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**STAR OF ISRAEL**

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**LBT ORDER #3333**

# Cast

## In order of appearance

Chamberlains Biztha, Carcaz , and Zethar  
Queen Vashti  
King Ahasuerus  
Mordecai  
Esther  
Esther's Maidens  
igthan  
Teresh  
Haman  
Haman's wife, Zereth  
Haman's Friends  
Crowd

## Songs (Red = still to write)

### 0 Prolog

- 1 It's Up To You (Soft-Shoe/Astaire)
- 2 A Louse of a Spouse (Pop Song)
- 3 Vashti-To-Go-Go (Salsa)
- 4 Love Is My Song (Blues)
- 5 Love Is My Song Reprise (Blues)
- 6 The Future Is You (Ragtime)
- 7 A Star To Steer By (Lullabye)
- 8 Rise Up! (Gospel)
- 9 When I Look at You (Love Ballad)
- 10 Chosen One (Symphonic)
- 11 Flim-Flam Man (Country )
- 12 O God of Israel (Yiddish Prayer)
- 13a This Is My Choice
- 13b This Is My Choice (rep)
- 14 Bow Now Thou Jew
- 15 I Only Hate (Aria)
- 16 Hangin' Around  
& Flim-Flam Man (reprise)
- 17 **Honor (Hip-Hop)**
- 18 My Life and Breath (Spiritual)
- 18b My Life and Breath (reprise) (Spiritual)
- 19 Make Ready (Anthem/March)
- 20 Never Stand Alone (Anthem/March)
- 21 By the Living God (reprise?)
- 22 Star of Israel (Anthem)

### Orchestra

Chamberlains  
Vashti  
Chamberlains & King  
King  
King  
Mordecai & Esther  
Mordecai  
Esther's Maidens  
Esther & Ahasuerus  
Maidens, Esther, King  
Haman and Followers  
Mordecai  
Mordecai , Esther  
Esther  
Haman  
Haman  
  
Haman, Wife, Friends  
**Haman**  
Esther  
Esther  
Mordecai  
Entire Cast  
Esther, Mordecai  
Company

# Star of Israel

**#0 — PROLOG** (use opening of Chosen One)

## Scene 1

*(The lights are dim. THREE MEN in royal apparel step boldly forth and bow before us and introduce themselves. Unless otherwise noted, all dialog is simply recited.)*

### **Chamberlains:**

Biztha, Carcaz, Zethar,  
Welcome on behalf of Ahasuerus!

### **BIZTHA:**

Aha

### **CARCAZ:**

Zoo

### **ZETHAR:**

Rus!

### **BIZTHA:**

King over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces!  
Ruler of the known world!  
Great Magistrate of all Persia!

### **BIZTHA, CARCAZ , ZETHAR:**

We are his Chamberlains.

### **BIZTHA:**

Biztha

### **CARCAZ:**

Carcaz

### **ZETHAR:**

Zethar

## **MUSICAL #1 IT'S UP TO YOU!**

**Star of Israel** by Kings and Perry

*(As the music begins actors bring on three chairs, top hats and canes. In Fred Astaire ballroom style ZETHAR sits in the middle and BIZTHA and CARCAZ each put up a foot on chairs on either side.)*

**BIZTHA:**

SOME PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE GOING  
NO LIFE. NOTHING PLANNED.

*(Sits on chair.)*

**CARCAZ:**

OTHERS KNOWING  
PRECISELY WHAT THEY DESIRE  
KNOW WHERE THEY STAND.

*(BIZTHA and CARCAZ stand. The three break into a soft shoe stair routine as they sing together.)*

**CHAMBERLINS:**

IT'S THE SIMPLEST THING TO STAND ON A STAIR  
AND TURN TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM.  
TURN BACK AROUND  
SEE WHERE YOU'RE BOUND  
IT'S A HEART THAT'S SOUND, THAT'S WHERE YOU AIM FROM!

THAT'S WHY WE MUST LOOK TO THE HORIZON,  
THAT WAY'S ALWAYS TRUE.  
SUN'S A-RISIN'  
AND A-CHANGIN, MOST EVERY DAY  
AND SO SHOULD YOU!

I KNOW A GIRL WITH A SAD OLD STORY  
IF SHE JUST STOOD THERE AND CRIED.  
BUT SHE PICKED HERSELF UP,  
DUSTED EVERYTHING OFF  
THE GLORY WAS IN THE WAY SHE TRIED:  
ARMS OPEN WIDE!  
SHE KNEW WHAT WAS INSIDE!

SO, EVERYONE LOOK TO THE HORIZON,

THAT'S THE THING TO DO.  
YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE'LL GET YOU ALL YOU WISH.  
A HOOK WITH THE BAIT WILL NET YOU THE BIGGEST FISH.  
DON'T LOOK FOR A MEAL JUST SET YOU A TASTY DISH!  
IT'S UP TO YOU!

