

# STAR TURNS IN HOLLYWOOD MUSICALS

les presses du réel

## STAR TURNS IN HOLLYWOOD MUSICALS

Edited by  
*Marguerite Chabrol*  
and *Pierre-Olivier Toulza*

More than any other film genre, the musical of Hollywood's Golden Age depended on the presence of performers on the bill: these personalities met the expectations of the star system and, in addition, their dancing and/or singing skills gave them a special place in a context where star images were foregrounded. This book studies what makes musical stars so specific from the 1930s on: their performances, especially solo, which also reveal how film musicals tackle highbrow and popular culture.

Acts by Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse, Rita Hayworth, Barbra Streisand, Carmen Miranda, Eleanor Powell, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Eddie Cantor, Doris Day and the Nicholas Brothers are analyzed according to four main issues: the role of technology in cinema-made performances (editing, dubbing...); ethnicity issues and the distinctive place that the musical genre granted – or not – to “non-white” artists; the importance of stars specialized in comedy who developed a carnivalesque dimension in films; and the process of star construction itself within the Hollywood system, in relation to other forms of performance or cultural industries.

Contributions by *Fanny Beuré, Marguerite Chabrol, Steven Cohan, Todd Decker, Laurent Guido, Adrienne L. McLean, Karen McNally, Jacqueline Nacache, Allison Robbins, Robynn J. Stilwell, Noah Teichner* and *Pierre-Olivier Toulza*.

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Lobby card for the film *Thousands Cheer* (MGM, 1943), illustrated by Al Hirschfeld.  
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30 STARS!

# THOUSANDS

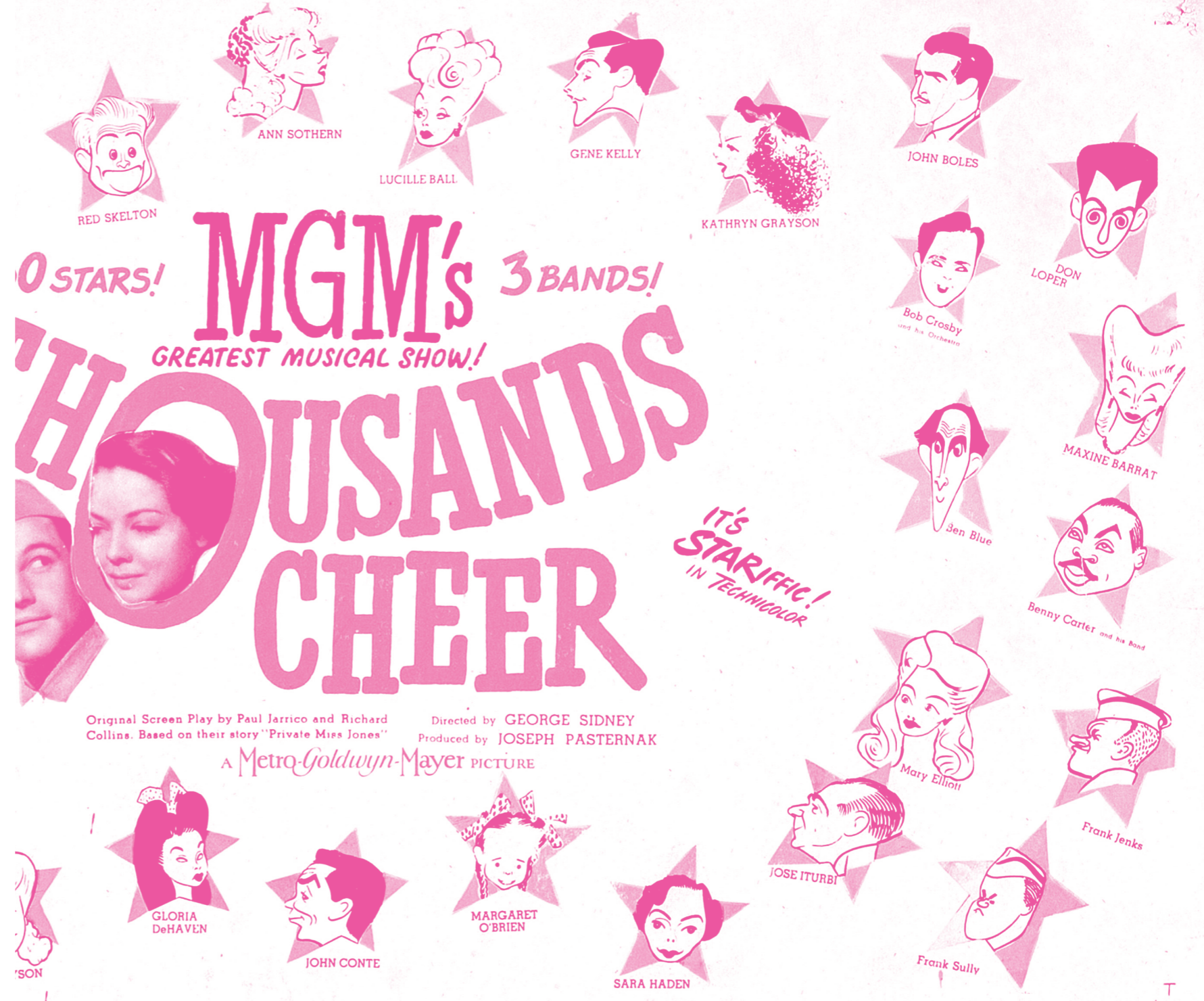
LOVE  
IN AN  
ARMY  
CAMP!



Original  
Collins



JUNE ALLYSON



3 BANDS!

# MGM'S

GREATEST MUSICAL SHOW!

# THOUSANDS CHEER

IT'S  
STARIFIC!  
IN TECHNICOLOR

Original Screen Play by Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins. Based on their story "Private Miss Jones"  
Directed by GEORGE SIDNEY  
Produced by JOSEPH PASTERNAK  
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer PICTURE



JOHN CONTE



GLORIA DeHAVEN



JOHN CONTE



MARGARET O'BRIEN



SARA HADEN



JOSE ITURBI



Frank Sully