King Kong: Stick with the Million Dollar Movie

By Barry Bassis

How could one of my favorite movies become one of the worst Broadway musicals of the year?

First of all, the 1933 movie was a horror spectacle without songs and dancing (other than the local natives).The new version has a modern feminist slant but an uninspired score: MUSIC: MARIUS DE VRIES, EDDIE PERFECT and LYRICS: EDDIE PERFECT.

Ann Darrow (Christiani Pitts) sings well and acts convincingly even if her words sometimes don’t make sense: “At least I’m not some man’s property,” she sings in a song called “Queen of New York.” However, she ends up falling for another gorilla.

The most impressive aspect of the show is King Kong, a mammoth puppet operated by a troupe of puppeteers. When Kong flashes his teeth at the audience and unleashes an earsplitting bellow, the effect is pretty scary, probably too much so for young children.

“King Kong” is at the BROADWAY THEATRE at 1681 BROADWAY (W. 53RD ST.)