Costumes

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| Persian soldiers | White men’s tshirts (large)Plain dark pantsDark beltsHelmetBeards drawn on with facepaintBaseball capsBronze spray paintBlack spray paintSilver spray paintElectrical tapeCardstock (we used cereal boxes)1/2 “ plywood scraps no smaller than about 2’ by 4”. | Helmets: Baseball caps flipped backwards and the brim trimmed to about 2 cm. From cardstock, cut ear pieces (cut together to be the same shape and size) and a 2” wide strip to go around the helmet to cover hole in the cap. Staple onto cap. Spray paint with bronze and black spray paint. Swords: Print a basic scimitar template in the size wanted. Use a bandsaw or jigsaw to cut plywood into sword shapes. Spray paint silver. Use electrical tape on the handle to finish. |
| Persian general/Soldier 1 | Large white men’s tshirtWide beltSword (see above)Crochet beard | Crochet beard pattern: <http://www.bustingstitches.com/what-what-detachable-beard/> We made ours longer. |
| Saba | Large white or grey “Santa” beardGrey or white wigLoose, plain robes and beltShepherd’s crook |  |
| Tela | HeadcoveringLoose dressBeltShepherd’s crook |  |
| Benjamin | Loose, plain robe and belt |  |
| Sheep | Children dressed in white clothes.Sheep earsSheep tailBlack socks on hands and feet | Sheep ears: Strip of white fleece cloth, about 2 inches wide and 18 inches long. Sew on two floppy lamb ears. Sheep tail: Scrap of white fleece cloth, about 4 inches wide and 8 inches long. Tuck into waistband. |
| Servant | Plain tunic with gold belt |  |
| Astyages | Wolf-fur-collar capeWide gold beltPurple tunicCrownChunky necklaceKnifeBread | The idea is to make this king look wolfish, as he tried to kill the shepherd-king Cyrus as a baby. He rudely eats his bread and plays with his knife to convey the idea of entitled cruelty. |
| Mandane | Tiara or jeweled headpiecePretty, long dress in purple or blue.Sash to match. | Mandane is painted to be clever and dignified, at least compared to her father. Her clothes are regal and conservative. |
| Harpagus | CapeLong robe in a fancy fabricOrnate sashJewelry |  |
| Median Shepherd | Plain robeHooded capeShepherd’s bag |  |
| King Cyrus | Shiny white robeBlue, shiny capeWide gold beltSimple gold headband | Cyrus looks Messianic.  |
| Darius | SwordMilitary tunicMilitary belt and “skirt” |  |
| Persian Soldier 2 | White shirtMilitary tunicBeltSword |  |
| King Croesus | Similar look to Harpagus, except with a crown. Tasteful jewelry.Paint on a fancy beard and mustache with facepaint. | Dignified, wealthy. |
| Babylonian Soldier 1Babylonian Soldier 2 | Red men’s shirts, extra large.Vinyl military tunicsSpearsHelmets (same as Persian soldiers) | Spears made from long poles with cardboard tips covered with duct tape.Vinyl Military tunics cut from a rectangle of vinyl about twice as long as the actor’s measurement shoulder to knee and as wide as his/her shoulders. Fold in half length-wise and cut a hole for the head. Cut the two ends into a fringe. Optional: sew on two shoulder pieces. |
| Babylonian General | Red shirtMilitary tunicSwordBeard |  |
| King Belshazzar | Long crochet beardTall gold crownLots and lots of chunky jewelryLarge, bulky robe (We used an old sheet with a hole cut in the middle)BeltPillow for a fat stomachLong, billowy cape | Excessive, overdone, fat, billowy, spilling over the floor opulence. |
| Daniel | Blue or white shiny robeClassy fancy beltWhite hair spray to look olderScroll tucked into belt | Looks very different from partygoers. Very simple lines, but high-quality fabric. |
| Babylonian partygoers | Assortment of loud scarves, robes, tunics, capes, belts, wigs, etc. |  |
| Priest of Marduk | Long black robe |  |
| Babylonians dancers/servers | Sparkly outfits. We found Indian-style tunics and pants in delightfully bright and sparkling colors. | Servers should come on stage with silver and gold platters filled with food. |

Props

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| Scene 1 | Ishtar gates, back side | On the back of the Ishtar gates, we pinned black curtains. We covered the curtains with yellow and silver stick-on sequins, various sizes, to make stars. The stars were more densely applied at the top, creating a gradient of sparkle.Set up on stage right, with two step ladders behind (for Babylonian soldiers). |
| Scene 1 | Bench or stumps | Toward back left of stage. |
| Scene 1 | Glory in the Highest song recording |  |
| Scene 2 | Pre-recorded narration |  |
| Scene 2 | Small table with vase of flowers and ornate tablecloth | Mandane comes in with flowers, which she adds to the vase. |
| Scene 2 | Chair covered with ornate cloth and/or animal skin, with a side table (for the king to stab his knife into). | King Astayges comes on either rudely eating food, or followed by a nervous servant, carrying food, which he roughly orders around and greedily takes from. |
| Scene 2 | Realistically sized baby doll, wrapped in white cloth |  |
| Scene 4 | Assorted silver dishesAssorted chunky jewelry | We asked each Persian soldier to choose two people from the audience before the play started and give each person one or two items, which they would casually wear or hold. The Persian soldier would then know who to plunder, saving time. |
| Scene 6 | Ishtar gate | Turn around, revealing gate side. See separate tutorial on how to make these gates. |
| Scene 6 | Small table with a jar of scrolls | Put table below the stage area, to the right |
| Scene 7, 9 | Banquet table, low, with cushions set around it for sitting. Table set opulently, with plenty of gold and silver and food and pillows and scarves… | The overall look should be over-the-top opulence and decadence.We set a silver balance on the table for Daniel to use as a prop during his speech. |
| Scene 7, 9 | Middle eastern music |  |
| Scene 8 | Battering ram | We used a 8-foot long farm fence post. To avoid splinters, we covered the post with leftover cut-off wood-look vinyl. We cut and drew the ram’s horns for the front of the battering ram out of cardboard boxes and permanent markers. We stuck them on with a glue gun. |
| Scene 8 | Cyrus’ ram’s horns helmet | We used a stone relief of Cyrus in this helmet as a basis for his famous helmet. We used a vinyl horned hat from a Disney Maleficent costume as a base. We hot-glue-gunned on water bottles and ping-pong balls to complete the look. We spray painted it with gold paint to finish. |
| Scene 8 | Hose and water | Soak the Persian soldiers from the waist down! The waters were shallow – only up to about their thighs. |
| Scene 9 | Robe, gold chain |  |
| Scene 9 | Cyrus cylinder | There is a 3D-printer pattern for a Cyrus cylinder online! However, we used a chunk of firewood cut with a chainsaw into a tapered cylinder about 8 inches long. We spray painted the cylinder beige and then used a Sharpie to draw writing onto the cylinder. |
| Scene 10 | Sign post, on the one side:Welcome to EphrathBethlehem -><- BethelOn the other side:Welcome to BethlehemNo Vacancy | We made a simple stand out of 2x2s and pieces of scrap plywood to make the sign. We painted everything brown, using old house paint. We used acrylic paint to paint on the words. |
| Scene 11 | Scroll | A piece of paper with 2 dowels glued to either end. |
| Scene 12 | Turn sign post to “Welcome to Bethlehem. No vacancy” side |  |
| Scene 12 | Song print-outs: From the Rising of the Sun |  |