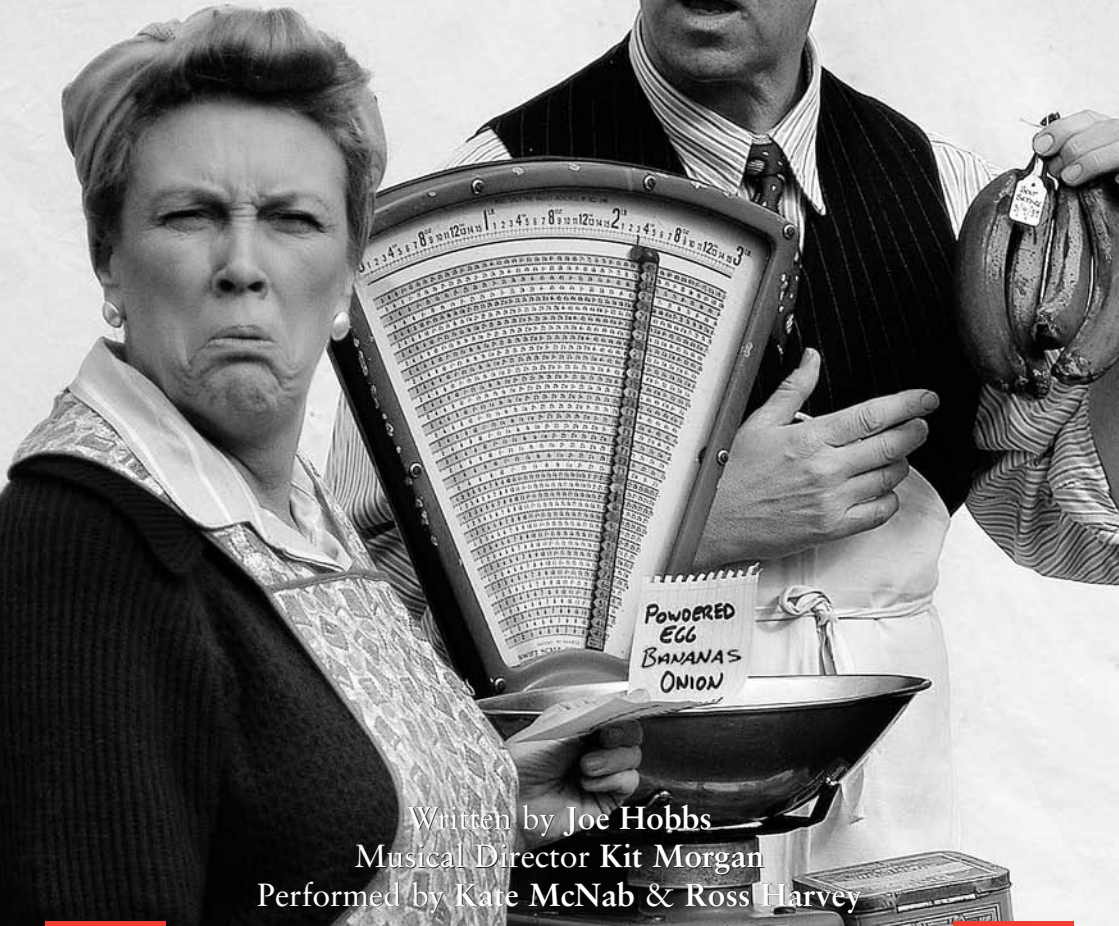


MINISTRY OF  
ENTERTAINMENT  
PRESENTS

# YES, WE HAVE NO BANANAS



Written by Joe Hobbs  
Musical Director Kit Morgan  
Performed by Kate McNab & Ross Harvey

'Ting-a-ling-a-ling.'

*Good morning Mr. Herbert.*

Good morning Mrs. Fricker and what can I do for you today? *Well, I did hear that you had some onions in.*

Sorry we sold the last one on Thursday...

*How about a couple of No. 8 torch batteries?*

Not until next month... If we're lucky... you'll have to pop your old ones in the oven to charge them up.

*Am I too late for any fresh eggs?*

I'm afraid so, an incendiary hit the coop last night. We've got some roast chicken left though.

*Oh, would I be right in thinking you don't have any tropical fruit?*

**Yes... we have no bananas!**



The year is 1944. The place is Weymouth, a busy south coast town whose narrow streets, ancient harbour and long sandy beaches, only five years previously, rang with the happy laughter of children frolicking and was brightened by the gaily-coloured dress of the holidaymaker... holiday making. Those same streets now lie silent, lined with row upon row of dull painted army vehicles, waiting... That harbour, chock full as a bowl with bobbing, grey landing craft, waiting... That beach, spiked with scaffold poles and anti-invasion traps, waiting...

Waiting. Just like Mr. Herbert from the shop, for his next delivery of stock. What it will consist of he's no idea. He never gets sent what he's asked for anymore.

Yes, it's hard running a grocer's in these times, what with the shortages and rationing and Home Guard in the evenings and trying to do the best for his daughter Doreen, on his own and all. Not that being the proprietor of 'Herbert's and Daughter' doesn't have its perks mind you! Oh yes, it's very handy if you run out of custard powder on a Sunday and the shops are closed!

And as for tropical fruit, well its always worth asking, he did manage to get hold of a couple of oranges from a Yank sailor once, you should have seen the queues of people who came just to look at them! Good for business that was, until they dried up and looked more like painted prunes! The oranges that is, not the customers, ooh I don't know though!!

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YES, WE HAVE NO BANANAS is the Ministry of Entertainment's third wartime show featuring songs from the era and true stories of ordinary people in extraordinary times. Tales gathered from both sides of the counter. Housewives and shopkeepers, Home Guards and G.I.'s, Tommies and Jack Tars, and from those children who had to wait until 1953 when sweets finally came off ration!!

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