

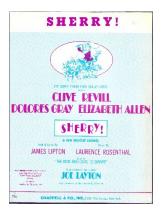
JAMES LIPTON

James Lipton was famous for creating and hosting "Inside the Actor's Studio" on cable television staring in 1994 for 24 years. He interviewed famous actors such as Barbra Streisand, Robin Williams, and many others. But 30 years earlier he had tried his hand at Broadway musicals.



He wrote the book and lyrics for the 1962 Broadway musical, *Nowhere To Go But Up*. The show had its tryout in Philadelphia at the Shubert Theatre opening October 6, 1962, to mixed notices. The show opened in New York on November 10, 1962, at the Winter Garden, to generally unfavorable reviews. John Chapman wrote in the NY Daily News that the show "is delicious bathtub gin. . . . This is a happy show." But Howard Taubman said in the New York Times, "Don't let anyone tell you that 'Nowhere to Go but Up' is a little horror. Because it's a big one." As a result, Kermit Bloomgarden, the producer, decided to close the show on November 17, 1962, after 9 performances. A group of 234 small

investors tried to keep the show from closing by parading in front of the theater and sought an injunction, ⁶ but the NY Supreme Court ruled in favor of the producer.



He was the librettist and lyricist for the short-lived 1967 Broadway musical *Sherry!*, based on the Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, with music by his childhood friend Laurence Rosenthal. The score and orchestrations were lost for over 30 years, and the original cast was never recorded. In 2003, a studio cast recording (with Nathan Lane, Bernadette Peters, Carol Burnett, Tommy Tune, Mike Myers and others) renewed interest in the show. ⁷

¹ "'Nowhere to Go but Up' Gets Mixed Philadelphia Notices", New York Times, November 9, 1962, p. 46.

² "Producer Ordered to Court As Backers Decry Closing", New York Times, November 18, 1962, p. 49.

³ "'Nowhere to Go But Up' Is Bright, Funny Prohibition Era Musical", Daily News, November 12, 1962, p. 63.

⁴ "The Theatre: 'Nowhere to Go but Up'", New York Times, November 12, 1962, p. 36.

⁵ "Play's 'Angels' Seek to Prevent Closing", New York Times, November 16, 1962, p. 24.

⁶ See footnote 2.

⁷ "James Lipton", Wikipedia, retrieved 10-5-2024.