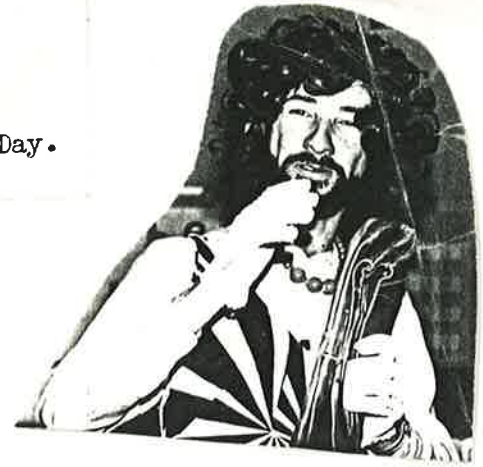


PURIMSPIEL is SMASH HIT MUSICAL  
at GOLDERS GREEN

From our Social Correspondent, Alan Day.  
Saturday March 17, 1984.



A hush descends on the select gathering in the Unitarian Church Hall at Hoop Lane. The plaintive strains of a fiddle slowly fill the expectant air. A dapper figure, immaculate in evening wear, steps into the penetrating spotlights and declares:

"A Gay Purimspiel! Sounds crazy no?"

So begins an outrageous and high camp version of the Story of Esther presented by a talented ensemble of five. Barry Davis led as the Presenter, with Lawrence Brown as accompanist and Mrs. Mordechai, Peter Golds as Haman and Tree, Mike Lee as Ahazueras, and Russell Vandyk as Esther.



After the audience have feasted their eyes on the opening melee to the tune of 'Tradition!', and groaned through an impromptu audition of Waiter Jokes, we return to the Purimspiel and meet Esther. Not the seventy-five year old of Biblical Legend but ravishingly coy, construction hatted, and flaunting an ankle-length dress. She has fallen in love with Ahazueras. He is the owner of the Heaven Subway Intercontinental Disco-you know, the one with the back room, and now making a take-over bid for the Grosvenor Rooms in Willesden Green.



At her mother's Semi on Hendon Way, Esther confesses her love in a touching scene to Mrs. Mordechai, a recently retired bearded lady from Mill Hill Circus. Ahazueras isn't exactly Jewish but Esther pleads: "If you could see him through my eyes, He wouldn't look Goyish at all"

Battling against a whirlwind of emotions, Mrs. Mordechai finds herself on Hampstead Heath and stumbles into the arms of a tree, Haman's subtle disguise. She thrills to his embrace and sings:

"I've never been in love with a tree before".

The two happy couples, destined for a grand function at the Grosvenor Rooms are exhorted in an audience sing-along to "Brush up their Talmud" which was rapturously encored.



So the way is now paved for the marriage licences and Cricklewood Broadway beckons. Whereupon the jubilant cast to the audience's resounding applause, launch their finale, "Hooray for Cricklewood!"

# JEWISH GAY GROUP

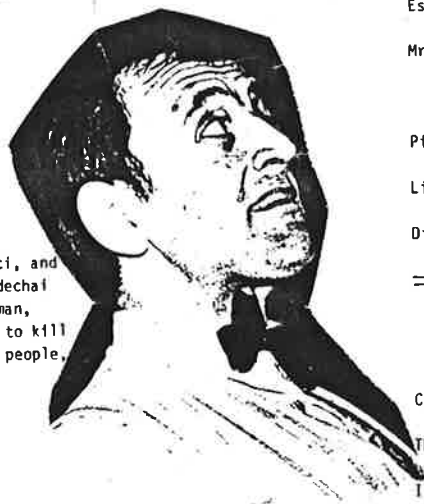
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## PURIM SPIEL

### THE ORIGINAL STORY

King Ahasueras of Persia divorces his first wife Vashti, and marries the beautiful Jewess Ester. Ester's uncle Mordechai discovers a plot to kill the king and is rewarded. Haman, the king's Prime Minister, hates Mordechai and decides to kill all the Jews. Queen Ester intercedes on behalf of her people. Haman is vanquished and the Jews are saved.



