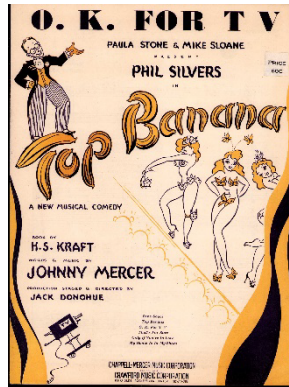


TOP BANANA



Many Broadway musicals have been made into movies, or, to say it impolitely, the musical was “Hollywoodized.”

To be fair, a show and a movie are different, and to make a good movie, you can’t just take the show and put it on the screen. But that’s exactly what they did with *Top Banana*. They literally filmed the theatrical production, including the curtains, stage sets, and even the audience. It may be the only show that was filmed that way. It’s a movie about a musical comedy that’s about a TV show! Frankly, it wasn’t a great movie. But for a musical theatre buff, it’s fantastic. It shows us what the show was like.

That’s a problem with a show. It can be seen on the stage, but when the show closes, visually it’s gone. Yes, we have the sheet music, and the score, the playbill, the souvenir program, and some press photos, but we can’t see the show (until there’s a revival, if any).