

SCRIPT

A Symbol of Chanukah

A Mini-Musical by Cara
Freedman

By Cara Freedman ©1986,1992



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This show was originally produced at Congregation Beth Israel Day School in San Diego, CA in 1986.

Logo by Jennifer Garstang

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[Vladimir looks over the heads of the audience, as he thinks about his home in Russia.]

Scene 2 – Outside the Gift Shop of the School

[Josh, Seth, Jessica, Barry, Debra, and Daniel are talking.]

Josh: **(Pulls out a long, folded list.)** I just made out a huge list of things that I want for Chanukah. This year, I'm really gonna rake it in!!

Seth: What are you getting for your secret pal?

Josh: I haven't thought about that yet. What are you getting?

Seth: I don't know. I'm going to the Gift Shop before it closes. **(Taking money from his pockets)** What do you think I can buy for three dollars, eighty-four cents and a Sega cartridge?

Josh: Ha! Lots of luck, Seth. You can start with me. I'd like a new Lexus, a gold one. With chrome wheels.

Seth: You don't have to drive yet, Josh. Maybe next Chanukah. See ya. **(Josh exits.)**

Jessica: **(To Barry.)** So, what are you going to buy me?

Barry: Jessica, I am not your secret pal. Leave me alone!

Jessica: Then who is?

Barry: It's a secret! How should I know?

Debra: I always get everything I want. I hope my secret pal knows that!

Daniel: Wow, everything?

Barry: Let's see. **(Takes out a calculator.)** One present for eight days of Chanukah.

[Vladimir is watching. He sings his part of the following song dreamily from the side of the stage.]

Song #2 **EIGHT DAYS, EIGHT WAYS**

You've helped someone, you've helped someone
You've helped someone succeed.

[After the song, everyone looks at Vladimir, this Russian student. Daniel and Debra exit. Barry, Jessica, Sarah, and David walk downstage. Vladimir stares at the Gift Shop.]

Vladimir: I can't believe it.

Seth: What?

Vladimir: I can't believe it.

Seth: It's just a store! **(Gives him a strange look.)** What's with you?

Scene 3 – Inside the Gift Shop

[The curtain opens to reveal a Jewish Gift Shop, filled with the spirit of Chanukah. Obvious symbols of Chanukah are placed around the store. Among them, a Dancing Human Chanukiah, Dancing Gelt, Dancing Dreidels, and a Human Greeting Card Rack. They stand completely still. Mrs. Goldman is humming to herself and arranging gift wrap. Seth walks over to the Chanukiah.]

Mrs. Goldman: Oy vey!! Two more days of this mishugas. But don't think I don't love it!! Chanukah...the joyous festival of light. Everyone is happy, and everyone is spending gelt like crazy!

Mrs. Stein: **(Enters, Stage right.)** Oh, there you are. Come Sarah and David. We must choose a card for Aba and Grandpa Lou and Uncle Saul and... did I forget anyone?

Mrs. Goldman: Oy! **(Pinching Sarah's cheeks.)** Look at this shayna punim. I bet you're a big help to your Mommy.

Sarah: I know how to make potato latkes, and I'm going to make hundreds of them for my brother, David...

David: YUK! I'm not touching anything Sarah makes!!

Mrs. Stein: Hush, David. They'll be delicious. Now, the cards... **(They walk to the rack and look.)**

Mrs. Levy: **(In a hurry.)** Two bags of chocolate gelt, please.

[Drum March]

We sell out faster than anything else
In the gift shop when Chanukah's near
Aunts, uncles, cousins buy us by the dozens
Announcing that Chanukah's here

It's a Mitzvah to share and to do a good deed
As our people have always felt
You can make someone happy and help those in need
We can all find a use for some gelt!!

- Miss Levy: This is the most unique gift shop! I'll take these three bags. **(She goes to the cash register, pays and exits with three Dancing Gelt Bags. Vladimir is still watching. Barry and Jessica come downstage.)**
- Barry: OK, Jessica. This is it. The 25th of Kislev is almost upon us.
- Jessica: Kiss-love? **(She puckers her lips)**
- Barry: Kislev, Kislev. **(Pulls out his calculator)** That's the name of the Hebrew month in which Chanukah falls.
- Jessica: **(Dreamily...)** Oh Barry, you know everything.
- Barry: Chanukah means rededication. The Macabees had to rededicate the Temple after it was destroyed by the Romans.
- Jessica: I'm truly impressed, Barry, but quit stalling. Choose the dreidel.
- Barry: Stalling? You choose the dreidel. That way you won't think I cheated. Girls!
- Jessica: Well, a person starts to wonder when she loses three years in a row! This Chanukah, I mean, this Kislev, watch out! I'm gonna win.
- Barry: Sure you are. Let's find the dreidels.
- Jessica: Here they are. HMMM, let me find a lucky one.

- Mrs. Magarik: There are many dreamers and some of them have made their dreams come true! Some have gone to Israel or even America where they can be free Jews.
- Boris: Well, you are right but I say we make the best of our secret Chanukah right here.
- Verusha: Boris is right! After all, we are here together being Jewish and celebrating like Jewish in Israel or America.
- Emmanuelle: If we have to, we will be free Jews in our own hearts right here in Russia.
- Boris: Hey everyone, are we going to talk all night or have a party?
- Emanuelle: I'm hungry for those Latkes I smell!
- Misha: And I want to light the chanukiah like free Jews everywhere.
- Mrs. Magarik: I would love to sing. Remember the melody we learned last year?
- Boris: I remember most of it! I wonder how many Jews are lighting candles and singing the blessings at this very moment!

[Mrs. Magarik lights candles. From the same direction, each candle of the dancing Chanukiah in America” comes to life. The Russian Jews sing the blessings on stage and everyone backstage enters and sings along. Then they sing the following song in two parts.]

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

Baruch ata adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam. Asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah. Amen

Baruch ata adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam. Sh'asah nissim la'avotaynu, ba-yamim ha-hem bazman hazeh. Amen

Baruch ata adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam. Sh'hecheyanu, v'keemanu, v'heegee-anu lazman hazeh. Amen

Song #5

IT WAS A MIRACLE/OH CHANUKAH

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OH CHANUKAH by Avronim and Guthman

Americans: It was a miracle