### OUR VERSION

Ahasueras, owner of a gay club, dumps his affair Vashti. While drinking in his club with his manager Harry Haman, Ester walks in and they fall in love. Ester goes home and tells her mother Mrs Mordechai the good news - but there is one little problem, he isn't exactly Jewish. Mrs Mordechai wanders the streets of North London and ends up on Hampstead Heath where she meets Harry Haman in disguise. They fall in love and all is resolved.



Place: North London  
Time: 1985

Introduction: the Badchen sets the scene with "A Function".

Interlude: a sand dance.

### Act 1

Scene 1. In the street outside the gay club. Her membership cancelled, Vashti sings "I'm just the girl who did say No".

Scene 2. Inside the club, Ahasueras and Harry Haman talk about the old days and sing "My Clubele Bolts"

Scene 3. Inside the club, Ester enters "Maybe this time", meets Ahasueras and they fall in love.

Entr'acte. Auditions for acts for the new club.



### CAST

in order of appearance:

the Badchen, or story-teller	Barry
Vashti, the jilted affair.	Gerald
Ahasueras, owner of the gay club.	Michael
Harry Haman, manager of the club.	Peter
Ester, heroine of the story.	Russel
Mrs. Mordechai, Ester's mother.	Norman

Pianist	Dave
Lights/sound	Alan
Director	Barry

Catering by "Nem and Es".

This space donated by "Anon".

Irving M. Goldberg, of "Goldberg, Goldberg, Goldberg and O'Brian" wishes the Purim-spiel every success.

Any resemblance to any persons living or dead is quite unintended but if the characters remind you of anyone you know, have you thought of changing your friends?



### BRUSH UP YOUR TALMUD

Brush up your Talmud

Start quoting it now

Brush up your Talmud

And the Frummers you will wow

Just give us a parsha from Moshe

And your droshe will make it all kosher;

By looking up your Maimonides

With Rashi they'll correct wrong ideas;

You won't have to shlog your kapores

For your Talmud will rid you of Tsores.

Brush up your Talmud

And they'll all kow-tow.

### Act 2

Scene 1. Chez Mrs Mordechai as she does the housework, she sings "I have a dream".

Scene 2. Ester arrives and tells her mother the good news. "If you could see him through my eyes"

Scene 3. On Hampstead Heath. Mrs Mordechai meets Harry Haman and they fall in love.

### Finale

All is resolved as they "Brush up their Talmud", with a "Broadway baby" and "Hooray for Cricklewood".

### Spielers' Purim Triumph!

A large audience drawn from all over London eagerly assembled in the well known Golders Green entertainment Centre - Hoop Lane Unitarian Church Hall. They were lured by lavish advertising and, of course, the reputation of the event. They were not to be disappointed.

The now traditional Purim Spiel was by common consent another spectacular hit, and a date not to be missed in next year's Calendar.

Barry performed the role of Badchen in inimitable mittleeuropaeish style. At the piano, David who had already played an entertaining pre-curtain medley, provided a masterly accompaniment.