**Scene 2**

*(ESTHER is seen at the right of the stage in a spotlight at the end of the song. The lights gradually fade on her and rise on the palace in Shushan. As the narration continues, ESTHER exits and KING AHASUERUS strides center stage.)*

**BIZTHA:**

In the golden days of Persia there ruled a powerful man,  
Mighty and bold King Ahasuerus in his palace in Shushan.

*(As they describe the King in the following lines, the CHAMBERLINS walk around him and gesture, creating the scene they describe in the audience's imagination.)*

**ZETHAR:**

From the Indies to Ethiopia this monarch made his reign  
And one hundred twenty provinces all trembled at his name.

**CARCAZ:**

In the third year of his reign Ahasuerus held a feast  
And the princes of Persia from the highest to the least,

**BIZTHA:**

All mighty men of rank did celebrate and adore him

**CARCAZ:**

They all came forth and placed great gifts before him.

**ZETHAR:**

Merrily they did feast. Richly they did dine.

**CARCAZ:**

And once they were all strongly soused in wine.

**ZETHAR:**

The King called forth Queen Vashti, his wife:

**KING AHASUERUS:**

Come Vashti, my beloved! Dance before us!

*(The KING moves stage right and the lights dim on him.)*

**Scene 3**

*(VASHTI now arrives onstage at stage left. Her MAIDENS bring her toward us on a sumptuous divan. This queen is elegantly attired, and haughtily reclined on her mobile throne. Her devoted maidens surround it and kneel before her.)*

**BIZTHA:**

Vashti was fair -- beyond compare -- and the King thought it wise,  
To show her off before their eyes.

**MUSICAL #2 A LOUSE OF A SPOUSE**

*(As VASHTI sings, and her MAIDENS kneel around her, she now stands and forcefully hands one of them her golden goblet.)*

**VASHTI:**

NO! NO! NO! NO,  
I WON'T GO! GO! GO! GO!  
DONT YOU KNOW, KNOW, KNOW, KNOW  
THAT OUR KING IS SUCH A LOUSE!  
BE IT KNOWN  
I'LL HOLD A FEAST OF MY OWN,  
AFTER KING AHAZ HAS FLOWN,  
THERE'LL BE NO CAUSE TO GRIPE AND GROUSE!

**MAIDENS:**

EVERYBODY COME TO HER HOUSE!  
EVERYBODY COME AND SEE!  
QUIET AS A TINY DOOR-MOUSE,  
'TIL WE KNOW WE'RE REALLY FREE!  
COME, GET SOUSED!  
GET DELOUSED!

NO CONCUBINE!  
NO TWIRLING DANCING GIRL  
TO WHIRL AROUND YOU!  
DON'T WAIT IN LINE!  
RESIGN YOURSELF TO PINE!  
FOR SHE HAS CLOWNED YOU!  
OUR VASHTI HERE IS TOO DIVINE!  
SO, STAND BACK AND LET HER SHINE!

**VASHTI:**

NO, I'LL NOT EVER CAVORT FOR SPORT

WHILE I'M IN COURT! IN SHORT:

YOU'RE OUT OF LINE!

I'M A QUEEN.

I WON'T BE SEEN

WITH A LOUSE OF A SPOUSE!

THEN, I'LL BE FINE!

**MAIDENS:** *(backup-style)*

(NO, SHE WON'T! NOT

OUR VASHTI!)

(YOU'RE OUT OF LINE!)

(A QUEEN WHO)

(WON'T BE SEEN)

(GET OUT OF THE HOUSE)

(THEN SHE'LL BE FINE!)

*(VASHTI haughtily hands one of the MAIDENS a scroll and gestures toward the King. The MAIDEN takes the scroll Vashti has given her and strolls stage right as the lights once again arise on KING AHASUERUS. The MAIDEN haughtily presents the scroll to the King.)*

**MAIDENS:**

Get a clue!

Our Vashti will never, never ever dance for you!

*(The lights fade on VASHTI and her MAIDENS as they leave the stage. All lights are now on the KING and his COURTIERS. The KING sits behind his CHAMBERLINS on a royal throne on wheels. He is upstage center.)*

**Scene 4**

*(The CHAMBERLAINS are in a line one behind the other, as they speak the first three lines they lean to the side while staying in line. They face the audience and speak.)*

**ZETHAR:**

Trust Vashti.

She can be sharp -- and nasty.



No dancing girl is she!

**CARCAZ:**

She flatly refused.

**BIZTHA:**

And good King Ahasuerus is most abused.

*(BIZTHA and ZETHAR wheel the KING down to the center of stage.)*

**CARCAZ:**

His face is grim.

Anger burns within him.

**ZETHAR:**

Hear us, good king! We know the law:

**KING AHASUERUS:**

What shall be done to Vashti for this most grievous flaw?

*(The CHAMBERLAINS now cavort around King, speaking in turn as they each kneel before him.)*

**BIZTHA:**

Vashti can't do this thing!

**CARCAZ:**

She mocks your royal command!

**ZETHAR:**

If you let such rebellion stand

All the women in the land will do the same.

