks.

DAVID

Yeah! I can almost see it. We can call it – “Morgy & Ess” ... But where do we go with this?

KEN

Just listen. How’s this for an opening? It has real potential. It’s bound to offend everyone.

(Sung to: *Summertime*, from PORGY & BESS)

PURIM TIME...AND THE JOKES ARE ALL SLEAZY

Ooh! Ooh! I’ve got more. When Achashvarosh selects Esther in the beauty pageant, he sings: (Sung to: *Bess, you is my woman now*” from PORGY & BESS)

ESS...TER, YOU’RE MY WOMAN NOW!

DAVID

(With admiration) Wow! That’s truly awful.

KEN

(Humbly) Thanks. I’ve got even more. We can make Mordy into – here listen to this:

(Sung to *I’ve got plenty ‘a nothing* from PORGY & BESS)

I’VE GOT PLENTY OF TZURRIS!

AND TZURRIS ALWAYS SEEMS TO FIND ME.

OH! HAMAN’S SLEEK!

THE KING’S A GEEK

AND WE JEWS ARE UP THE CREEK!

SOME FOLKS HAVE ALL THE NACHAS

WHY CAN’T I CATCH ANY BREAKS?

OH! I’D LIKE TO KVELL

THAT ALL IS WELL –

AND NOT THAT WE’RE GOIN’ TO HELL!

DAVID

And then we could mess up by even more making it contemporary and add voices from the synagogue. Like this:

NANCIE

I THOUGHT MY KID WAS HEADING FOR HARVARD
LIKE A PROPER RECONSTRUCTIONIST JEW
OY! HE USED TO STUDY MISHNEH
NOW HE'S CHANTING "HARE KHRISNA!"
BUT FROM KAPLAN'S POINT OF VIEW!

DAVID

Or this:

KATE

I CAN'T GET MY KID INTO PRE-SCHOOL
AND NOW HER WHOLE FUTURE'S KAPUT!
SHE'S ONLY THREE,
STILL NO PH.D.
AND MY IN-LAWS ARE BLAMIN' ME

KEN

And then we can go back to Mordechai. By the way, who's playing Mordechai?

DAVID

Mordechai? I guess I am. (Puts on hat)
OH! A BIG DAY OF RECKONING'S COMIN'
I'M TEMPTED TO HEAD FOR THE HILLS.
WHEN ITS YIDDISHKEIT
AGAINST PERSIAN MIGHT
HARD TO THINK THINGS'LL TURN OUT RIGHT

KEN

OK, we're off to a horrendous start. Let's keep working on it! We just can't make it too good. (Pause)

DAVID

But wait! I've got another idea. We retell the Purim story and put it into the late 19th century European shtetl. I call it: "A Piddler on the Roof!" The story of a dog who had his day.

(Stage Direction: DON MENZI comes out and plays the theme to *Fiddler on the Roof* and then walks off)

KEN

Did I just imagine that? (and not one mention of kabbalah) I'm afraid to see where this is heading. OK, keep going.

DAVID

Don't you see – this story is so beloved – we'll have them crying even before your jokes bomb. How's this for an opening?

(TO THE TUNE OF *TRADITIONS, TRADITIONS!*)

AUDITIONS, AUDITIONS!

SEDITION! SEDITION!

IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE OF WEST END, WE'VE ALWAYS HAD OUR SPECIAL TYPES . . . LIKE YENTA, THE PRESIDENT. . .

INTERMISSION! INTERMISSION!.

KEN

Hmm. Songs like:

(TO THE TUNE OF *MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER*)

MATCH DOT COM, MATCH. DOT COM, MAKE ME A MATCH!

DAVID

Hmm . . . Has potential. But we need something really awful and tasteless. I don't know what would sink that low.

KEN

Seek and you shall find, oh descendent of camel merchants. Listen to this. We have Mordechai trying to figure out an excuse for him to hang around the palace so he can discover Haman's secret plans.

(SUNG BY KEN AS MORDECHAI TO *IF I WERE A RICH MAN* FROM FIDDLER ON THE ROOF)

IF I WERE A KNISH MAN!

DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DEE
ALL DAY LONG LURK AROUND THE PALACE GATES
IF I WERE A POTATO KNISH MAN!

OH! I'D HEAR ALL THE GOSSIP
DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DIDDLE, DEE
I'D LEARN OF ANY PLOTS AGAINST THE CROWN
EXPOSE THE CROOKS AND BE COVERED WITH RENOWN
MOST FAMOUS JEW IN ALL OF SHUSHAN TOWN,
IF I WERE A POTATO KNISH MAN!

LORD ABOVE, PROTECTOR OF THE JEWS
LIFE IS HARD AND YA KNOW I'VE PAID MY DUES
WOULD IT HURT IF I HEARD ALL THE NEWS
IF I WERE A POTATO – YOU KNOW MAYBE A LITTLE KASHA, TOO
IF I WERE A POTATO KNISH MAN!

DAVID

Wow! I'll admit it's tasteless, but is it tasteless enough? You know, Ken, there's a fine, fine line between tasteless and offensive – and it's our job to obliterate it. What's really tasteless? Ahh . . .

KEN & DAVID

TV! That's it. There's our opening number.

-BAND STRIKES UP-

Enter MATT

(TO THE THEME OF *BEVERLY HILLBILLIES*)

DAVID

(Puts on Mordechai hat)

COME LISTEN TO M' STORY 'BOUT A MAN NAMED MORDY,
STILL DIDN'T HAVE A FAM'LY THOUGH HE WAS PUSHIN' 40.
THEN ONE DAY IN AN ALLEY WAY HE OVERHEAD THE NEWS;
PRIME MINISTER HAMAN HATCHED A PLOT O KILL THE JEWS!

MATT: GENOCIDE, IRANIAN SPORT, WORSE THAN HOCKEY

KATE (entering, as Esther)

COME LISTEN TO M' STORY 'BOUT A GAL NAMED ESTHER
SO OVERFILLED WITH VIRTUE THAT THE OTHER GIRLS DETEST HER
IT ONLY TOOK ONE LOOK AT HER IN HAREM PANTS
AND POOR KING ACHASHVAROSH, MAN, HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE
MATT: CLEAVAGE; BARE MIDRIFF; THE BOY WAS DEFENSELESS

KEN (puts on crown, as King)

COME LISTEN TO A STORY ='BOUT KING ACHASHVEROSH
(Repeat slowly) ACHASHVEROSH
(Pauses, scratches head) Is there a Sondheim in the house?
(Grimaces once, twice, ... then a light bulb goes on in his head)
COME LISTEN TO A STORY 'BOUT KING ACHASHVEROSH
A SILLY OLD KING, BUT NOT AS ROTTEN AS THE PHAROAHS
(Looks proud of himself) Hey! C'mon, give me a break, that was good!

KEN resumes:

HE GOT RID OF VASHTI, SHE WOULDN'T COME TO HIS AFFAIR
REFUSED TO DANCE IN PUBLIC WITH NO UNDERWEAR
MATT: IN THE ALTOGETHER, BIRTHDAY SUIT, BUCK NAKED)

NANCIE(entering as Vashti)

THE QUEEN'S NAME WAS VASHTI, I COULDN'T THINK OF ANY RHYME
WOULDN'T TAKE NO GUFF, SHE WAS THE OPRAH OF HER TIME
THE KING TOLD HER TO DANCE NAKED, SHE SAID " THAT'S SO CRASS!
ACHASHVAROSH, TAKE YOUR SCEPTRE AND SHOVE IT UP YO...

KEN

(jumps up, frantically, interrupting before "your" comes out)
Wait! Wait! I knew this would happen! We can't have that this year. Bliss Siman's in the audience!

NANCY (resumes)

THE KING TOLD HER TO DANCE NAKED, AND SHE SAID, "NOT ME!"
I'D RATHER LOSE MY TITLE THAN MY DIGNITY!
MATT: ARTISTIC COMPROMISE, NOT AS FUNNY, BUT CLEAN

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JOSH (entering as Haman)

I SAY "HURRAY FOR HAMAN," 'CAUSE A ME THINGS GET GORY
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ME THERE WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A STORY
THE DASTARDLY VILLAIN WHO'S DESPISED BY EV'RY JEW
SO STOMP 'N SHOUT, 'N FLAIL ABOUT AND HISS AND BOO!
BRING IT ON, I LOVE IT

MATT: BIN LADEN—EAT YOUR HEART OUT)

ALL TOGETHER

THE SHUSHAN TENT-BILLIES. RELAX. PARK YER CAMEL. TAKE OFF YER
BURKA. Y'ALL GET DRUNK T'NIGHT, YA HEAR!

