

The HIGHLANDS Current

The Calendar

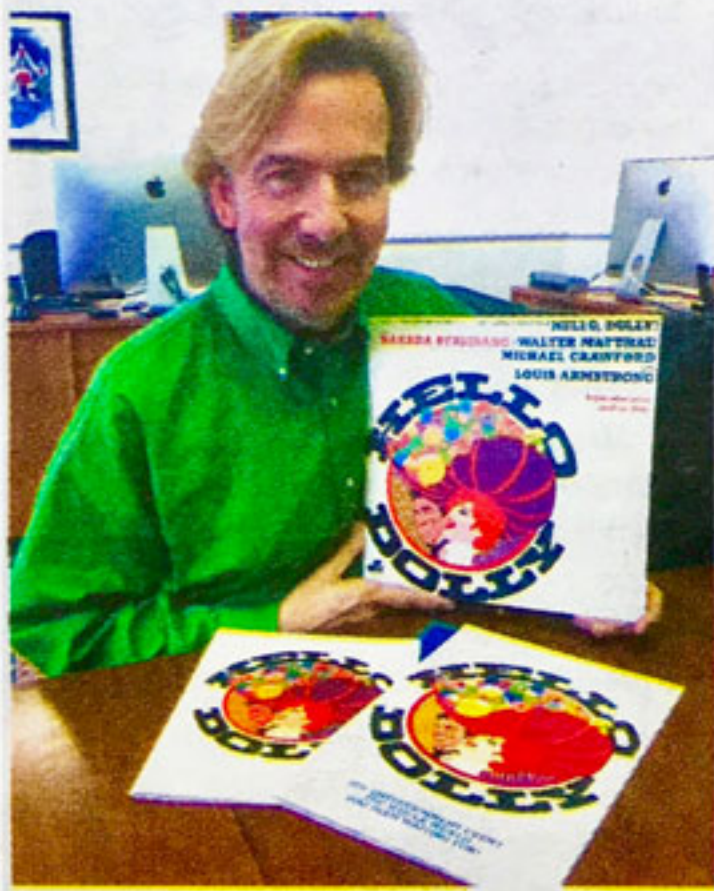
Hello Again, Dolly!

Festival to celebrate 50th anniversary of filming

By Alison Rooney

Fifty years ago in Philipstown, crews filmed scenes for the musical *Hello, Dolly!*, starring a 26-year-old Barbra Streisand. A longtime fan, Christopher Radko, along with a host of other Highlands residents, will celebrate the anniversary with, at last count, 18 events spread over five months.

Hello Again, Dolly! kicks off Saturday,



Christopher Radko with some of his *Dolly* memorabilia
Photo by A. Rooney



Tommy Tune leads the parade with Barbra Streisand on a decked-out Garrison's Landing during filming in June 1968. 20th Century Fox

May 12, with the opening of an exhibit at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring that looks back at the film's influence on Philipstown, West Point, Peekskill and Poughkeepsie, all of which hosted the cast and crew or served as settings over the summer of 1968.

The setup crew traveled from Hollywood in March, and set-construction took place on Garrison's Landing and

nearby in April and May. Director Gene Kelly and cast members Streisand, Walter Matthau and Tommy Tune arrived on June 1 for a month of shooting.

Radko says he can still recall when his father, a cardiologist in Westchester County, the following year was given tickets by a grateful patient to the film's New York premiere. "I was only 9, and I knew nothing about any of it — it was so

trippy," he recalls. The film is set in Yonkers in the 1890s, which wasn't anything Radko recognized.

Four decades later, he discovered that Yonkers had been played in the musical by Garrison's Landing, and he paid a visit. He fell in love with the hamlet and eventually rented a home there. He sees the festival as a civic contribution.

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"I dreamed it up about two years ago," he says. "It's a 50th-anniversary celebration that I know I would love to attend. It's a celebration of the filming in the Highlands and also of the beauty of the landscape and the rich history of this community."

Although organizing has been immense and fundraising a challenge, he

says the effort "will all be worthwhile if I can get everyone to see the joy of it." The film, he says, is "a way of finding home — a place where you show up and be who you are to the fullest."

The Putnam History Museum exhibit, which runs through November, includes a number of costumes worn during filming.

Also on display are Gene Kelly's copy of the script and other memorabilia, much of it provided by his widow,



The Golden Eagle building at Garrison's Landing was transformed in 1968 into Vanderghelder's.
Photos provided

Patricia, who will be in town on July 1 to give a presentation about his life.

On Tuesday, May 15, the children of the Garrison School will be saluting their parents and grandparents, some of whom were extras in the film, with *Dolly* songs during their spring concert. On May 18, the Desmond-Fish Library will screen *The Matchmaker*, the 1958 film based on Thornton Wilder's play, which was also the basis of the musical.

On May 31 and June 2, the Garrison Art Center will present hat-decorating workshops (think ribbons, flowers and Victorian embellishments) as lead-in to a June 16 "Put On Your Sunday Clothes"

costume parade led by Tommy Tune from the Garrison's Landing bridge to Depot Square. Tune, who made his Broadway debut in 1965 and has won 10 Tony Awards, will answer questions afterward while everyone can enjoy an ice cream social.

The River Rose paddlewheeler will depart from Garrison's Landing after the parade, returning in time for an outdoor screening of *Hello, Dolly!* in the park. The following weekend, Phil Geoffrey Bond of Garrison will host a cabaret show on Streisand at the Depot Theatre.

More events are scheduled for July, August and September.

See helloagaindolly.com.



A scene was filmed at Trophy Point at West Point; the chapel was assembled in Garrison and flown over the river by helicopter.