**BIZTHA:**

When it is known throughout the earth

That Queen Vashti was called forth

**CARCAZ:**

And she came not,

**CHAMBERLINS:**

Women shall despise their own husbands in their eyes.  
Such insolence shall never be forgot!

**MUSICAL #3 -- VASHTI-TO-GO-GO**

*(As the MUSIC begins, the CHAMBERLAINS twirl the throne so the King faces upstage and they surround the throne, one facing front and one at each side.)*

**ZETHAR:** *(in rhythm)* VASHTI-TO-GO-GO!

**CARCAZ:** *(in rhythm)* VASHTI-TO-GO-GO!

**BIZTHA:** *(in rhythm)* VASHTI-TO-GO-GO!

**ZETHAR:** *(Pulling the King and his throne stage right.)*

YOU MUST OFFICIALLY DECREE  
THAT VASHTI IS SO **VERY PROUD**  
AND SHE WILL NEVER BE ALLOWED, UNBOWED.  
**SHE WILL FOREVER WEAR A SHROUD!**

**CARCAZ:** *(Pulling the King and his throne stage left.)*

**AND YOU MUST DO SO BY DECREE!**  
**AT YOUR COMMAND WE LIVE AND DIE.**  
**WE NEVER EVER WONDER WHY**  
*(Spoken)* My eye!  
**IT'S TIME FOR VASHTI'S GLAD GOODBYE!**

*(As CHAMBERLINS turn the King around to face the audience, they push the King's throne downstage.)*

**BIZTHA:**

**HER ROYAL PLACE AND PALACE?**  
**NO LONGER HERS!**  
**JEWELS AND FURS?**  
**FIND CUSTOMERS!**  
**THEY WILL BECOME ANOTHER'S DOMAIN.**  
**ONE TO REIGN. NOT COMPLAIN!**

**CHAMBERLINS:** *(As they twirl the King's throne around to face them.)*

**SHE SHALL BE BANISHED FROM YOUR FACE!**  
**AND ONLY LIVE THROUGH YOUR GOOD GRACE.**

**KING AHAZUERUS:** *(He now rises, and boldly announces,)*

**VASHTI IS BANISHED! AND SO, IN HER PLACE**

WILL BE SOMEONE NOT IN DISGRACE!

**CHAMBERLINS:** *(form a line and dance around the King, proudly chanting,)*

A QUEEN NEVER MUST DISHONOR HER  
KING AND THRONE,  
TO ATONE,  
SHE'S ALONE!  
VASHTI-TO-GO-GO SAD TO BE SO!  
*(Spoken)* Not!  
CAN'T YOU SEE OUR FACES GLOW!

### Scene 5

*(BIZTHA and CARCAZ exit.)*

**ZETHAR:**

But once Vashti was gone and the king's anger was over  
He began to recall just how much he did love her.

*(Exits.)*

**KING AHAZUERUS:**

My beloved, how can I do this thing?  
It was your love that made me a King.

### MUSICAL #4 LOVE IS MY SONG

**KING AHASUERUS:**

LOVE IS MY SONG FOR YOU  
OH, HOW I LONG FOR YOU.  
I WANT YOU FOR MY OWN.

*(VASHTI comes on behind a scrim and she and the KING sing but are separated by scrim.)*

**VASHTI:**

LOVE IS MY SONG.  
AND HOW I LONG,  
LONG FOR A LOVE WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN!  
NEVER A TAME ONE!  
NEVER THE SAME ONE.  
LOVE IS MY SONG.

*(VASHTI joins the King, nearly, but never touching.)*

**KING:**

THE NIGHTS I SPENT WITH YOU  
IN HAREM OR TENT WITH YOU  
JUST YOU AS MY OWN.

**VASHTI:**

NO MAN EXPECTS TA SEE  
EXQUISITE ECSTASY  
AND END UP ALONE.

**KING:**

YOUR LIPS SO NEAR TO MINE.

**VASHTI:**

FEELING OUR SOULS COMBINE  
WE TWO BECAME AS ONE!

**KING:**

LOVE IS MY SONG.  
AND HOW I LONG,  
LONG FOR A LOVE NEVER UNDONE!  
ALWAYS THE SAME ONE,  
LIGHTING-THE-FLAME ONE!  
LOVE IS MY SONG!

*(VASHTI freezes and KING walks down stage, lights dim on her. As KING sings VASHTI exits.)*

TO BE BACK IN YOUR ARMS,  
TO CHERISH YOUR CHARMS,  
WILL NEVER BE KNOWN AGAIN.  
LOVE IS MY SONG FOR YOU  
OH, HOW I LONG FOR YOU.  
BUT NOW I'M ON MY OWN AGAIN.

*(CHAMBERLAINS enter.)*

**BIZTHA:**

Thus the good King made it known  
That he refused to live alone.  
So we declared:

**CHAMBERLINS:**

Let us send soldiers throughout the land

**ZETHAR:**

To gather fair young virgins to the palace of Shushan,

**CARCAZ:**

Let them be kept by your chamberlains

**BIZTHA:**

To come, one by one, before your face.