END OF SCENE 2

Scene III

DAVID

We need someone to play Vashti ... (thinking) Is Anna Nicole Smith's body still available?

KEN

David, that's tasteless. (I wish I'd thought of it.) Say, did I tell you I'm the father of her child?

DAVID

You too? Funny, that's what Goldfarb told me.

KEN

What we need for this part is a stripper? Do you know any?

DAVID

No, but Nancie Martin was once a paint remover.

KEN

Close enough!

DAVID

Nancy! You're on!

NANCIE MARTIN'S SONG

INTRO for ACHASHVAROSH's SONG

KEN (as King Achashvarosh)

SONG FOR ACHASHVAROSH SUNG TO I ENJOY BEING A GIRL!

WHEN I HAVE A BRAND NEW HAREM
LATE AT NIGHT WHEN THEY'RE ALL SLEEPING
I SLIP IN THEIR TENT 'N I SCARE 'EM
I ENJOY BEING A KING

MANY CONCUBINES FILL THE PALACE
EUNUCH GUARDS ARE ALL O'ER THE LOT, SO
I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH A PHALLUS,
IT MAY NOT BE MUCH, BUT IT'S ALL THAT THEY'VE GOT!

BREAK:

I RIDE ROUND AS IF I AM RESPECTED
MAKE UP FACTS WHILE ASITTING ON MY TUSH
IT'S NOT AS IF I REALLY GOT ELECTED
BUT THEN AGAIN, NEITHER DID GEORGE BUSH!

MELODY:

LOVE INSPECTIN' THE ROYAL HAREM
CONTEMPLATIN' MY LATEST FLING
AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SHARE 'EM
I ENJOY BEING A KING

I'M STRICTLY A MONARCH'S MONARCH
AND I'M SURE THAT MY FUTURE WILL BE
ON MY THRONE WQITH A GIN AND TONIC
WHILE THE MASSES ARE WOTSHIPPING ME!

BREAK:

OH! MY LIFE ISN'T ALL A BED OF ROSES
IT'S NOT EV'RY DAY YOU GET TO KVELL
BEING KING ISN'T ALL THAT ONE SUPPOSES

BELIEVE THAT, AND I'VE GOT A BRIDGE TO SELL

MELODY:

AS FOR THE RABBLE – I'M FAR ABOVE IT

MY ROYALTY I LOUDLY PROCLAIM

BUT NOW MY SPOUSE HAS TOLD ME TO SHOVE IT

NO MORE JOY

BEIN' A GOY

WHEN YOUR QUEEN IS A

ROYAL PAIN!

END OF SCENE

SCENE V

DAVID

Say Ken! Did you ever realize that “reconstruction” rhymes with “suction”?

KEN

David, don’t go there!

BIG MACHER (enters in a huff)

What is this “I enjoy being a king!” Flower Drum Shtick? This show is sinking faster than Bush’s approval ratings. Where is the talent? Where is the humor? Where is the star power? We’re halfway though the show and I haven’t done anything yet. The public won’t stand for it!

KEN

David, don’t worry. We do have a part for you – you’re playing Big Macher. We call you “BM” for short.

BIG MACHER

Hmm... Big Macher – I like the ring of that.

DAVID

Don’t worry, you’ve got a big role. It’s a centerpiece.
But first, we have to introduce Haman.

KEN

We need someone with sex appeal, with animal magnetism...

BIG MACHER

Mr. De Mille, I’m ready for my close-up.

DAVID

No, BM. Haman’s big, but your part is even bigger.

Now picture klieg lights ... show girls... an oasis in the desert

KEN

Vegas?

BIG MACHER

I get it. What happens in Shushan stays in Shushan!

