

## Tommy Tune Says 'Hello Again, Dolly!' Parade, Show, and Much More This Weekend

BY VIRGINIA CALIFANO

Get ready to "Put On Your Sunday Clothes" this weekend, as the rousing, colorful and mellifluous *Hello Again, Dolly!* celebration takes over the town. The highly anticipated *Hello, Dolly!* costume parade at Garrison's Landing will commence at 4pm on Saturday, with special guest Tommy Tune leading the charge. Tune, who played young artist Ambrose Kemper in the film *Hello, Dolly!*, is thrilled to step back in time and relive the scene of fifty years ago.

Tommy Tune, a ten-time Tony Award winner with over 50 years in show business, still treasures the *Hello, Dolly!* chapter of his career. While he was working on *How Now, Dow Jones* on Broadway, he was recruited to try out for *Hello, Dolly!*

"I took a limo to the airport and flew to Hollywood for the first time. It was surreal. I tried out for Ambrose and Barnaby," he said.

**'Theatre is vitamins for the spirit.'**

-Tommy Tune

The young Tune had a good feeling about it, and already had a connection with the story. In college, he played Cornelius in his school's version of Thornton Wilder's

*Matchmaker*, which is the play *Hello, Dolly!* is based on.

"Twenty people were tested for the role, but only I was flown in from New York," said Tune. A month after his memorable, yet short, Hollywood experience trying out, he found out he got the part of Ambrose Kemper.

Before he knew it, the young Texas native was working on a major Hollywood production alongside some of the field's biggest stars, in a film that would charm the hearts of fans around the world for decades to come. Here are some of his thoughts:

*Tommy Tune on his favorite*

*memory working alongside Barbra Streisand (Dolly Levi):*

"When we were filming *Put On Your Sunday Clothes*, it was 106 degrees. I was wearing a silk shirt that didn't breathe, a woolen vest, a velvet coat, and tweed pants. I was sweating – really sweating – and I apologized to everyone. Barbra Streisand responded so seriously, 'Horses sweat. Gentlemen perspire. Ladies glow.' So she elevated me to a 'gentleman.'"

*Tune on his favorite memory working with director Gene Kelly:*

"We were filming the song called *Dancing*, and I was (See TUNE on Page 4)



Tommy Tune. Photo by Franco Lacosta

### TUNE (Cont'd from pg. 1)

doing it but not really feeling it. Gene came up to me, and simply told me to 'dance better,' and that was it. He knows dancing. The next take we did, I danced my heart out, and that was the take we used in the movie."

*Tune on Garrison:*

"We couldn't really see much of the town while we were on set filming, because of the facades that were constructed. But once in awhile, you could peek through the facades. I remember seeing townspeople living in their homes. I remember seeing someone making eggs for breakfast in their kitchen."

*Tune on Hello, Dolly!:*

"The longevity of *Hello, Dolly!* is something I am proud of. The *Put On Your Sunday Clothes* filming began on the day that Robert Kennedy died. The state of the country was tense and down during the

Vietnam war, but as they say, 'the show must go on.' Theatre is vitamins for the spirit."

*Tune on his favorite scene:*

"My favorite is the song *Before the Parade Passes By*. It is a statement about living in the moment, and living life to the fullest."

Tune will be singing his favorite song during the parade on Saturday, along with *Put On Your Sunday Clothes*, and *Hello, Dolly!* Singing alongside him will be Garrison's own Joni Lanza, playing Barbra Streisand's part of Dolly Levi.

The parade at Garrison's Landing is "such a great idea and will be so much fun," Tune said. "There is nostalgia in my heart about the whole experience. I am happy I am going and that I will be able to experience it," he said.

After the parade, Tune will stick around for an ice cream social (free, hosted in part

by the CS Lions) and Q&A session at 5pm, at Garrison's Landing. A riverboat cruise will follow from 6-8pm, and finally, an outdoor screening of *Hello, Dolly!* at 9pm at Garrison Landing Park.

On Sunday, Father's Day, Tune will perform his popular show at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill at 2pm. He will share stories in song and dance, taking audiences through his 55 years in show business.

"Fifty-five years in show business is an incredible career. I am very blessed," he said. "My dream was to dance in the chorus of a Broadway show, and my dream came true during my first day in New York, when I auditioned for *Irma La Douce*."

"That was my dream, and I never changed it. I did it. Everything else has been gravy."

More info at [helloagaindolly.com](http://helloagaindolly.com).