

The Muppets Take Purim (aka The Gonzo Megillah)

A Muppet Purim Comedy
For Congregation Beth David
(Saratoga, California)
2010

by
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

FOZZIE - ACHASHVEROSH
KERMIT - MORDECHAI
HAMAN
ESTHER
MISS PIGGY - VASHTI
HAMANTOSHEN MONSTER
COUNT VON COUNT
MUPPET 1
MUPPET 2

BEFORE CHAPTER ONE

KERMIT

It's The Purim Shpiel, with your special guest stars, The Muppets. Yay!!!

(Aileen sings in the opening notes.)

ALL

IT'S TIME TO READ MEGILLAH
IT'S TIME TO LIGHT THE LIGHTS
IT'S TIME TO MEET THE MUPPETS ON THIS EREV PURIM NIGHT.

IT'S TIME TO PUT ON MAKEUP
IT'S TIME TO DRESS UP RIGHT
IT'S TIME TO GET IN COSTUMES
'CAUSE IT'S EREV PURIM NIGHT!

WHY EVERY TIME WE COME HERE
THE JEWS ARE IN SOME WOE
BUT WE WILL COME OUT ON TOP
BY THE END OF THIS SHOW

IT'S TIME TO READ MEGILLAH
IT'S TIME TO DRESS UP RIGHT
AND NOW LET'S GET THINGS STARTED

ALL EXCEPT KERMIT

WHY DON'T YOU GET THINGS STARTED

KERMIT

IT'S TIME TO GET THINGS STARTED

ALL

ON THE MOST SENSATIONAL INSPIRATIONAL CELEBRATIONAL
MEGILLAH-LATIONAL
THIS IS WHAT WE CALL THE PURIM SHPIEL

(Shofar blast; we see a muppet with a shofar, but hear it from offstage.)

KERMIT

Hi-ho, everyone, and welcome to the Purim Show. I am usually Kermit the Frog but tonight you'll know me as Mordechai, the hero of the Purim story.

PIGGY

Oh, Kermie, my hero.

KERMIT

Mordechai. I'm Mordechai tonight.

PIGGY

Oh, sorry. (sweetly) Oh... Mordy... my hero.

KERMIT

Thank you, Piggy.

PIGGY

To whom are you speaking? (aside) You can't call me that tonight. It's a kosher building. You call me that and they'll kick me out on my pork rinds.

KERMIT

Good point. Tonight you will know this lovely lady as the queen of Shushan. (Piggy primps and smiles.) Queen Vashti.

PIGGY

What?!?

KERMIT

Queen Vashti.

PIGGY

But, ahem, Mordechai... I am supposed to play the ingenue.

KERMIT

It'll be fine, Piggy. Trust me. But we have to keep moving. (Piggy protests.) The show must go on.

PIGGY

(deep breath) All right. But you better be right or it's frog's legs for dinner. (Kermit looks at her.) They wouldn't have those here either, huh? Okay. Vashti. Got it.

KERMIT

The land of Shushan was ruled by King Achashverosh.

FOZZIE

Gesundheit!

KERMIT

King Achashverosh decided to have a huge banquet for all the land.

FOZZIE

I've decided to have a huge banquet for all the land, and everyone is invited!

KERMIT

And everyone attended the banquet for a hundred eighty days.

FOZZIE

A hundred eighty days? I hope it was BYOB.

KERMIT

He summoned his queen, Queen Vashti, to come to him at the banquet. (pause) He summoned Queen Vashti to come to him at the banquet!

PIGGY

No!

KERMIT

What?

PIGGY

I just read this story back there. I'm only in one lousy scene. So I am not coming to your stinking banquet.

KERMIT

Queen Vashti refused to come to the king, which is actually how the story goes. And the king decides that he needs a new queen.

FOZZIE

(nervous) I do?

KERMIT

You do.

PIGGY

Go ahead. Just try it.

FOZZIE

I am the king, and I have decided that I need a new queen!

PIGGY

King, sir, may I have a word with you in private? (they exit) Hiya!!!

KERMIT

And now to read from chapter one, on page (insert page), is (insert name). Yaaaayyyyy!

READ CHAPTER ONE

BEFORE CHAPTER TWO

ESTHER

SHUSHAN DAY
SWEEPIN' THE CLOUDS AWAY
ON MY WAY TO WHERE THE AIR IS SWEET
CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET,
HOW TO GET TO SHUSHAN STREET
HOW TO GET TO SHUSHAN STREET
HOW TO GET TO...

PIGGY

It's right here, sweetheart.

ESTHER

Oh, thank you very much.

PIGGY

So, you're the one he got to play Esther? Hmph.

ESTHER

I am Esther.