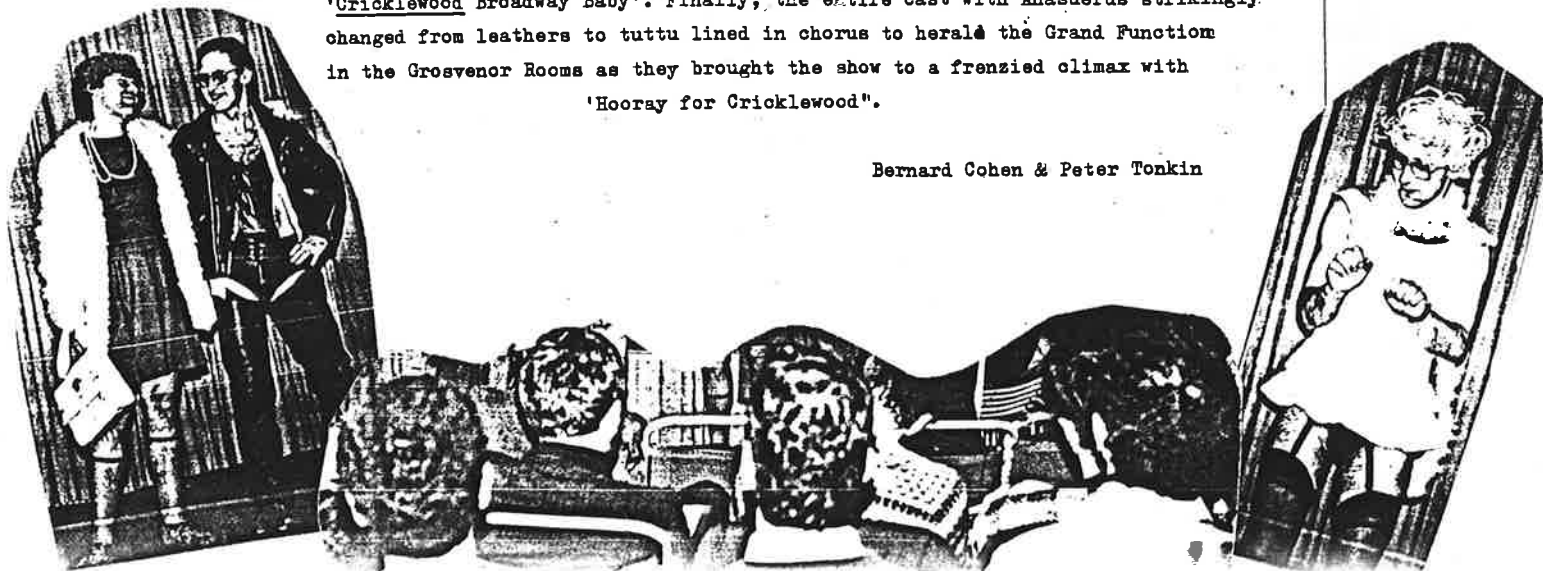
Opening the show was Vashti (Gerald). Though a somewhat tragic and short-lived part it was interpreted with delicacy. Then followed a very leather clad and butch Ahasuerus (Mike), and Haman (Peter) attired in black bowler, a cocky T-shirt and white silk boiler suit. Their final duet, an unusual rendition of that plaintive Yiddische song - 'My Olubele Bolts' - , was deeply moving. Hard on Haman's exit, the voluptuous Esther (Russell), alluringly dressed in red frock topped with a robe of white shag pile, made her big entrance. As she pondered 'May be this time', she treated the audience to her speculations on matrimony. Her extravagant hopes yielded instant fruit when she hit it off with Ahasuerus, having first winded the Big Boy with a deftly aimed handbag. The happy couple coo over their domestic plans. They Closed the First Act with their proud boast to be 'The Queens who live on Stanmore Hill'.

Then an interval of bad jokes....

Act Two introduced Esther's Mother, Mrs. Mordachai (Norman) who bedecked in a psychedelic green wig and clutching a broomstick poignantly gave voice to 'I have a dream'. But Esther's tidings shattered the mood of hope and mother and daughter combined to strike a note of social realism by touching on the tricky subject of inter-marriage. If she could see him (Ahasuerus) through Esther's eyes, he wouldn't 'look Goyish at all'. Mrs. Mordachai's gloom, however, was soon dispelled with the re-appearance of Haman in a splendid scene set on Hampstead Heath. In the penumbra she encounters him disguised as a tree and lightening love ensued. The pair in resplendent voice rejoiced and beseeched 'The stars to stop where they are'.

Any further obstacles to bliss are to be swept aside by the expedient of 'Brush up your Talmud....And they'll all kow-tow' - an exhortation to which the audience gleefully sang along. Thus fortified, we were led to the finale and on our way we met the versatile Peter re-incarnated as the legendary Broadway Baby. Dressed in cute Sixties two piece suit she enraptured the audience with her shapely legs and her rousing version of 'Cricklewood Broadway Baby'. Finally, the entire cast with Ahasuerus strikingly changed from leathers to tuttu lined in chorus to herald the Grand Function in the Grosvenor Rooms as they brought the show to a frenzied climax with 'Hooray for Cricklewood'.