**CHAMBERLINS:**

And you can choose a fair maiden to take Vashti's place!

*(CHAMBERLAINS exit.)*

**MUSICAL #5 LOVE IS MY SONG (Reprise)**

**KING:**

THE NIGHTS I SPENT WITH YOU  
IN HAREM OR TENT WITH YOU  
JUST YOU AS MY OWN.  
NO MAN EXPECTS TA SEE  
EXQUISITE ECSTASY  
AND END UP ALONE.

*(SAX plays under the speech)*

Why look back?

I'm a king and know I deserve

Someone who will love and serve me.

FIND A NEW LOVE FOR ME?  
WHO KNOWS? SO, LET US SEE!  
KINGS HAVE THE POW'R SO LET IT BE!

*(The SAX PLAYER shrugs his shoulders and walks off. KING then also exits, and the lights fade.)*

**Scene 6**

*(CHAMBERLAINS enter each wearing glasses and looking down at scrolls as they speak.)*

**BIZTHA:**

Now a certain Jew . . .

*(MORDECAI enters, pushing a fruit stand in front of him.)*

**CARCAZ:**

By the name of Mordecai . . .

**ZETHAR:**

Had been carried away from Jerusalem . . .

**BIZTHA:**

By Nebuchadnezzar . . .

**CARCAZ:**

With his niece Esther.

*(ESTHER enters. She picks up fruit and tries to sell it to the CHAMBERLAINS, but they refuse and exit. ZETHAR walks away and goes behind the curtain, then peaks his head around the curtain.)*

**ZETHAR:**

And they lived just outside the palace.

**MUSICAL #6 THE FUTURE IS YOU**

*(A piano [practical or prop] and PIANIST [playing or faking] are rolled on. As they sing, MORDECAI & ESTHER gradually begin to juggle fruit and toss it back and forth.)*

**MORDECAI:**

JOYS WE HAVE KNOWN,  
LIKE EDEN,  
THOSE ARE ALL IN THE PAST.  
ARE WE ALONE?  
LIKE MOSES,  
WE'VE A FRIEND WHO WILL LAST!

**ESTHER:**

SOMEHOW WE MADE IT THROUGH  
AND HERE I AM RIGHT NEXT TO YOU!  
AND NO OTHER GOD WILL DO!

**MORDECAI:**

ALL IS NOT LOST.

**ESTHER:**

NO FAM'LY.  
YOU ARE MY ONLY KIN.

**MORDECAI:**

MOUNTAINS WE'VE CROSSED,  
LIKE AHBAM.  
HE KNEW WHERE TO BEGIN.

**ESTHER:**

PAGAN PEOPLE AND LAND  
I STRUGGLE  
TRYING JUST TO COPE!

**MORDECAI:**

KEEP ON JUG'LING,  
YOU'LL FIND HOPE.

**ESTHER:**

WHAT OF PASSION AND DIGNITY?

**MORDECAI:** *(indicating Esther's heart and mind)*

ITS STILL THERE WHERE IT USED TO BE!

**ESTHER:**

IN THIS DESERT OF DUST

**MORDECAI:**

THERE'S ONLY ONE YOU CAN TRUST.  
HE HEARS YOU!  
AND HE'S LISTENING NOW,  
TAKE HEART AND YOU'LL SEE.

*(They dance a rhythmic cakewalk.)*

**MORDECAI:**

LOOK IN MY EYES,  
REFLECTIONS  
TELL YOU WHO YOU CAN BE.

**ESTHER:**

THAT'S NO SURPRISE,  
REFLECTIONS  
CAME FROM HEAVEN TO ME!

**BOTH:**

NO MORE LOOKING BEHIND, WE FIND  
WHAT'S NEW AND PURE AND TRUE!  
KEEP ON JUG'LING  
'TIL THE FUTURE IS YOU!

**ESTHER:** *(pointing)*

THE FUTURE IS YOU!

**MORDECAI:** *(pointing)*

THE FUTURE IS YOU!

**BOTH:** *(pointing)*

THE FUTURE IS YOU!

*(PIANIST wheels off piano. MORDECAI sits on the piano bench. ESTHER is left to the far right of the stage, sitting on her fruit stand.)*

**Scene 7**

*(As ZETHAR speaks a chorus line of gorgeous MAIDENS stroll stunningly by with obvious allure. Each MAIDEN takes her own voluptuous pose.)*

**ZETHAR:**

As the search for a new queen began.  
According to royal command,  
Maidens from across the land  
Were gathered at Shushan.  
Where chamberlains  
Prepared them to meet the king.

*(ZETHAR now pulls out a spy glass and zooms in on ESTHER. He then crosses directly toward her and hands her a scroll. ESTHER takes the scroll and reads it with great amazement.)*

**BIZTHA:**

Esther soon discovered  
That she was to be called forth  
And placed into the King's court  
As a member of the royal harem.