PIGGY

Listen, girl. My... Mordechai... Is a one-woman frog. You got that?

ESTHER

I don't know what you mean. Mordechai is my uncle. He wants me to enter a pageant at the palace. If I win I get to be the next queen.

PIGGY

You haven't won yet? Hmm...

ESTHER

It's where I'm going right now. And can you keep a secret?

PIGGY

Oh, of course, sweetie. Anything for you.

ESTHER

I'm not supposed to tell them I'm Jewish.

PIGGY

Yeah, yeah... So you haven't become queen yet? And the pageant is that way?

ESTHER

That's right!

PIGGY

Shove over, sister...

(**PIGGY** pushes past **ESTHER** and heads toward the palace.)

KERMIT

So Esther wins the pageant and becomes the new queen.

PIGGY

What?!?

KERMIT

I'm sorry... Vashti... The show must go on. So, go on. (nervous) Please?

PIGGY

You haven't seen the last of me. Hmph!

MUPPET 1 (TERESH) - YELMO

You know, Bigtan, I think we need to assassa... assassa...

MUPPET 2 (BIGTAN) - COOKIE MONSTER

Assassinate?

MUPPET 1

No. Kill the king.

MUPPET 2

Why, Teresh?

MUPPET 1

The script told me to.

MUPPET 2

Good enough for me. And who does he think he is, making his banquet BYOB? Let's get him.

KERMIT

Well, I'm off to report Bigtan and Teresh to the authorities. While I'm gone, to read from chapter two, on page (insert page), here's (insert name). Yaaaayyyy!

READ CHAPTER TWO

BEFORE CHAPTER THREE

KERMIT (CONT'D)

Now we come to chapter three, where we see the bad guy for the first time. Every time you hear his name you have to drown it out by making noise.

FOZZIE

(loud horn or somesuch) Wakka-wakka!

KERMIT

Thank you, Fozzie.

FOZZIE

That's not my name tonight.

KERMIT

All right. Thank you, King Achashverosh.

FOZZIE

Gesundheit! Wakka-wakka!

KERMIT

Will you get out of here! So when when you hear the bad guy's name you have to wait for when the name is actually said, and you have to stop after just a few seconds. We have a special guest who will do a song to help you practice.

HAMAN

HAMAN HAMAN

OTHERS

DOO DOO DOO-DOO-DOO (SOME DO IT IN RHYTHM WITH GRAGGARS)

HAMAN

HAMAN HAMAN

OTHERS

DOO DOO DOO DOO

HAMAN

HAMAN HAMAN

OTHERS

DOO DOO DO-DO-DOO, DO-DO-DOO, DO-DO-DOO
DO-DO-DOO DO-DO-DO-DO-DO-DO-DOO.

HAMAN

(LONG PAUSE. TRICK THEM.) HAMAN HAMAN

OTHERS

DOO DOO DOO DOO

HAMAN

(TRICK THEM AGAIN.) HAMAN HAMAN

OTHERS

DOO DOO DOO DOO

HAMAN

HAMAN HAMAN

OTHERS

DOO DOO DO-DO-DOO, DO-DO-DOO, DO-DO-DOO
DO-DO-DOO DO-DO-DO-DO-DO-DO-DOO.

FOZZIE

That song was so good. I have a very important job for you. I need you to go around Shushan and make sure everyone bows down to you all the time.

HAMAN

You got it, boss. (To **KERMIT**;) Well?

KERMIT

How am I supposed to bow to you? I don't have knees.

HAMAN

You're in trouble now... I'm casting lots to decide what day to kill not only you but all the Jews in Shushan.

COUNT VON COUNT

Today's winning number is thirteen. The thirteenth of Adar.

HAMAN

Is that okay with you, king?

FOZZIE

Uh, sure. (aside) Sorry, Kermit.

KERMIT

And now to read from chapter three, on page (page), here's (insert name). Yaaaayyyy!

READ CHAPTER THREE

BEFORE CHAPTER FOUR

KERMIT (CONT'D)

After

(**ALL** brace themselves.)

Haman ...

(**ALL** cover their ears.)

...decides to kill us all on the thirteenth of Adar, a great sense of mourning descends on all the Jews.

MUPPET 1 - COUNT

I sense great mourning.

MUPPET 2 - YELLMO

Me, too. I just woke up, it's sunny outside. What a beautiful day!

MUPPET 1 - COUNT

Not morning. Mourning. (heavy sigh, instructively)

MUPPET 2 - YELLMO

Oh... (heavy sigh)

KERMIT

(rolls eyes) What will the Jews do to survive? Mordechai decides to talk to the queen and get her help.

PIGGY

Here I am. What can I do for you?