Bernard Cohen & Peter Tonkin





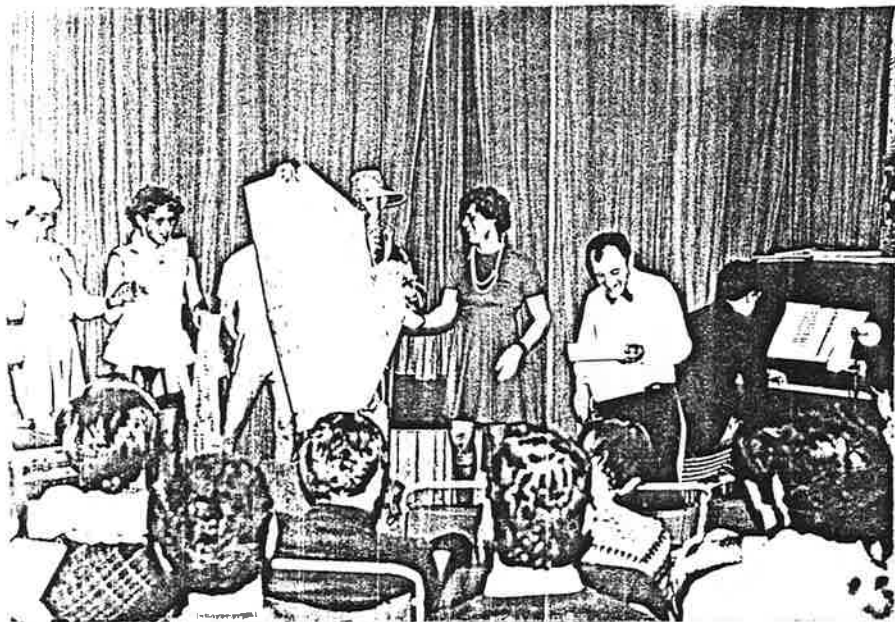


Tonight, tonight, I'll see my love tonight.  
And for us stars will stop where they are.

11



Broadway Baby learning how to sing and dance.  
Waiting for my one big chance to be in a show.



We want you all to sing together...  
'Brush up your Talmud.  
Start quoting it now'.



Our story's now ended  
Tho' it has tended  
To be somewhat confused...  
Hooray for Cricklewood.



I've lost my membership card now.  
To me he said vamoos.



# Souvenir Snaps!

My clubele Bolts....  
Every Saturday night we'd go there  
Anticipating such joys.  
We'd stand there on the edge of the dance floor  
Throwing glances at all of the boys....



Oh, my resistance crumbles. You can have  
do-minion over me anytime.



Customer: What kind of chicken did you bring me?  
One leg is shorter then the other!  
Waiter: Did you come here to eat the chicken  
or to dance with it?



Only the besta for my Esther.  
I have a dream.

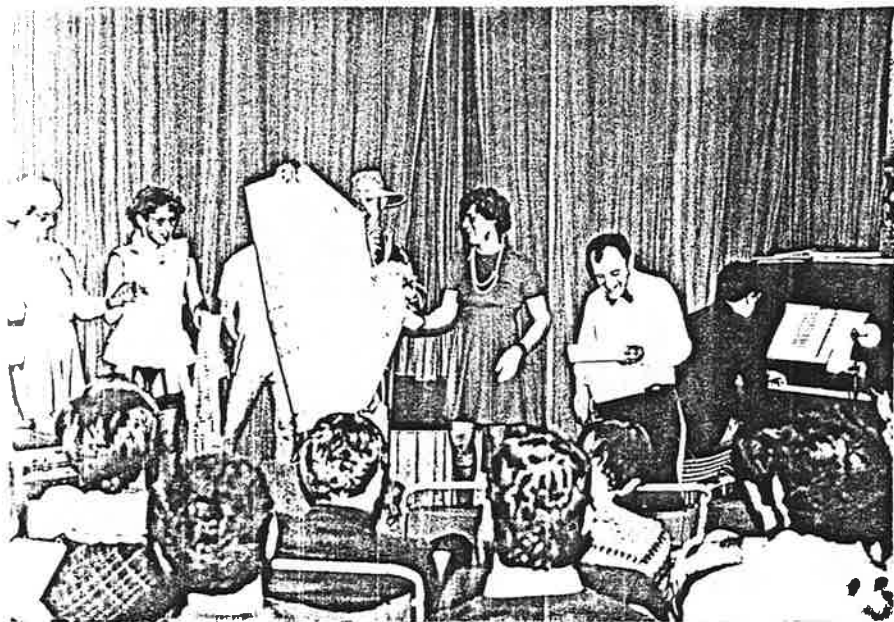


It's so exciting...I have met the most  
wonderful man in the whole world.



Tonight, tonight, I'll see my love tonight.  
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