

SAMPLE: “A BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PURIMSPIEL”

New Purim Lyrics by Rabbi Billy Dreskin, Cantor Ellen Dreskin, and Rabbi David Komerofsky
Music adapted from Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast”

_____ Once upon a time, in a land called Shushan, there was a king. Now this is not unusual, because once upon a time ...

Cast All lands had kings!

_____ Right! But this is a special story, so pay close attention! Our king’s name was Elvis.

Cast Ahashuerus!

_____ Right. Ahashuerus, or *Achashverosh*. Mrs. Levine! I’m surprised at you! Ahashuerus was married to a queen named ..., a queen named ..., a queen named ...

Cast Vashti!

_____ That’s right. Vashti. Cantor! Now I’m surprised at you! These people are counting on us to know the facts. For example, did you know Vashti was a woman with her own mind and her own ideas?

_____ I knew that.

_____ And did you know that Ahashuerus had decided to throw ...

Cast A huge festival!

_____ For the nobles and princes of his kingdom? Here’s what happened:

_____ Chant 1:1-2 (megillah held high).

_____ “*Ahashuerus ruled over ...*

Cast Count ‘em!

_____ ... *127 provinces. In the third year of his reign, he made ...*

Cast A giant feast!

_____ ... *for all of his princes and servants, where he showed off his riches and his glorious kingdom for over ...*

Cast Count ‘em again!

_____ ... *180 days.”*

_____ Hey, that’s almost six months! What a party that must have been!

Cast But wait, there’s more!

_____ After the first feast, Ahashuerus held a second feast for all the people of Shushan. This one only lasted seven days. But imagine that, a party for the entire kingdom that lasted a whole week. I wonder what Queen Vashti thought of all of this!?

Cast Funny you should say that!

_____ Actually, on the seventh day of the second feast, Ahashuerus ordered queen Vashti to join all of the hooplah -- he wanted everyone to see what a beautiful woman he had chosen to be his queen.

Cast What a great guy!

_____ Not really. You see, Vashti thought there should be more to her relationship with the king than her good looks. So she wasn't about to parade around for all the men to gawk at her. She refused to come when the king commanded.

Cast Bad move, Vashti!

_____ Now, Ahashuerus couldn't let her get away with that. So on the advice of his wisemen --

Cast They'd received their training in chelm!

_____ In spite of that, they advised the king to send Vashti away.

Cast That'll teach her! Bad queen!

_____ Well, one thing was for certain. Now no woman in Shushan would dare disobey her husband, or so the wise men of Shushan hoped.

_____ But what good is a king without a queen? What good is a Bill without a Hillary? A George without a Martha?

Cast A Fred without a Wilma?

_____ Ahashuerus needed a new wife. And here's how he got one!

Song: "Esther" ("Belle")

There was an edict from the king of Shushan.

Ahashuerus was his name.

Every girl had a chance for imperial romance.

He was looking for a queen to share his fame.

Young women came from all around the kingdom.

Each with a hope to stake their claim.

For a year did they prepare -- buying makeup, fixing hair.

Only one of them would light the royal flame.

Esther ... who's she? An orphaned beauty.

Just like ... a child ... to Mordechai.

Esther ... and he ... were really cousins.

He'd cared for her since both her parents died.