



Musical Theatre Footlights

ALONG FIFTH AVENUE

There are two versions of the sheet music for *Along Fifth Avenue*. One has Willie Howard as the star and the other has Jackie Gleason. What's the story?

Along Fifth Avenue had its tryout in Philadelphia, opening on November 30, 1948, with Willie Howard as the lead. He was 62 years old. During the Philadelphia tryout, Willie collapsed on stage and by December 12, 1948, he had withdrawn from the show due to illness. He was replaced by Jackie Gleason.

So the first edition of the sheet music lists Willie Howard and the second set lists Jackie Gleason.