*(The MAIDENS exit, leaving ESTHER alone in the dark.)*

**ESTHER:** *(Crying out to her Uncle MORDECAI in the darkness.)*

Dear uncle Mordecai what am I to do?  
How can I see things through on my own?  
We may never again see each other face to face.  
Who can I find to guide me in your place?

*(MORDECAI answers her, singing a soft lullaby. ESTHER is gradually comforted by his words and his gentle love for her.)*

**MUSICAL #7 A STAR TO STEER BY**



**MORDECAI**

LITTLE STAR

GOD IS ALWAYS BESIDE YOU.  
FEEL HIS LOVE  
ALWAYS SEEKING TO GUIDE YOU  
LIKE A STAR FROM ABOVE.  
A STAR TO STEER BY.

LIFE CAN BE TEMPEST TOSSED,  
WHEN YOU'RE LOST  
CHOOSE A STAR TO STEER BY.

HOLDING ON  
TO ITS LIGHT, YOU WILL SEE IT.  
DREAM A DREAM  
SOON YOU'LL LIVE IT AND BE IT.  
GUIDING YOU THROUGH THE NIGHT  
A STAR TO STEER BY.

ISRAEL'S GOD FROM ABOVE  
SEND YOU LOVE  
WITH EACH STAR YOU STEER BY.

CHOOSE A STAR  
LET IT SHINE TO REMIND YOU  
EVERY STORM,  
IN IT HEAVEN WILL FIND YOU.  
FILL YOUR SOUL AND BE WARM.  
GOD WILL KEEP YOU FROM HARM,  
WITH A STAR TO STEER BY.

*(The light dims as CHAMBERLAINS enter.)*

**Scene 8**

**CARCAZ:**

From the moment Esther arrived in court,  
She was deemed to be most fair  
Of all the maidens who waited upon the King.

**BIZTHA:**

The fairest in our sight!

**CHAMBERLINS:**

And all the King's household looked upon her with delight.

**ZETHAR:**

So we gave Esther all that was required  
To prepare her to be desired  
And pleasing to the King.

*(SEVEN MAIDENS ente.. ESTHER stands. They surround her and dress her in silks and satins.)*

**CARCAZ:**

With silks and satins she was laden.

**BIZTHA:**

And we also gave her seven maidens  
To serve her every need.

**ZETHAR:**

All the court adored her.

**BIZTHA:**

And as we served before her

**CARCAZ:**

We found her pure and fair indeed.

**Scene 9**

**MORDECAI:**

Now I warned Esther to refuse  
To reveal that she was a Jew.

**ESTHER:**

So while I waited to appear before the King's face,

I never once spoke of my people or my race.

**ZETHAR:**

Good old Mordecai loved his Esther so  
That every long day he walked to and fro  
Before the women's court where she was hid  
Always searching to learn how Esther did,

**CARCAZ:**

And exactly where she stood in the long line  
Of anxious and eager concubines.

*(We now see the MAIDENS parade across the stage in a dazzling line of beauty as BIZTHA, CARCAZ and ZETHAR describe their predicament.)*

**BIZTHA:**

Each maiden had only one chance to see the King.

**CARCAZ:**

Each maid had one -- and only one -- chance to go before him.

**ZETHAR:**

To show him of her charms

**CARCAZ:**

And make her adore him.

**BIZTHA:**

And after that one chance she never came  
Again unto his sight.

**ZETHAR:**

Unless he did delight  
In her

**CARCAZ:**

And remember her.

**BIZTHA:**

And call her forth by name.

**CHAMBERLINS:** *(together, with emphasis)*

And so you see it was no little thing,  
When Esther finally came before the King.

## Scene 10

**CARCAZ:**

Although Esther asked for nothing when we sent her,  
All of her maidens were anxious to present her.

*(Seven MAIDENS enter wearing brilliant gold choir robes and carrying tambourines.)*

**BIZTHA:**

And they glowed with beauty as they thronged  
Around the fair young Esther to praise her in song:

*(MAIDENS help ESTHER stand on the piano bench. Several of the MAIDENS shake their tambourines.)*

## MUSICAL #8 -- RISE UP!

**MAIDENS:**

RISE UP, OH MUSIC SO SWEET AND TENDER!  
RISE UP IN SPLENDOR  
AND JUST SURRENDER!  
THIS IS SOMEBODY TO ADORE!  
RISE UP! RISE UP! RISE UP!

*(The MUSIC changes as the KING is wheeled on sitting on his throne.)*

RISE UP, KING AHAZ, IT'S TIME TO PLAY NOW!  
WE KNOW YOU'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO SAY NOW.  
WE WILL ADORE YOU, SO COME WHAT MAY  
RISE UP! RISE UP! RISE UP!

*(MAIDENS dance and encircle KING.)*

WOND'ROUS AND MILD,  
MUCH MORE THAN ANY CHILD,  
FOR SHE WON'T RUN, SHE WON'T BE CHASED SHE'S CHASTE!  
HEAVENLY LIGHT SHINES FROM HER EYES,  
SHE IS WARM AND SWEET AND WISE!