KERMIT

Actually, the other queen. The Jewish queen.

PIGGY

Is this another pork joke?

KERMIT

No, it's just that Esther is the queen who's secretly Jewish.

PIGGY

Vashti could have been secretly Jewish.

It doesn't say that anywhere.

KERMIT

That's because it's a secret!

PIGGY

Will you let me do this scene?

KERMIT

Fine, go to your little girlfriend.

PIGGY

Niece! Esther is Mordechai's niece.

KERMIT

Did I hear my name?

ESTHER

Yes, I wonder if you can intercede with the king, and get him to overturn

KERMIT

(**ALL** brace themselves.)

Haman's...

(**ALL** cover their ears.)

...decree to kill us all.

ESTHER

Oh, but he hasn't summoned me. Anyone who goes before the king without being summoned is put to death.

PIGGY

Nice family you married into.

KERMIT

Esther, you have to. We'll all die. We're your people.

ESTHER

Okay, I'll see what I can do.

KERMIT

And so will we, as (insert name) continues on page (insert page) with chapter four.
Yaaaayyyy!

READ CHAPTER FOUR

BEFORE CHAPTER FIVE

KERMIT (CONT'D)

So before she risks her life going to the king unsummoned, Esther fasts for three days.

ESTHER

There wasn't anything fast about it.

KERMIT

And she goes before the king.

FOZZIE

...and so the boy says, "I'm not a Shoeshine Boy, I'm a Shushan Boy!" (laughs, alone)
What are you doing here? Don't you know I put people to death for coming to me unsummoned? Unless you liked my joke. (pause) Did you?

ESTHER

I loved it. I wanted to invite you and

(ALL brace themselves.)

Haman...

(ALL cover their ears.)

...to a feast.

FOZZIE

Oh, boy! A feast!

KERMIT

So they attended Esther's feast. And Esther worked up all the courage she could, and asked her king...

ESTHER

Can you both come to another feast tomorrow?

FOZZIE

Sure! That's the thing about Shushan food. I'm hungry again just a day later! (laughs, alone)

HAMAN

I'll come back tomorrow. If you'll excuse me, I have a date with the hangman.

FOZZIE

I've wondered about you two...

HAMAN

No, no... I'm having him build gallows fifty cubits high to hang my enemy.

FOZZIE

Okay. Don't stay up too late!

KERMIT

Will Esther save her people at the second feast? Will

(**ALL** brace themselves.)

Haman...

(**ALL** cover their ears.)

KERMIT (CONT'D)

...succeed in hanging Mordechai? (gulp) We'll find out, but now here's (insert name) to read from chapter five on page (insert page). Yaaaayyyy!

READ CHAPTER FIVE

BEFORE CHAPTER SIX

YELMO

Chapter Six is brought to you by the letter Hay.

COOKIE MONSTER

NOW WHAT STARTS WITH DA LETTER HAY
HAMANTOSHEN STARTS WITH HAY
LET'S THINK OF OTHER THINGS THAT STARTS WITH HAY
UH... UH... WHO CARE ABOUT DA OTHER THINGS?!?

HAY IS FOR HAMAN-TOSHEN'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME
HAY IS FOR HAMAN-TOSHEN FILLED WITH FRUIT FOR ME
HAY IS FOR HAMAN-TOSHEN'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME
OH! HAMAN, HAMAN TOSHEN, WITH HAY

Hey, you know what? A hamantoshen with one bite out of it... doesn't look like a Hay.
Hmm... If me take two bites here, and here... Hmm... Me gonna work on it. Everybody!

ALL

HAY IS FOR HAMAN-TOSHEN'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME
HAY IS FOR HAMAN-TOSHEN FILLED WITH FRUIT FOR ME
HAY IS FOR HAMAN-TOSHEN'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME
OH! HAMAN, HAMAN TOSHEN, STARTS WITH HAY

KERMIT

And now to read from chapter six, on page (insert page), here's (insert name).
Yaaaayyyy!

READ CHAPTER SIX

BEFORE CHAPTER SEVEN

FOZZIE

I can't sleep. Someone read to me from my book of chronicles.

MUPPET 1 - YELLMO

Mordechai saved the king from Bigtan and Teresh who threatened to assassinate... assassinate...

MUPPET 2 - COUNT

To kill him.

FOZZIE

Wow! What did I do to repay him?

MUPPET 1 - YELLMO

I have it right here... If I remember right... Nothing.

FOZZIE

Wow. What kind of king am I? Don't answer that! All right, get me

(ALL brace themselves.)

Haman.

(ALL cover their ears, except **FOZZIE**.)

Wait! No! I didn't mean to! I meant "that guy!" I didn't mean to say Haman!