DAVID

Picture Elvis! – only with a turban.

(Haman enters in leather with a guitar and scarf.)

JOSH (as Haman, singing to Heartbreak Hotel)

Well, since that Mordy dissed me

I can't get him off my mind

They've crossed the wrong Prime Minister

Those Jews are in a bind

'Cause a – I'm talking 'bout Purim, baby!

Can't wait for Purim

On Purim day, Jews gonna die!

Oh! The king's named Achashvarosh!

Lovely Esther is the queen,

But I'm the one connects the dots

Call me Mr. In-between

'Cause I'm a – I'm talking 'bout Purim, baby!

Just thinkin' 'bout Purim

On Purim day, Jews gonna die!

BREAK – bump and grind around the stage, throw scarves to the audience

Well, if you're naturally cold-hearted

And if chaos is your goal
Then put down your philosophy
It's time to rock 'n roll
'Cause a – I'm talking 'bout Purim, baby!
Here's lookin' to
Purim
On Purim day, Jews gonna die!
Oh! Baby, I've got rhythm
The Jew's 'll have the blues
So chalk one up for Amalakites
Who says we always lose?
'Cause a – I'm talking 'bout Purim, baby!
Can't wait for Purim
On Purim day, Jews gonna die!

End of Scene

SCENE VI

DAVID

Oh yeah! I can see Goldfarb as Elvis. In leather he'd look like a football ... with eyebrows.

KEN

He could be Elvis ... but very late in his career.

But we really have to give him that big part you've been hinting about.

What is your big idea anyway?

DAVID

My idea? I thought you had an idea.

KEN

Well, think hard. We're running out of parts. What are we gonna do?

DAVID

Look! Right now we've got to worry about the beauty contest to pick the new queen.

KEN

OK. Let's think of it as a reality TV audition. We can call it "Persian Idol."

DAVID

Yeah! With real idols!

KEN

We'll be the judges. I'll be Abdula Abdul and you can be Simon Cowbell.

(The Pageant begins)

THE BEAUTY PAGEANT

ANNOUNCER: AMERICAN IDOL

Welcome to Times Square! We've never found a winner from this area, but all that could change when Sushan's biggest show hits Shushan's top venue – the Palace of Asherarsus!

Tonight, the girls take the stage. Live from New York, it's Persian Idol!
Bring it on!

[Three contestants step up into spot]

[TO THE TUNE OF DREAMGIRLS]

EVERY KING HAS HIS OWN SPECIAL DREAM
AND YOUR DREAMS ARE ABOUT TO COME TRUE
VASHTI'S TWICE AS BAD AS SHE MAY SEEM
SO OPEN YOUR EYES TO WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU!

INTERLUDE

IDOL ANNOUNCER

Now folks, let's give a big West End welcome to that little bundle of sensuous soul from Seattle: Ms. Doo Z Dame!

KAREN

YOU SAY YOU NEED A NEW QUEEN
AND I'M SAYING I'M THE ONE.
THE ONE WHO'S GONNA SET YOUR HEART ON FIRE.
I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT, I'LL HUG YOU TIGHT
UNTIL YOU HOLLER WHEN!
SO VASHTI WON'T BE COMIN' HERE AGIN.
SO IF YOU WANT MY LOVIN' AS YOUR QUEEN—

JUST PICK ME AND I'LL SHOW MORE
THAN YOU'VE SEEN!
I'M JEST A GIRL WHO CAIN'T SAY NO,

NOT LIKE YOUR SILLY OLE' QUEEN!
JEST WHEN YOU JEST SAY COME ON, LET'S GO,
I JUMP RIGHT OUTTA MY JEANS!
[CONTESTANTS #2 AND # 3 IN BACKGROUND SOFTLY]
WE'RE YOUR DREAM GIRLS (REPEAT AS NECESSARY)'

DAVID

My Gawd! Did you learn to sing at the pickle stall? 'Cause that was sure
from the bottom of the barrel. Fogettaboutit – give her the hook!
(Contestant # moves to rear, dejected. Remaining girls start singing)

REMAINING GIRLS

WE'RE YOUR DREAM GIRLS, BOYCHICK.
WE'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
WE'RE YOUR DREAM GIRLS, KING-Y
WE'LL ALWAYS CARE.
WE'RE YOUR DREAMGIRLS,
DREAM GIRLS WILL NEVER GRIEVE YOU,
AND ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS
TOGETHER PICK ME BABY, I'LL BE THERE
(They fight over the spotlight and #2 wins)

IDOL ANNOUNCER

Our next contestant – Direct from the Sushan Dinner theater and her starring
role as the Third Horse from the Left – Welcome Ms. Ida Wanna Lose. Take
it away, Ida!