RISE UP, KING AHAZ, IT'S TIME TO PLAY NOW!  
WE KNOW YOU'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO SAY NOW.  
WE WILL ADORE YOU, SO COME WHAT MAY  
RISE UP! RISE UP! RISE UP!

*(In a DANCE sort of way, TWO MAIDENS help ESTHER down from the piano bench to face the KING. ALL MAIDENS stand in a line in front of her, also facing the KING and blocking his view. The MUSIC ramps up as they sing the following stanza, and the MAIDENS peel away one by one until ESTHER stands unobscured before the KING. The MAIDENS face DS behind ESTHER and KING to finish the song.)*

RISE UP, OH MUSIC SO SWEET AND TENDER!  
RISE UP IN SPLENDOR  
AND JUST SURRENDER!  
THIS IS SOMEBODY TO ADORE!  
RISE UP! RISE UP! RISE UP!

*(The KING stands. He is struck immediately by ESTHER'S beauty and her obvious innocence and virtue.)*

**CHAMBERLINS:**  
ESTHER STOOD BEFORE THE THRONE  
THE MAIDENS LEFT THEM, LUCKILY, ALONE.

*(As the MAIDENS and CHAMBERLINS exit, the KING and ESTHER are left standing alone onstage, across from one another, the KING at stage left and ESTHER at stage right. A MAIDEN wheels off the throne as she exits.)*

## **Scene 11**

**KING AHASUERUS:** *(He speaks to her from across the stage, calling her by name.)* Esther, what do you have to say for yourself?

## **MUSICAL #9 -- WHEN I LOOK AT YOU**

*(Both are tentative, each for different reasons. As they sing ESTHER and the KING slowly approach each other, or not, stepping forward one at a time, moment by moment.)*

**KING AHASUERUS:**  
YOU SEE ME  
**ESTHER:**

MY KING

**KING AHASUERUS:**

YOUR KING

**ESTHER:**

IT'S TRUE.

**KING AHASUERUS:**

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

**ESTHER:**

SOMETHING INSIDE

**KING AHASUERUS:**

MUST WE COLLIDE

**ESTHER:**

HOW CAN I HIDE

**KING AHASUERUS:**

WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME WHAT DO YOU SEE?

*(ESTHER, uncertain and frightened at the possibilities, takes a step away and turns, slightly. KING pulls back as ESTHER sings to herself. KING remains, almost hearing, but not wanting to intrude.)*

**ESTHER:** *(Softly)*

AM I HERE ON A WHIM?

AND AM I STANDING NEAR HIM?

SO NEAR THE KING I CANNOT BELIEVE I'M WANTING.

HAUNTING.

FEELING FULL TO THE BRIM

MY HEART IS ON MY SLEEVE

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN

WHEN I LOOK AT HIM?

**KING AHASUERUS:**

AM I HERE JUST FOR HER?

AND CAN I EVER ENDURE?

ALL OF THE THINGS I CANNOT BELIEVE I'M WANTING.

HAUNTING.

FEELING TOO INSECURE

MY HEART IS ON MY SLEEVE

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN

WHEN I LOOK AT HER?

IS THIS A DREAM I'M LIVING?

COULD IT BE REAL?

ALL I CAN DO IS TELL HER ALL THAT I FEEL.

GENTLE AND MILD

AND UNDEFILED

WITH BEAUTY AND GRACE  
HER FACE  
BECKONS TO ME HERE  
WHO DO I SEE HERE?  
QUESTIONS ME WHEN I LOOK AT HER.

*(ESTHER now steps forward until she is directly in front of the KING, standing very close to him. However, when she sings, she sings facing the audience.)*

**ESTHER:**

WHAT CAN I SAY TO HIM,  
NOW? IS HE KIND, IS HE GRIM?  
HOW I MUST FACE IT,  
GIVEN THIS PLACE I'M  
WANTING!  
HAUNTING  
THERE IS NO ONE TO BE,  
NOTHING TO SAY OR DO.  
MY MIND IS  
REELING WHEN I LOOK AT HIM.

**KING AHASUERUS:**

ESTHER, MY STAR,  
YOU CANNOT BE FAR AWAY.

**ESTHER:**

NEVER ALONE AGAIN.  
YOU'VE LIFTED MY DAY!

**KING AHASUERUS:**

NEVER TO ROAM,  
I'LL BE AT HOME  
THERE'S NOTHING I NEED TO DO.

**BOTH:**

HAVING YOU NEAR ME.

**ESTHER:**

SOMEONE TO CHEER ME.

**BOTH:**

EASIER WHEN I LOOK AT YOU.  
IS THIS A DREAM I'M LIVING?  
COULD IT BE REAL?  
ALL I CAN DO IS TELL YOU ALL THAT I FEEL.  
AM I SO WILD,  
WHILE FEELING MILD?  
IT'S HARD TO DEFINE  
YOU'RE MINE?

WHO DO I SEE HERE,  
BECKONING ME HERE?  
YOU'RE EVERYTHING  
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU!

