Forbidden Broadway was first seen at Palsson’s Supper Club on New York’s Upper West Side in January 1982. An unemployed actor, Gerard Alessandrini, wanted a showcase for his talents. He decided to assemble some of the musical parodies of Broadway shows he had written since childhood into a nightclub act. Critics and audiences were wowed and it has since become New York’s longest running musical comedy revue. Forbidden Broadway has won Drama Desk, Obie and Outer Critics Circle. Most of its victims (stars and casts) make a point of stopping by to see what Gerard Alessandrini has done to them.

Updated regularly, Forbidden Broadway has had several editions, countless revisions, three New York City performance spaces, several national and international tours, and thousands of special performances.

The show also became known for talented but as yet unknown actors, many of whom have gone on to stardom on Broadway, on television and in the movies.

Looking back at Forbidden Broadway provides an informal and very funny history of the American musical theatre. It has remained one of the funniest evenings on or Off-Broadway.

As long as Broadway and Hollywood exist, there will be a Forbidden, poking, prodding, teasing, pleasing, jeering and cheering, but always with love.
SWAN LAKE

ACT I

Scene 1

On the terrace of a castle there is a grand party – Prince Siegfried is celebrating his coming of age. Friends congratulate him as a court jester amuses the guests. When Siegfried's mother, the Queen, arrives the party cannot help but take notice. She presents her son with an arbalest as a gift and reminds him that the time has come to choose a bride and be married and that he must make the fateful decision at tomorrow's ball.

As the sun begins to set, the guests begin to filter out, leaving the Prince in solitary thought. He is eager to contemplate this life change in silence. As he begins to search the contents of his heart he notices a flight of white swans heading toward the nearby lake. He is inspired and follows them there, disappearing into the night.

Scene 2

The voyage to the lake takes the Prince into the depths of the forest. He approaches the Swans quietly and as he nears he sees something quite out of the ordinary. The swans have stepped ashore and assumed human form! Siegfried lowers the crossbow, astonished with their striking beauty. He gathers his courage and reveals himself. Odette, the swan's Queen tells him of their terrible curse. They are all at the mercy of the wicked magician Rotbart and only by finding true love can the evil spell be lifted. Siegfried, overcome with love at first sight, swears to her an everlasting love. This exchange has taken all night and as the sun beings to dawn, Odette warns him that if he breaks his oath, nothing will be able to help them. The women transform back into swans as the sunlight touches them and they begin swimming along the lakes. In a bittersweet embrace, Odette bids farewell to Siegfried, her love and savior.

ACT II

Scene 3

The castle is again full of guests as the Ball begins. Astonishing beauties from all over the world are introduced to the prince, yet none seem to attract his attention. He truly loves only Odette and no other can stray his eye. For his mother's sake he keeps up his princely façade and is courteous and charming with each young lady invited to the Ball. With an overwhelming blare of trumpets, a couple of new guests are announced. The evil sorcerer, Rotbart, enters in the guise of a noble knight and following close behind is his daughter, Odylle, who looks remarkably like Odette. The similarity is so close, in fact, that Siegfried believes, if only for a split second, that it is Odette standing there before him. Odylle seizes the brief moment of illusion as an opportunity and will not allow him to find his senses. She becomes a bewitching temptress, luring him, hypnotizing him, and tricking him into confessing his undying love to her! In this hypnotic stupor, he proclaims that Odylle is to be his bride. Rotbard has triumphed! Siegfried has broken his oath to Odette, betraying her by professing love to another, thereby dooming Odette and the others to an eternity under Rotbart's evil power. Suddenly a vision of the swan lake appears before Siegfried's eyes, snapping him back into reality! He realizes the terrible mistake he has made and that he was the victim of deceit and trickery! He immediately hurries into the forest, to the lake, to Odette.

ACT III

Scene 4

In the darkness on the lakeshore, Odette sadly retells the tale of Rotbart's craftiness. Siegfried had betrayed them all by no fault of his own. When the Prince appears, he is desperate and manic. He begs all of their forgiveness and promises to redeem himself in any way he can. From what seems like out of nowhere, Rotbart appears, furious! Siegfried immediately challenges him to a single duel. Rotbart agrees and they fight! After many a close call, Siegfried defeats the dark wizard freeing the women from their swan prisons! The curse is undone and the beams of the rising sun bring life, love and happiness.