CONTESTANT #2 [TO THE TUNE OF *TEARS ON MY PILLOW*]

IF I COULD BE THE QUEEN

I WOULDN'T HESITATE

I'D STRIP AND TWIST AND BEAM

I'D EVEN LEVITATE

JEWELS ON MY PILLOW

FAME IN MY HEAD

OVER YOU - OO - OO - OO - OO - OO – OO

(CONTESTANT #3 IS MUGGING DURING #2 SOLO

IDOL ANNOUNCER

HO, HO, WHO'S THIS? DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? IS IT

ACTUALLY MORDECHAI'S NIECE. (LEERING) ASIDE: IF YOU ASK

ME, SHE'S AS MUCH HIS NIECE AS SARAH WAS ABRAHAM'S

SISTER -- IF YOU GET MY DRIFT. (TO AUDIENCE) YOU WANT TO

SEE WHAT THIS BABE CAN DO? OK, BABY DOLLS, HIT IT!

CONTESTANT #3 AND ESTHER

SEX –Y . SEXY GIRLS TO THRILL YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN.

PLAY GIRLS KEEP YOUR FANTASIES ALIVE.

GET RID OF THAT VASHTI AND LET US GET NASTY

YOUR NIGHT GIRL CAN MAKE YOUR DAYDREAMS COME TRUE.

YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

END OF SCENE

SCENE VII

Girls have exited and re-enter to "Hats Off")

DAVID (to HATS OFF from Follies)

(Tri-cornered) Hats off

HERE they come
Beautiful girls.
That's what
Shushan's been waiting for.

(Girls slowly promenade , one by one, through the entranceway.

Persia never fashioned
A blossom so fair
-- Babylon cant't compare
Trade in your camel herds
For these naught harem birds

Close up
All he tent flaps
(For) Romance is in the air
While the palm trees sway

This is how Samson was shorn
Each in her style a Delilah reborn

(David Goldfarb enters as Esther)
Each of 'em
A shayna punim!
Welcome them –
These beautiful girls!

KEN (as King)

(Crowns Esther and hands her a bouquet)
Oh, Esther! The loveliest in all Shushan. Thou shalt be my bride – or a reasonable
facsimile thereof.

(David Goldfarb begins monolog)

DAVID GOLDFARB as himself

Well, it's obvious I'm too sophisticated for this crowd. I knew I'd have trouble with Klein and Prager ever since I invited them to a wine tasting at my house and they kept complaining that there weren't any straws.

And can you believe this costume? Throw in a few sequins and I could pass for a piñata. Hey, with this outfit, I could get arrested for impersonating a piano.

And to think I did it all to bail out that pair of no-talents, Klein and Prager. Klein fancies himself a comedy historian – if a joke wasn't already old by 1920, he won't use it. Historian? More like an undertaker – the joke's already dead, and he buries it. And Prager, he keeps shtupping us with songs from 40-year Broadway musicals that closed in one night where he was the only one in the audience. David, did you ever think there's a reason nobody ever heard of those songs? I just think a star of my magnitude – Charisma, thy name is Goldfarb. – I just think I should be treated with more dignity, more respect. But, I admit it – it's been a problem my whole life – I can't get no respect.

Why, when I was born, the doctor took one look at me and slapped my mother. And my mother, oy, that woman was never affectionate. She never breast-fed me – said she liked me as a friend. Finally one day I asked my parents if I was adopted. My mother said, "No, but we placed an ad!". I remember once when I was little, we went to the beach and I got lost. So, I went for help to a policeman. "Do you think we'll find 'em?". I asked. He said, "I dunno, kid. There are so many places they could hide."