*(To this point, the KING has been tenderly holding ESTHER'S hand. He now takes the palm of her hand to his lips and kisses it, gently and tenderly yet full of strong emotion. The KING and ESTHER now freeze, holding each other closely, center stage. CHAMBERLAINS entering jauntily together, they strut and announce loudly one by one as they cross the stage)*

**CHAMBERLINS:**

And the King loved Esther with all his might.

**ZETHAR:**

She obtained more grace and favour in his sight,  
Than any woman he had ever known.

**CARCAZ:**

For he no longer had to rule alone.

**BIZTHA:**

He set a royal crown upon her head  
And made her his queen instead of Vashti.

**Scene 12**

**MUSICAL #10 -- CHOSEN ONE**

*(MAIDENS enter promenading as they hold huge fans before them. As they sing, ESTHER and KING enter behind in royal robes. The MAIDENS form a frame with their fans around ESTHER and the KING.)*

**MAIDENS:**

DAUGHTERS OF PERSIA, NO SAD FACES LOOMING!  
NOW IS THE TIME TO BE BRIDE-ING GROOMING.  
PETALS OF FLOWERS KISSED GOLD BY THE SUN,  
GIVEN TO YOU, CHOSEN ONE!

*(Dancing around the stage, with their fans, the MAIDENS circle about the KING and ESTHER and finally kneel before them.)*



**MAIDENS:**

MORNING LIGHT GLISTENS WITH DROPLETS OF DEW  
AND THE NIGHTINGALE ALWAYS LISTENS  
HEARING THE GLADNESS THAT COMES STRAIGHT FROM YOU,  
MADNESS IS BANISHED IT'S TRUE!

**ESTHER & KING:** *(Waltzing together with wide flourish. Singing as they spin.)*

ROUND AND ROUND WE GO  
HOLDING TIGHT.  
NO NEED TO BE COY,  
NOW, IN THIS DANCE OF JOY!

*(DANCE)*

**MAIDENS:**

DAUGHTERS OF PERSIA, NO  
SAD FACES LOOMING!  
NOW IS THE TIME TO BE  
BRIDE-IN GROOMING.  
PETALS OF FLOWERS KISSED  
GOLD BY THE SUN,  
GIVEN TO YOU, CHOSEN ONE!  
GIVEN TO YOU, CHOSEN ONE!  
GIVEN TO YOU, CHOSEN ONE!

**ESTHER & KING:**

ROUND AND ROUND WE GO  
  
HOLDING  
TIGHT. NO  
NEED TO BE  
COY NOW  
IN THIS DANCE OF JOY!  
IN THIS DANCE OF JOY!  
IN THIS DANCE OF JOY!

*(BLACKOUT)*

**Scene 13**

*(CHAMBERLINS now enter stage left, strutting jauntily across the stage to introduce MORDECAI who also enters stage, doing what they describe.*

**BIZTHA:**

After the wedding Esther lived in the palace  
And her Uncle Mordecai  
Stayed ever at the King's gate,

**CARCAZ:**

Day after day he walked to and fro  
Still searching to know  
How Esther fared.

**ZETHAR:**

And as he listened to every word  
This is what he heard:

*(BIGTHAN and TERESH now enter rapidly from upstage center and collide during the ensuing action.)*

**BIGTHAN:**

My dear Teresh! Excellent chamberlain!  
How goes our plan?

*(BIGTHAN clasps Teresh by his chest and draws him near, speaking to him violently in stage whispers.)*

Will it go forth? Will it end in death?  
Tell me! Be plain:  
At what hour and in what place  
Will this vile King Ahasuerus be slain?

*(Speaking stage front, BIGTHAN makes a gesture as if he is cutting his own throat. He then looks fervently in all directions to determine if anyone is listening. Aghast, MORDECAI tries to hide himself in the shadows. However, he appears clearly to us in a spotlight.)*

*(TERESH gently patting BIGTHAN on his tummy, also stepping back, yet speaking out with great violence and force. Somewhat a soothsayer, TERESH is making a frightening prediction.)*

**TERESH:**

My big Bigthan! Most noble chamberlain!  
Before another day goes by  
This evening when sunset draws nye.  
We shall lie in wait for the king,  
Between the temple pillars where he walks each night.  
And at the very moment when he comes in sight,

*(TERESH holds his sword and runs his hand along its blade.)*

He shall die!

*(BIGTHAN & TERESH, the two murderers now exit rapidly.)*

**MORDECAI:** *(Filled with horror, as the two murderers rush away and leave him standing alone)*

What is this? The king's life is at risk!  
The Good King must be warned!

Esther! Esther! I must find Esther!  
Oh the shame! The infamy!

*(MORDECAI now disappears in the darkness as CHAMBERLAINS enter once again from the left.)*

**ZETHAR:**

When Mordecai told Esther of the King's impending doom  
She warned Ahasuerus in her uncle's name.

**CARCAZ:**

An inquisition was made and both chamberlains soon paid  
For their murderous plot with their lives.

