

Hello Again, Dolly! Brings Song, Dance, and Yonkers to Garrison's Landing



PHOTO BY MARY-MARGARET DWYER

Tommy Tune (center) promenades with Joni Lanza (right) and Madeleine DeNitto at the festival Saturday at the Landing.

BY MARY-MARGARET DWYER

There was nostalgia in the air as the Cold Spring Trolley pulled up in front of the Philipstown Depot Theater. As the doors opened, Garrison's Landing became 19th century Yonkers. Men, women, and children piled out of the green trolley, sporting hats, dresses,

and parasols straight out of Victorian times.

To anyone who visited Garrison's Landing on Saturday, June 16, it was as if they had traveled back in time to the movie set of the classic film, *Hello, Dolly!*. Even the building that acted as Horace Vandergelder's office was once again transformed

to mirror its presence in the movie.

People came from all over for the 50th anniversary of the film, dressing in their Victorian best, to support the *Hello Again, Dolly!* festival. Some reminisced about when the movie was filmed; a few locals even had the chance to

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play a part themselves.

Many scenes in the 1969 Oscar-winning movie, most notably the musical number, "Put On Your Sunday Clothes", were filmed in Garrison. Until the festival, many locals were unaware of the large part the area played in the making of the movie.

Fifty years after Barbra Streisand danced around the streets of Garrison as Dolly Levi, Christopher Radko, *Hello Again, Dolly!* festival director, made it his mission to bring the magic and wonder of *Hello, Dolly!* back to its roots in the community.

At 4 p.m. Saturday evening, tourists and locals gathered in front of what was once Vandergelder's office building, awaiting the start of the *Hello Again, Dolly!* parade. As the music began, suddenly Tommy Tune, who played Ambrose Kemper in the movie, appeared from Vandergelder's building; the audience watched in awe.

Everyone was invited to dance and parade along with the performers during the show. Participants were eager to embody the period; many women carried colorful parasols and homemade hats that they crafted at the hat-



PHOTO BY JASON & JUSTIN SENFT

Joni Lanza (left) singing at the parade on Saturday, as Tommy Tune and Madeleine DeNitto listen.

making workshop sponsored by the festival.

Joni Lanza, a Garrison resident who played the part of Dolly Levi in the festival show on Saturday, emulated the talent and confidence of Barbra Streisand herself. "I looked to Barbra Streisand, and her movie version of Dolly, for inspiration regarding style and grace for this performance, and I also went to see Bernadette Peters play Dolly on Broadway as well, but I was encouraged to make

it my own," said Lanza.

As for the success of the show, Lanza was positive that it had gone smoothly. "Considering how very many moving parts there were to this performance, it was beautiful to see the depth of the talent of the cast and crew. The way everyone pulled those talents together in such a short time was stellar," said Lanza. "It brought tons of excitement to not only the performers, but to everyone who attended."

Tommy Tune, who returned

to Garrison for the festival, held his own show on Sunday, June 17, at Paramount Hudson Valley Peekskill. The performance, *Tommy Tune, Tonight!*, acted as a tribute to Tune's 50 years of showbusiness through song, dance, and storytelling.

After the costume parade on Saturday, the festival hosted a Riverboat Cruise that had been sold-out well before the start of the parade. After the cruise, everyone was invited to a free showing of the original *Hello, Dolly!* movie at Garrison's Landing.

There are still more events to come. On June 23 at 5 p.m., Christopher Radko will be at the Putnam History Museum to talk about the making of *Hello, Dolly!*. At 10 p.m. that same day, "Simply Streisand", a special tribute to Barbra Streisand, will be held at the Philipstown Depot Theater. Finally, on Sunday, July 1, at the Paramount Peekskill Theater, Patricia Kelly, Gene Kelly's wife, will be speaking about the life and accomplishments of her late husband. Of course, he directed *Hello, Dolly!*

For more information on upcoming events, visit HelloAgainDolly.com.