

IT'S THE STORY OF PAIR WHO INHERIT NASSAU FORTUNE

by IVAN CLIFFORD

A SWINGING musical comedy, "Banana Boat Beat", presented by Frank Minaya and filmed entirely in Nassau, will open in a blaze of colour at the Wulff Road Theatre on Wednesday (February 22). It will run for a week.

The sound track for the film, which is co-produced by Willie Weeks Jr., is by Elite Recording Ltd. Starred in the full-length extravaganza are Joe E. Ross (from TV fame), Rosalind Berle (she's Milton Berle's sister), Danny Dillon, Count Bernadino, the original Upsetters, Becky (fire dancer), John Chipman, Noel Thompson, Inspector Fields, Terry Munnings, Leonora Rodgers, Ralph Hanna, Gregory Woodside and countless others. So look out for your friends — and maybe yourself! — for 85 per cent of the cast are Bahamians.

You'll see all the familiar landmarks of Nassau — the Straw Markets, Rawson Square, Bay Street, Changing of the Guards, the Police Band, Fort Charlotte, coin diving, the Nassau Beach Hotel, surrey rides, the Drumbeat night club, Blackbeard's Tavern, the Colony Room, the Dundas Civic Centre (the apartment scene), the Mermaid Tavern (Banana Boat exterior), the Rum Keg (Banana Boat interior), glass-bottom boats, Government House, Nassau Harbour, the Ardastra Gardens and many others.

What's the film all about? Frank Minaya, who plays a nightclub owner in the film, explained:

"Banana Boat Beat is the zany story of a couple from Brooklyn who unexpectedly inherit a fortune in Nassau upon the demise of dear old Aunt Emma, and get involved in the Banana Boat "beat" music that promised to retire rock 'n roll."

The plot thickens. Humphrey (Joe E. Ross), an old-time comedian who had dreams of being a top banana and wife Sarah (Rosalind Berle) cruise to Nassau with all the

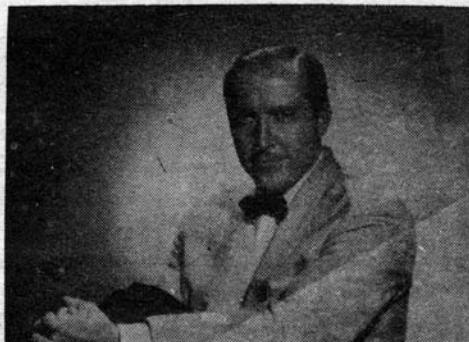
excitement of a couple of kids. They ogle the sights with the rest of the tourists and make the rounds of the night clubs, ending at the Banana Boat Club.

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Humphrey and Sarah fall in love with it as they listen to the music and watch the sensual Bahamian dancing. To their great joy, Humphrey and Sarah find out later that half of the Banana Boat Club is part of their inheritance! Humphrey is elated as they take over the running of the club. He can see all his old dreams of being a great comedian come true at last!

Alas! The bubble is burst when the Chief of Police comes in finally to close the club because of the numerous complaints about the musical "goings-on" at the Banana Boat. Humphrey frantically pleads with the police chief to sit down and listen.

What happens then? Why not go along and find out for yourself. You won't regret it for one minute. The film's a real swinger!



DANNY DILLON