**CHAMBERLINS:**

Indeed, they were both hanged from a tree,  
And it was recorded in the King's chronicles for all to see.

**Scene 14 - The Flim Flam Man**

**BIZTHA:**

Behold! Only one man, Haman the proud,  
Now stood in highest favor before the King.

*(As he speaks, BIZTHA gestures dramatically stage right to indicate the entrance of HAMAN, accompanied by PRINCES and SERVANTS.)*

**ZETHAR:**

And at the King's command

**CARCAZ:**

All other princes and servants bowed  
Before him.  
And hastened humbly to adore him.

*(The PRINCES and SERVANTS do what they are told, cowering before HAMAN on their hands and knees. HAMAN props his feet commandingly on the two servants closest to him and stands erect.)*

**MUSICAL #11 -- FLIM-FLAM MAN**

**HAMAN:** *(As the PRINCES and SERVANTS dance around him)*

I'M THE NUMBER ONE MAN FOR THE KING.  
HE'S THE NUMBER ONE MAN,  
AND HERE'S HIS RING!

*(He displays the ring then adds, sarcastically,)*

THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY.  
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SEE!  
BUT, THE NUMBER ONE MAN'S REALLY ME!

**PRINCES & SERVANTS:**

HAMAN'S NUMBER ONE MAN FOR THE KING.  
HAMAN'S NUMBER ONE MAN,  
BUT HERE'S THE THING:  
NOTHIN' HE CAN'T SAY!  
NOTHIN' HE CAN'T DO!  
SO, HAMAN'S NUMBER ONE MAN! YES, IT'S TRUE!

**Haman**

YOU'VE GOTTA BE A FLIM-FLAM MAN!!  
EVER SINCE THE GAME BEGAN,  
IN EVERY RACE THEY EVER RAN  
YOU FINISH STRONG BECAUSE YOU CAN!  
YOU'VE GOTTA BE A FLIM-FLAM MAN!  
EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN  
THE WINNER WAS A FLIM-FLAM MAN!

YOU FLIM A LITTLE TO THE LEFT,  
YOU FLAM A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT!  
A LITTLE FLIM,  
A LITTLE FLAM,  
AND NO ONE KNOWS IF IT'S A SHAM!  
YOU MAKE IT IF YOU HANG ON TIGHT!

**PRINCES & SERVANTS:**

WE'LL STICK WITH YOU! YOU'RE DYNAMITE!  
OUR HAMAN IS THE FLIM-FLAM MAN!

**HAMAN:**

OH, THE FOOLS! THEY  
THINK THE KING'S THE ONE WHO RULES!  
THEY DON'T SEE. THE  
KING IS NOTHING WITHOUT ME.  
WILL HE EVER BE? AT  
LEAST HE'S GOT HIS JEWELS!

**PRINCES & SERVANTS:**

YOU FLIM A LITTLE TO THE  
LEFT, YOU  
FLAM A LITTLE TO THE  
RIGHT! A  
LITTLE FLIM, A LITTLE FLAM, AND  
NO ONE KNOWS IF IT'S A SHAM! YOU

ALL THIS KINGDOM NEEDS IS ME!                      MAKE IT IF YOU HANG ON TIGHT!

*(HAMAN steps through those who surround him and breaks clearly away.)*

I'M THE NUMBER ONE MAN!

I'VE GOT HIS RING!

SO WHO NEEDS A KING!

*(They sing as a SERVANT enters and gives cowboy hats to everyone. They proudly don the hats and join in a lively square dance.)*

**HAMAN:**

IF ~A' IS ME, AND ~B' IS HE

THE CHOICE IS PURE SIMPLICITY

YOU CHOOSE THE ~A' AND NOT THE ~B'!

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS YOU SEE?!

**PRINCES & SERVANTS:**

YOU FLIM A LITTLE TO THE LEFT,

YOU FLAM A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT!

A LITTLE FLIM,

A LITTLE FLAM,

AND NO ONE KNOWS THAT IT'S A SHAM!

WE'LL MAKE IT IF WE HANG ON TIGHT!

WE'LL STICK WITH YOU! YOU'RE DYNAMITE!

OUR HAMAN IS THE FLIM-FLAM MAN!

LISTEN BOYS, WE'VE GOT THE PLAN!

**HAMAN:**

SOMEDAY THEY'LL ALL COME TO SEE

I AM WHAT I WAS BORN TO BE.

WHO NEEDS A KING WHEN YOU'VE GOT ME!

**HAMAN, PRINCES & SERVANTS:**

*(They do allemande left and right together.)*

DAY AND NIGHT!

LEFT AND RIGHT!

FLIM IS LEFT

AND FLAM IS RIGHT!

LISTEN BOYS, WE'VE GOT THE PLAN!

BETTER GRAB IT WHILE WE CAN!

WE'LL WIN IT WITH THE FLIM-FLAM MAN!

*(HAMAN & COMPANY eventually end their rousing dance and freeze.)*

**26 more pages to the end**