

'Hello' Tommy! Star back in Garrison

Tune marks 'Hello, Dolly!' anniversary

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"This is a time warp for me," Tommy Tune says from his Manhattan apartment. "It's exciting for me to remember back 50 years."

The 10-time Tony-winner is casting his mind back to the long-ago filming of "Hello, Dolly!" his first film, which will bring him back to the Lower Hudson Valley on Father's Day weekend.

Tune will lead a June 16 costume parade of "Put On Your Sunday Clothes" on Garrison Landing, which stood in for 1890's Yonkers in the 1969 film starring Barbra Streisand and Walter Matthau. The 4 p.m. event — part of Christopher Radko's ambitious "Hello Again, Dolly Festival" is free and open to all.

(There's a choreography session at 2 p.m., before the 4 p.m. parade on June 16. Check out the instructional video at www.garrisonartcenter.org/hello-dolly-dance-instruction.)

After the parade, and a couple more songs, Tune will sit down at an ice-cream social for a Q&A session with festival organizer Christopher Radko, best known as the designer of high-end holiday ornaments.

The next day, on June 17, Tune will be at the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill to present "Tommy Tune Tonight!" his one-man song-and-dance-and-memory show in which he looks back even further, to the start of his 55-year show business career.

A talent scout spotted Tune in the chorus of Broadway's "How Now Dow Jones" and, before long, he was cast as in the feature film adaptation of the Broadway hit about matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi. Tune played one of the young lovers, Ambrose Kemper.

As Tune warms to the memories of that long-ago shoot, details begin to flood back.

The first movie scene he ever shot was the "knock-down-drag-out" argument with Matthau's Horace Vandergelder, in which the artist Ambrose announces his intentions to marry Ermenegarde, Vandergelder's niece, played by Joyce Ames.

Tune says he wasn't wild about movies, and didn't pursue a Hollywood career.

"In the dinner scene, Barbra says Ambrose is an artist, but he could make a living with his feet," Tune recalls.

That's exactly what Tommy Tune did.

He made his name on Broadway, winning nine actor, choreography and directing Tony Awards.

In 2015, he added a tenth Tony, for lifetime achievement.

Thinking back to 1968, Tune remembers getting on the train at Garrison on a



Tommy Tune receives his 10th Tony Award, for lifetime achievement, in 2015, at Radio City Music Hall. CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/AP



A photograph from the filming of Hello Dolly at Garrison Landing, from the collection of Christopher Radko. FRANK BECERRA JR./THE JOURNAL NEWS

day off from "Dolly" and heading down to New York to catch the groundbreaking play "The Boys in the Band" — one of the first to depict gay men in their milieu — which had just opened Off-Broadway. Fast-forward 50 years and "The Boys in the Band" has just arrived on Broadway.

"I can't believe it's 50 years," Tune says. "Time is accordioneering in my brain."

Tune had just turned 29 before "Dolly" filming began, four years older than Streisand.

"But I felt more like 17," he recalls.

The film's creative team clearly knew what they had in the tall Texan, a 6-foot-5-inch dancer with legs that went on forever. He is front and center in every dance number, including "Put

On Your Sunday Clothes," which he'll happily revisit soon.

"I hear they townspeople of Garrison are learning choreography so we can reenact that number," the 79-year-old says. "It sounds like a whole lot of fun."

It might not be easy for townsfolk to keep up with the long-legged Tune, something they'll have in common with Streisand.

"I remember when we filmed that, Barbra said 'Slow down, I'm wearing a skirt,'" Tune says with a laugh.

West Point was not wild about having scenes from the movie shot on its grounds, so the crew had to prefabricate the wedding chapel — seen in the film's final moments — in Garrison and fly it via helicopter across the river.

"I remember someone shouting and

If you go

June 16 in Garrison:

■ **4 p.m.** Tommy Tune led parade. Line-up begins at 3 p.m., Garrison Landing

■ **5 p.m.** Ice cream social; all day picnicking on Garrison Landing

■ **6 p.m.** Festivalgoers can board a paddlewheel boat for a two-hour cruise, \$125, to benefit Garrison Art Center.

■ **9 p.m.** Free, outdoor screening of "Hello, Dolly!"

June 17: "Tommy Tune Tonight," at Paramount Hudson Valley. Show at 2 p.m. Tune will sing, dance, and talk about his 50 years in show business. Tickets are \$40-\$65. 1008 Brown St., Peekskill, paramounthudsonvalley.com

June 18: An evening with Broadway director Jerry Zaks. In this Q&A, come learn about what it takes to mount a mega-hit on Broadway. 6 p.m. Garrison Union Free School Gymnasium, 1110 Route 9D, Garrison, 845-424-3689.

June 23, "Simply Streisand," Tickets are \$30. The Philipstown Depot Theatre www.philipstowndepottheatre.org or call 845.424.3900. The Philipstown Depot

July 1: Gene Kelly: The Legacy. An Evening with Patricia Ward Kelly, 2 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$45. 1008 Brown St., Peekskill, paramounthudsonvalley.com

Info: Helloagaindolly.com

telling us to come out of our trailers to see the steeple being flown over the river," Tune says wistfully. "Yes, I remember that."