

ESTHER

Music and Lyrics by Martin Landry Book and Lyrics by Janice Landry

CAST:

ESTHER: Female. Appears 18-late 20s. A Jewish orphan, living in exile. Over the course of the play, we see her grow out of girlish insecurity into strength and dignity. She is initially driven by her fear of losing friends and popularity, striving to be a "normal" Persian. Throughout the play her strength grows and peaks as she prepares to make the ultimate sacrifice and embrace her true identity. Mezzo-soprano (LEAD)

XERXES: Male, late 20s - late 30s. King of Persia. Thinks of himself as the most handsome, charming man in the world. He quickly proves to be a spoiled, yet lovable child in a grown up body. Although dangerously powerful and frequently drunk, we admire his honesty and (oddly) innocence. He truly believes himself to be a wonderful human being. Queen Esther eventually helps him become a true leader and person of character. Requires a very physical, comedic performer. Tenor (LEAD)

HAMAN: Male, 30s. King Xerxes' chief advisor and best friend. He is an overly popular politician who has earned his way in society by flattery and deceit. While somewhat likable on the outside, he eventually shows his true colors: he is power hungry, blood thirsty, manic-depressive, and full of hatred for anyone who stands in his way. Baritone/Tenor (PRINCIPAL)

MEMUCAN: Male, 20s-30s. Energetic, comedic, somewhat cynical narrator of the story. Must be an excellent story teller. He has an intense dislike for Haman that is fueled by various power plays. Strong sense of duty to Xerxes and Persia. Could double as the Beauty Queen HOST. Baritone. If necessary, this role could be played by a female dressed as a male. (PRINCIPAL)

MORDECAI: Male, Appears late 30s- 50s. Esther's father figure. One who greatly appreciates his Jewish heritage and faith, wishing Esther would do the same. He is warm and caring with a big heart and personality. Sarcastic and almost painfully honest, he is not afraid to be contrary or offensive. Bass/Baritone. (PRINCIPAL)

VASHTI: Female, 20's - 30's. Neurotic, slightly crazed Queen of Persia. Full of confidence and dignity. She probably won beauty pageants as a child and organized them as an adult. Big voice and big personality. Could double as Zeresh or a Beauty Queen contestant. Alto/Belter (SUPPORTING).

TALA: Female, Appears 18 - 25. An innocent Persian girl who cooks at the Palace. She becomes Esther's best friend. Honest, simple, enthusiastic, a bit slow, and an air head. But completely sincere and lovable. Mezzo-Soprano. (SUPPORTING)

ZERESH: Female, 20s - late 30s. Haman's wife. Boisterous and manipulative. She married Haman for the power he could give her and uses her influence over him as much as possible. She flatters when necessary but ultimately despises Haman. (SUPPORTING)

THE STOOGES: A group of 7 advisors to King Xerxes. Male characters, but could include females dressed as men. Must be very strong in improvisation and physical communication/comedy. Must have excellent stage presence and the ability to add to a scene without too much distraction. (SUPPORTING)

CRABBY: Appears late 50s - 80's. A crotchety, old, miserable woman. Always looking for a fight or a juicy piece of gossip.

HOST: Male or Female, host of beauty queen competition. Energetic, sarcastic, wears a smile in the worst of situations. Should be played by an actor with great comedic timing. Could play an instrument. Role can be played by Memucan.

HEGAI: Male or female, "trainer" in the beauty queen competition. Tries to intimidate contestants and typically fails. Could be played as a military sergeant.

DARIA: Beauty Queen Contestant with almost clownish looking makeup, clothing, and hair. Could be a bad singer (sings solo lines, but could sing them comedically "bad"). Mezzo/Belter.

LEILA: BQ Contestant. A young girl, think 8-10 years old. She is as girlish as can be, possibly with a speech impediment and bright little girl clothing. Mezzo/Belter.

PARISA: BQ Contestant. Can't contain her excitement. Loud and a bit annoying. Tension (from excitement) is almost always bursting through every bone of her body. Mezzo/Belter.

BIGTHAN: A male character (could be played by a female), utterly stupid, part of plot to kill the king. Baritone or Bass.

TERESH: A male character (could be played by a female), he is the evil mastermind of the plot to kill Xerxes. Bullies Bigthan emotionally and physically. Baritone or Bass

ENSEMBLE ROLES: Various small features including INNOCENT BYSTANDER, MEAN GIRLS, Vashti's ladies/dancers, Men and Women at the Market, Beauty Queen Contestants/Soloists, Couriers, etc.