

# QUEEN ESTHER THE HIP- HOPERA CHARACTERS

## MAIN CHARACTERS

### 1. Esther (Hadassah) (Female playing age 20's)

- A beautiful young **Jewish woman** living in Persia.
- Orphaned and raised by her cousin Mordecai.
- Chosen to be **Queen of Persia** after Queen Vashti is removed.
- Courageously risks her life to **save her people** by revealing her Jewish identity to King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) and exposing Haman's plot.

### 2. Mordecai (Male playing age 40s-50s)

- Esther's **older cousin and guardian** (sometimes called her uncle).
- A Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, who works at the king's gate.
- **Uncovers a plot** to assassinate King Xerxes.
- Refuses to bow to Haman, which sparks Haman's hatred of the Jews.
- Later honoured by the king and becomes **second in command** after Haman's downfall.

### 3. Haman (Male playing age 40s-50s)

- The **villain** of the story.
- An **Agagite**, meaning he descended from the Amalekites (enemies of Israel).
- The king's top official, promoted above all other nobles.
- Furious that Mordecai won't bow to him, so he plots to **exterminate all Jews** in the Persian Empire.
- Eventually exposed by Esther and executed on the gallows he built for Mordecai.

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### 4. King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) (Male playing age 30's)

- The **King of Persia** (historically Xerxes I, who reigned 486–465 BC).
- Powerful but easily influenced.
- Deposes Queen Vashti for disobedience and later chooses Esther as queen.
- Grants Haman authority to issue a decree against the Jews, then later **reverses it** at Esther's request.

## OTHER SUPPORTING & ENSEMBLE CHARACTERS

### 5. Hegai (Male playing age 30s-50s)

- **Role:** The king's Chamberlain who was **in charge of the harem**.
- **Position:** He served under King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) and was responsible for preparing and overseeing the women brought to the royal palace for the king's selection of a new queen.
  - His kindness and support helped Esther stand out and eventually **become queen**.

## 6. **Lady Haman (Zeresh)** (Female playing age 40s-50s)

- **Role:** **Wife of Haman**, the royal official who plotted against the Jews.
- **Significance:** She **encouraged Haman** to build a 75-foot gallows to hang Mordecai (Esther 5:14).  
-Later, when Haman's plans began to unravel, she **warned him** that if Mordecai was truly of Jewish descent, Haman would surely fall before him (Esther 6:13).
- Her words mark the turning point in Haman's downfall.

## 7. **Queen Vashti (Doubles as Jacinda/ensemble)** (Female playing age 20s-30s)

- The **former queen** of Persia, married to Xerxes before Esther.
- Refuses to appear at the king's banquet to show off her beauty.
- Removed from her position — which leads to Esther becoming queen.
- Symbolises dignity and independence.

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## 8 & 9. **Bigthana and Teresh ( guards/ensemble)** (Male playing age 20s-30s)

- Two of the king's eunuchs who work in the palace & **plot to assassinate** Xerxes.
- Their plot is **exposed by Mordecai** and recorded in the royal chronicles.

## 10 & 11 . **Zarah & Giselle / Ensemble** (Female playing age 20s)

- The deceitful Daughters of Haman and Lady Haman
- Queen Vashti's attendants who later get sent to Harem prompted by their parents,
- They see Esther as a threat in the Harem and try to sabotage her hopes.

## 12 & 13 **Zion & Ramah / Ensemble** (Playing ages 8-13)

- Children of the wider Jewish community living under Persian rule.
- They confide in Esther about their struggles
- They **fast and pray** for Esther and later **celebrate Purim** when they are saved from destruction.

### Character in Summary

1. **Esther (Hadassah)** (Female playing age 20's)

2. **Mordecai** (Male playing age 40s-50s)

3. **Haman** (Male playing age 40s-50s)

4. **King Xerxes (Ahasuerus)** (Male playing age 30's)

5. **Hegai** (Male playing age 30s-50s)

6. **Lady Haman (Zeresh)** (Female playing age 40s-50s)

7. **Queen Vashti (Doubles as Jacinda/ensemble)** (Female playing age 20s-30s)

8 & 9. **Bigthana and Teresh ( guards/ensemble)** (Male playing age 20s-30s)

10 & 11 . **Zarah & Giselle / Ensemble** (Female playing age 20s)

12 & 13 **Zion & Ramah / Ensemble** (Playing ages 8-13)

