

Esther

This musical is based on events chronicled in the Old Testament Book of Esther. They take place in Susa, the capital city of Persia, at the winter residence of the Persian emperor, King Xerxes (otherwise known as Ahasuerus). It is the fifth century B.C. The action centres round a Jewish heroine named Esther, who by her great courage and devotion to her people saved them from being exterminated by their enemies. This event is still commemorated each year during the Festival of Purim.

Dramarama has endeavoured to bring to you its own unique interpretation of these events! We hope you enjoy the performance and that you will find the experience both entertaining and enlightening.

NEXT DRAMARAMA PRODUCTION

SLEEPING BEAUTY

17th, 18th & 19th FEBRUARY 2006

A few words from the co-writers

Welcome to our 2nd Musical Production, which we hope you enjoy. We have had fun(!) (or was it all blood, sweat and tears?) composing the music for the dances and the songs, and writing the script and lyrics for this work. And so it is a great thrill for us to see 'Esther' actually being performed on stage.

Our thanks go not only to our long suffering families but also especially to the following:

- To Pauline, our tireless producer/director, for all the hard work and guts necessary to launch this ambitious project within the very limited time available for rehearsal, whilst managing to make all the lovely costumes (and at the same time write the script for the next Dramarama pantomime!)
- To Ken, for his encouragement and his ever-patient, inspiring coaxing forth of our musical talents.
- To our wonderful colleagues: the cast, the production team, the back stage crew, for tackling this extra production in such an encouraging, pleasant and enthusiastic manner.
- To everyone who has helped in any way, including those who have made the refreshments during shows and rehearsals, to those who have helped with posters, tickets, front of house.
- To Cousins Copy Centre, for so kindly printing the posters, tickets and programmes for 'Esther' free of charge. We are most grateful.
- Our heartfelt thanks to an amazing team and to your good selves, the audience, for your much appreciated support.

Thanks guys,

Hazel & Andrew.

Esther A Tale of Intrigue

Prologue

Miss gets the thumbs down and 7R's Religious Studies course gets a make over.

Act 1 Beauty and the Feast

Sc.1 Xerxes sends for Vashti!

Sc.2 Women's Lib? Vashti shows what she is made of
. . . or does she?

Sc.3 Xerxes is definitely not amused!

Sc.4 No radio. No television. But news travels fast.

Sc.5 Revolting wives.

Sc.6 King Xerxes regrets

Act 2 Things are looking up for Xerxes

Sc.1 Calling all virgins.

Sc.2 The Beauty Contest.

Sc.3 Mordecai can't believe his ears _ or eyes!

Sc.4 Mordecai gives Esther a word of advice.

Sc.5 Bring on the ladies! Hegai holds a eunuchs' briefing meeting.

Sc.6 Haven't they done well?!

Sc.7 Esther awaits the King's pleasure.

Sc.8 The morning after.

Sc.9 Congratulations and celebrations.

SC.10 When I grow up

INTERVAL

Act 3 *Cunning Plans, Plots and Intrigues*

- Sc.1 Haman is definitely not amused.
- Sc.2 Haman bends the King's ear.
- Sc.3 Esther's dilemma.
- Sc.4 Make your mind up time for Esther.
- Sc.5 Esther entertains.
- Sc.6 And makes it 22 metres tall!!
- Sc.7 Some late night reading for Xerxes.
- Sc.8 Zeresh delivers a wifely ultimatum for Haman!
- Sc.9 Haman gets his come-uppance.

Act 4 *The Fate of the Jews*

- Sc.1 Confession time
- Sc.2 Festival of Purim

Epilogue

7R announce the verdict

Finale

C-A-R-N-I-V-A-L

The Cast

<i>Narrator / Teacher:</i>	Joyce Davis
<i>Xerxes:</i>	George Crozer
<i>Vashti:</i>	Angela Bostock
<i>Mordecai:</i>	Geoffrey Bowe
<i>Esther:</i>	Noleen Skudder
<i>Haman:</i>	Mick Woolmington
<i>Zeresh:</i>	Adele Lawson
<i>Rabbi:</i>	Gary Thomas

Pupils: Amelia Skudder, Katie Hayward, Sinead Lawson, Jessica Yelton, Ellie May Quigley, Lorna Yelton, Francesca Goodman.

Advisers / Officials / Courtiers

<i>Memucan (Chief Adviser):</i>	Anita Russell
<i>Tarshish / Official Newsreader:</i>	Fred Beringer
<i>Carshena:</i>	Adele Lawson
<i>Meres:</i>	Denis Batchelor
<i>Marsena:</i>	Ian Stone

Eunuchs

<i>Hegai (Chief Eunuch):</i>	Mark Skudder
<i>Mehuman / Town Crier:</i>	Pauline Martin
<i>Harbona:</i>	Alex Woolmington
<i>Hathach (King's Servant):</i>	Di Welch

Ladies-in-Waiting to Vashti To Esther

Katie Hayward
Sinead Lawson

Katie Hayward / Angela Bostock
Sinead Lawson / Lorna Yelton

Handmaids to Esther

Amelia Skudder, Francesca Goodman,
Jessica Yelton, Ellie May Quigley.

Palace Servants

Eileen Batchelor, June Collins, Lin Lambourne, Lynn Yelton,
Hilda Woolmington, Kathy Whybrow.

Beauties include:

Girl A - Eileen Batchelor
Girl B - Hilda Woolmington
Girl C - Lin Lambourne.

Production Team

<i>Producer/Director:</i>	Pauline Martin
<i>Director of Music:</i>	Ken Reynolds
<i>Keyboard:</i>	Hazel Beringer
<i>Original CD:</i>	Andrew Wells
<i>Sound:</i>	Jane Crozer
<i>Lighting:</i>	Jacob Skudder
<i>Prompt:</i>	Lesley Munday
<i>Back Stage Crew:</i>	Gary Thomas, Jenny Thomas, Debbie Pike
<i>Choreography:</i>	Noleen Skudder, Pauline Martin
<i>Costumes:</i>	Pauline Martin
<i>Scenery:</i>	Pauline Martin, Anita Russell, Jane & George Crozer, Noleen & Mark Skudder, Gary & Jenny Thomas.

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Details from Anita Russell (01634) 255088)



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