Boy, this is a tough crowd. But I've worked in tough places before. One place I worked, on the menu they had broken leg of lamb. I went to the dentist and told him my teeth were yellow. What should I do? He told me to wear brown

ties.

And I know you're wondering, "What about my sex life? (In show business this is known as a "segue.") Well, I guess I could complain that things aren't as great as they used to be – but, frankly, at my age, who can remember? The other day a curvaceous twenty-something cam up to me and asked if I would like super sex? I said I'd take the soup. Of course , it's not like things were always so great in the old days either. You all know my wife Connie is Sephardic. I remember one year she told me that according to their religious tradition, you weren't allowed to have sex in a month that had a vowel in it. But, now in our golden years, all of a sudden she's gotten kind of kinky. Now she wants to make love in the back seat or our car – and she wants me to drive!

Hm! According to the script here, I'm supposed to say, "But enough about me! – even if I really don't feel it. (Deep breath). But enough about me. Back to the show.

MORDY & ESTHER DUET (TO THE TUNE OF *PEOPLE*)

MORDY

LATKES! PEOPLE WHO EAT LATKES
ARE THE SORRIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD
WITH NO HERO, NO ONE WHO CAN CHEER 'EM,
THEY'RE RESIGNED TO THEIR FATE
ALL *FARKLEMT AND TSEDREYT*.
WITHOUT HOPE THAT ANYONE CAN HEAR'EM

ESTHER

DON'T TELL ME! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
I'VE GOT A GOOD DEAL, NOW IS NO TIME TO REVEAL
I'M A JEW!
IF I TELL HIM, I WON'T BE A HERO,
I'LL BE CHOP MEAT FOR LUNCH, *GEFELTE* FOR BRUNCH
AND JEW STEW!

MORDY

TSADIK! YOU CAN BE A *TSAKIK!*
TURN YOUR BACK ON THE CROWD AND
JUST SAY IT ALOUD, I'M A JEW!
BE LIKE KAPLAN, RECONSTRUCT AND HANG ON!
YOU'LL BE FAMOUS FOR SURE, WITH ALL YOUR ALLURE,
YOU'LL BE FINE

HAMAN sung to IT Ain't Necessarily Sonan Song

You can't just believe what you're told,
No, you can't just believe what you're told,
Sure, it's slander and slime
When you're ahead of your time,
So, baby, don't just believe what you're told

Achashvayrosh, the king – what a putz!
Just a loser – no if's and's or but's
He wasn't too brainy
So I played Dick Chaney
'N he never found out I was nuts!

At Mordy, I usually sneered
I thought he was harmless but weird
Who knew that this dreamer
Was a fercockder schemer
And not at all what he appeared?

Break:

Luchincup, min d'ohraiseh!

a shtikle schmaltz, , bubba maiseh!

Luchincup, min d'ohraiseh!

a shtikle schmaltz, , bubba maiseh!

With Esther, all right I was crude

And I'll admit that my intentions were lewd

But what a humdinger!

Wrapped the king round her finger

And I was the one that got screwed

You can't just believe what you're told,

No, you can't just believe what you're told,

Could be this whole depiction

Is a work of fiction

No, you just can't believe what you're told!

FINALE

KEN

Wow. This has been pretty awful so far. . .

DAVID

Horrendous. (They shake hands) Now all we need is a Big Finish to top it off.

KEN

A grand gesture. A *coup de grace*.

DAVID

A *soup de jour*

KEN

A *piece de resistance*.

DAVID

Tasteless!

KEN

Worse than tasteless – crass!

DAVID

Not enough. We really need something so bad that they'll never ask us again. (pause)

KEN & DAVID

Offensive!

DAVID

That's it! I've got an idea! You know how we can never get enough women?

KEN

Well it's not like the Purim Shpeil is exactly a "babe magnet."

DAVID

We'll maybe if we put a little more sex into it?

KEN

Yeah! That's the ticket . . .(gets hats and canes tossed from offstage)

(TO THE TUNE OF *BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE*)

DAVID

THE GALS TODAY DON'T JUST GO FOR JOCKS THEY GO FOR ANYTHING ORTHODOX

KEN

NOTHIN' STOPS 'EM DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS YA SEE, LIKE TSITZIT AND PHYLACTERIES!