(ALL cover their ears. Except **FOZZIE**.)

No!!! (after sound dies:) That's better. So, Haman...

(ALL cover their ears, groaning. **FOZZIE** shakes his head.)

(whimper) ...how should I honor someone very important?

HAMAN

Oh, you should let me... I mean him, wear the royal robes and crown, and be led around town on one of your royal horses.

FOZZIE

That sounds great! Do that for Mordechai. And I want you to lead the horse through town. He's a great guy, don't you think?

HAMAN

I think he'll be a great guy to have hanging around on the thirteenth of Adar.

KERMIT

So

(**ALL** brace themselves.)

Haman...

(**ALL** cover their ears.)

...led Mordechai around on the king's horse all day, then came to Esther's second banquet for him and the king.

HAMAN

Today can only get better.

ESTHER

(Pointing out **HAMAN**:) He wants to kill my people.

HAMAN

Your people?!?

FOZZIE

He what?!?

HAMAN

No I don't, I want to kill the Jews.

ESTHER

Exactly.

FOZZIE

You're Jewish?

ESTHER

Don't worry, it's kosher for you to be married to me.

PIGGY

Was that another pork joke?

FOZZIE

I'm so confused.

KERMIT

(showing him the script) Tell them to hang

(**ALL** brace themselves.)

Haman...

(**ALL** cover their ears.)

...on the gallows he built for me.

FOZZIE

Hang Haman ...

(**ALL** brace themselves, cover their ears.)

...on the gallows he built for me.

KERMIT

Close enough. And now to read from chapter seven, on page (insert page), here's (insert name). Yaaaayyyy!

READ CHAPTER SEVEN

BEFORE CHAPTER EIGHT

FOZZIE

I appoint Mordechai to a very high office in my government.

ALL

Yay!

KERMIT

How high?

FOZZIE

It's on the tenth floor.

ESTHER

Aren't we forgetting something?

ALL

No!

ESTHER

The king needs to retract (**ALL** brace themselves.) Haman's...

(**ALL** cover their ears.)

...decree against all of us. It's still on the books.

FOZZIE

Don't you mean on the scroll? Okay, okay. I retract the decree!

ALL

Yay!

FOZZIE

From this day forward, Shushan is free for everybody!

ALL

Free shoe shines for everybody? Yay!

FOZZIE

No, no... Not shoe shine...

KERMIT

And now to read from chapter eight, on page (page), here's (insert name). Yaaaayyyyy!

READ CHAPTER EIGHT

BEFORE CHAPTER NINE

KERMIT (CONT'D)

On the thirteenth of Adar, the Jewish people defeat

(ALL brace themselves.)

Haman...

(ALL cover their ears.)

...and his followers. Instead of Mordechai and the Jews being wiped out that day, (ALL brace themselves) Haman...

(ALL cover their ears.)

... is hung that day along with his ten sons.

COUNT VON COUNT

One Haman son! Two Haman son! Three Haman son! Four Haman son! Five Haman...

KERMIT

Yes, yes, we get the point. I knew we could count on you.

FOZZIE

(enter) Oh, please. Even I wouldn't have made that joke. (exit)

KERMIT

So the Jews of Shushan finishes taking care of their enemies. And Mordechai, that's me, writes down everything that happened and establishes the holiday of Purim.

FOZZIE

God bless us, everyone.

KERMIT

Fozzie!

FOZZIE

What? Oh. Sorry.

KERMIT

Let's just hear chapter nine before we have to file for chapter eleven. And now to read from chapter nine, on page (insert page), here's (insert name). Yaaaayyyy!

READ CHAPTER NINE

BEFORE CHAPTER TEN

FOZZIE

On behalf of all the kingdom of Shushan, I recognize Mordechai as a hero. He's saved himself and his entire people!

ALL

Yay!!!

PIGGY

And now Mordechai sits on a hill overlooking Shushan, singing about the new holiday he's founded, the holiday of Purim.

KERMIT

WHY AREN'T THERE SO MANY
SONGS ABOUT PURIM
SOMEHOW IT HAS BEEN DENIED
JEWS WROTE WHITE CHRISTMAS
BUT SOMETHING IS AMISS
THERE'S NO HIT SONG FOR MORDECHAI

IF ADAM SANDLER WROTE ONE WE'D ALL BUY IT
SOMEONE CALL HIS AGENT FOR ME
SOME DAY WE'LL FIND IT
THE PURIM CONNECTION
FOR GRAGGERS, FOR ESTHER, AND ME.

ALL

DAH DAH DAH DEE
DAH DAH DAH
DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH, DAH DAH.

READ CHAPTER TEN