

Megillah Madness:

“A BILLY JOEL PURIMSPIEL!”

Script and New Purim Lyrics by Rabbi Billy Dreskin, Cantor Ellen Dreskin
and (for the first time ever) Aiden Madison Dreskin
Music adapted from (who else?) Billy Joel

___ Quiet, everyone! We’re on the air in three ... two ... one ...

___ *Purim sameakh!* Happy Purim, everybody! And welcome to WWCT Radio’s annual broadcast of “Megillah Madness.”

___ Tonight, a story of intense harmony and dissonance ...

___ ... dramatic and chromatic progression ...

___ ... lilting refrain and courageous voicing.

___ One of the new “classics” of Purim celebration!

___ Stay with us as Brenda and Eddie, Captain Jack, Anthony and Rosalinda and, of course, the Piano Man himself ...

___ ... all lead us on a journey from Allentown and the River of Dreams, to Shushan some 2400 years ago.

___ Yes, Shushan — that walled city in Persia where, long, long ago, the life of every Jewish man, woman, child and rock music prodigy ...

___ ... was on the line when a despicable, evil villain plotted their doom.

___ WWCT Radio is proud to present ... “A Billy Joel Purimspiel”!

“APPLAUSE” SIGN

___ As a public service to our studio audience and to you folks at home, we now invite one of our own religious school mothers, direct from Leningrad, that original Uptown Girl herself, “A Modern Woman,” to share a few words on Purim safety.

___ *Purim sameakh!* Many thanks for allowing me to speak with you about a topic of concern to us all – grogger-safety education. Groggers make a lot of noise. So it’s vital we know when to shake them, and when not. Here’s how it works. When you hear the special word and you see this signal [display grogger go-signal], make as much noise as you can. But when you see *this* signal [display grogger stop-signal], stop just as quickly as you can. Let’s practice.

PRACTICE WITH SIGNAL

___ Great! A job well done! And now, we invite our studio audience and the folks at home to join with the cantor in chanting the traditional *megillah* blessings.

THE THREE BLESSINGS ARE CHANTED

___ Not so long ago ...

CAST [lots of coughing and interrupting]

___ Okay, a *really* long time ago ...

CAST Much better.

___ ... King Ahashverosh ruled pretty much the entire world back then.

CAST 127 provinces. From India to Nubia!

___ And not a decent 24-hour diner anywhere!

___ But 24-hour *parties*. Yessirree, if you could find one of them ...

CAST You'd have to be a friend of the king.

___ But if you *were* a friend of the king, the fun never stopped.

___ And one year, the third year of his kingadency, even the peasants got to rock-and-roll.

SONG: THE ROYAL BASH (to the tune of "Tell Her About It")

___ So the wicked Queen Vashti was banished by King Ahashverosh.

CAST She was *not* wicked!

___ In fact, Vashti was virtuous and noble.

___ But the king was selfish and stupid.

___ (with a French accent) Oui. But he was also a man!

___ And he did *not* like being without a queen.

CAST He'd do better with a goldfish!

___ Maybe so, but he was determined to find himself a new wife.

___ The king's royal advisers suggested he hold a beauty contest.

___ Young women from across the land would come and ...

CAST [lots of coughing and interrupting]

___ ... "meet" with him.

___ They'd discuss politics, philosophy, and the mystical secrets deeply encoded in the lyrics of Billy Joel ...

___ ... and based upon compatibility gradients which archaeologists have since learned became the basis for the success of eHarmony.com ...

CAST Oh, brother!

___ ... King Ahashverosh would find his new queen.

___ And while you may not approve of the king's methods ...

___ ... it did provide an opportunity for one of Shushan's Jews, a man named Mordekhai ...

___ ... to devise a plan.

___ He would enter his beautiful cousin, Esther ...

___ ... whom he had cared for since her parents died ...

___ ... into the king's contest.

___ And perhaps, that would someday be important for the Jewish people.

___ And guess what?

CAST She won! Esther became queen!

___ That's right! You're so smart!

___ And the king loved Esther very much.

___ But Mordekhai made Esther promise ...

___ (whispered) ... she'd keep her Jewishness a secret.

SONG: THE PLOT TO KILL THE KING (to the tune of "Movin' Out")