DAVID

IF YOU CAN QUOTE HILLEL, YOU GOT IT GREAT

YOU CAN STAND ON ONE FOOT, AND STILL GET A DATE

KEN

IF YOU WANT DEM FRUMS TO BE REALLY PLEASED, QUOTE BA'AL SHEM TOV AND
MAIMONIDES.

KEN & DAVID

BUT THE THING THAT COMES IN FIRST . . .

THAT LEAVES 'EM ALL BUCOLIC

FOR THE GIRLS IN BENSONHURST,

IS TO BE A YESHIVA TZADEK!

BOTH BRUSH UP YOUR TALMUD.

START QUOTING IT NOW.

BRUSH UP YOUR TALMUD,

AND THE FRUMAS YOU WILL WOW!

KEN

IF YER GAL IS THE KIND WITH A SHAIDEL,
'NEATH THAT RUG THERE'S A HELLUVA MAIDEL!

DAVID

IF YOU FIND OUT YOUR RACHEL'S NO PLAYAH,
DON'T WAIT UP SEVEN YEARS JUST FOR LEAH!

KEN

JUST DESCRIBE A FEW LOONIES IN TALMUD--
AND YOU'LL SEEM LIKE GEORGE CLOONEY IN HOLLYWOODD

KEN and DAVID

BOTH BRUSH UP YOUR SCRIPTURE, AND THEY'LL ALL KOW TOW.

KEN

BRUSH UP YOUR BRUCHAS - -
LEAVE NOTHING TO FATE.

DAVID

THEY'LL SURE CHANGE YOUR LUCK-A
WHEN YOU'RE SEARCHING ON J-DATE!

IF YOUR GAL INSISTS "NEVER" MEANS "NEVER",
JUST REMIND HER OF DAVE AND BATSHEVA.

KEN

IF HER HUSBAND ARRIVES JUST IN TI-IME,
MAKE YOUR EXODUS QUICK FROM MITZRAYIM!

DAVID

IF THE TORAH IS STARTIN' TO BORE HER --
READ HER TALES FROM SODOM & G'MORAH!

KEN and DAVID

BRUSH UP YOUR TALMUD,
AND THEY'LL ALL KOW TOW!

A

BRUSH UP YOUR KIDDUSH--
HOW COZY IT IS.

B

NOW TRY IT IN YIDDISH
AS THE CHAMPAGNE STARTS TO FIZZ.

A

IF SHE'S TIMID TO TRY SOMETHING KINKY,
JUST REMIND HER OF EVE AND OL' SLINKY!

B

THOUGH SHE'S WELL PAST HER PRIME, DON'T JUST KNOCK HER.
WASN'T SARAH THE REAL ALTER COCKER?!

A

IF SHE LIKES AN OLD TESTAMENT FABLE,
SHOW HER THAT, WITH YOUR CAIN, YOU ARE ABLE!

BOTH

BRUSH UP YOUR TALMUD, AND THEY'LL ALL KOW TOW!

C

BRUSH UP YOUR MOTZI
EACH TIME THAT YOU EAT!

D

FEEL WARM AND TOASTY
AS YOU SLIP BETWEEN THE SHEETS

C

IF SHE GUARDS HERSELF LIKE SHE IS CONTRABAND,
AS IF MOSES SHOULD GET TO THE PROMISED LAND!
KEN IF HER KNEES ARE TWO WELL-GUARDED BORDERS,
TELL HER GOD EVEN PARTED -- THE WATERS!
DAVID IF IT'S SCRIPTURE SHE WISHES SHE'S LEARNING,

CHANCES ARE THERE'S A BUSH THAT IS BURNING!

KEN BRUSH UP YOUR MAHZOR

START QUOTING IT SOON.

DAVID THEN GIVE UP THE LOBSTER--

AND THEY'LL ALL JUST SWOON

KEN YASHER KOACH?

DAVID AND THEY'LL ALL JUST SWOON

KEN KEN YEHI RATZON?

BOTH YES THEY'LL ALL JUST SWOON!