

Lyric Theatre Company presents *Hello, Dolly!*

April 2nd-5th, 2009, on the Flynn Center MainStage

Book by Michael Stewart ~ Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman

Based on the Play *The Matchmaker* by Thornton Wilder



www.lyrictheatrevt.org

For Lyric Theatre Company:

Producer ~ Linda Whalen

Artistic Director ~ Corey N. Gottfried

Choreographer ~ Karen Amirault

Music Director ~ Carol Wheel

Kick-Off/Information Meeting

Wednesday, January 7th, 2009, 7 p.m., South Burlington High School

Children's Auditions

Sunday, January 11th, 2009, Time and Location TBA

Auditions

Monday-Thursday, January 12th-15th, 2009, South Burlington High School

Rehearsal Info

The first full production get-together will be held on Sunday, January 18th, 2009, at Twin Oaks Kids & Fitness, 25 Joy Drive, South Burlington. Rehearsals will be held at this site on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, 6:45-10 p.m., and Sunday afternoons, 1:45-5 p.m.

Show Dates

Hello, Dolly! will be presented April 2nd-5th, 2009 on the Flynn Center MainStage.

Thursday, April 2nd	7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 3rd	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 4th	1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 5th	1:30 p.m.

Ticket Prices

\$19-\$30; \$5 student/senior discount at some performances; group discounts available at some performances

Ticket Sources

Flynn Regional Box Office, 153 Main Street, Burlington, VT

Copy Ship Fax Plus, Pearl Street, Essex Junction, VT

Call 802-86FLYNN

Order online at www.flynntix.org

Show Sponsor



Review (from Tams-Witmark Web site)

"And what do you do for a living, Mrs. Levi?" asks Ambrose Kemper in the first scene of this most delightful of musical comedies. "Some people paint, some sew...I meddle," replies Dolly. *Hello, Dolly!* is full of memorable songs including *Put On Your Sunday Clothes*, *Ribbons Down My Back*, *Before the Parade Passes By*, *Elegance*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *It Only Takes a Moment* and *So Long, Dearie*. And we are off on a whirlwind race around New York at the turn of the twentieth century, as we follow the adventures of America's most beloved matchmaker!

Background of Hello, Dolly!

“*Hello, Dolly!* is the culmination of a series of adaptations. Wilder based *The Matchmaker*, from which *Hello, Dolly!* is drawn, from a number of sources. The character of Dolly comes from Molière’s *The Miser*. Another influence was Johann Nestroy’s 1842 *Einen Jux will er sich Machen*, which itself was based on John Oxenham’s 1835 comedy *A Day Well Spent*. Wilder’s first attempt at this farce was called *The Merchant of Yonkers*, which failed miserably on Broadway in 1938. He returned to the script some years later, and produced *The Matchmaker*, which did find success.” (Source: Director’s Notes from the Western Stage production of *Hello, Dolly!*)

Brief History (source: Tams-Witmark Web site)

Hello, Dolly! played for 2,844 performances on Broadway at the St. James Theatre with Carol Channing in the title role. At the time it was the longest playing Broadway musical. The London production played for 794 performances at the Drury Lane Theatre. The show has been revived several times on Broadway, most recently in 1995 for 116 performances at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, again with Carol Channing as Dolly Levi.

Awards

- 10 Tony Awards for Musical, Actress, Author, Producer, Director, Composer and Lyricist, Conductor and Musical Director, Scenic Designer, Costume Designer and Choreographer (1963-64)
- The New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Musical (1963-64)
- 2 Outer Critics Circle Awards for Actor and Actress (1967-68)
- The Drama Desk Award for Actress (1969-70)

Hello, Dolly! Musical Numbers

Prologue: Orchestra

I Put My Hand In: Dolly and Company

It Takes a Woman: Horace and Company

Put On Your Sunday Clothes: Cornelius, Barnaby, Dolly, and Company

Ribbons Down My Back: Irene

Motherhood: Dolly, Irene, and Minnie

Dancing: Dolly, Cornelius, Barnaby, and Irene

Before the Parade Passes By: Dolly and Company

Elegance: Cornelius, Barnaby, Irene, and Minnie

Hello, Dolly!: Dolly and Company

It Only Takes a Moment: Cornelius, Irene, and Company

So Long Dearie: Dolly

Finale: Dolly, Horace, and Company

The Original Broadway Cast Recording is available as a CD from RCA Victor.

Hello, Dolly! Trivia

Some of the most talented women ever to grace a stage on the Great White Way have played the title role of Dolly Levi. The role was originated by the irrepressible Carol Channing in 1964. Among the other actresses who have sashayed down the grand staircase of the Harmonia Gardens Restaurant are Betty Grable, Ginger Rodgers, Martha Raye, Mary Martin, Pearl Bailey, Phyllis Diller, and, before its closing, Ethel Merman (Jerry Herman’s first choice to play the role). Barbra Streisand starred in the 1969 movie version opposite Walter Matthau.

Hello, Dolly! is an American musical theatre classic; the show has been performed by Lyric just once before—in 1979. In these days when online dating services are all the rage, it will be fun to introduce audiences to a classic old-fashioned (and very successful) matchmaker. Stay tuned for more!

Recent Interest in *Hello, Dolly!*

Source: *Variety*, Posted 7/11/08

'Wall-E' says 'Hello, Dolly'

Film's success spurs talk of Broadway revival

By Frank Rizzo

Jerry Herman is singing "Hello, Wall-E." Two songs from the Rialto composer's "Hello, Dolly!" -- "Put on Your Sunday Clothes" and "It Only Takes a Moment" -- play major roles in the hit Pixar film's story about a little robot left on a devastated Earth 700 years in the future with only a pair of show tunes to keep him going. The success of the film is also spurring talk of a major Broadway revival of the 1964 musical.

Herman says there's been interest in a new "Dolly!" for the past several years, with the Nederlander Org producing, but now the release of "Wall-E" has unexpectedly amplified the buzz. "The movie will only make it more vital, more of an event, and I think a lot of kids would come and see where those songs came from," says the composer.

Herman, 77, says he was unaware of the importance of the songs to the film until he saw "Wall-E" on opening weekend. But in the movie's first moments, when he heard Michael Crawford singing "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," he was stunned and moved.

In the film, the robot plays an old videocassette of "Hello, Dolly!" and is transfixed by that upbeat song, as well as the romantic ballad "It Only Takes a Moment," sung by Crawford and Marianne McAndrew.

Herman has been thinking of possible actresses to topline the revival for some time. While he concedes the role demands "a big star," he declines to name any frontrunner. He acknowledges eyeing Queen Latifah to play Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi, but says her busy film career would make that casting problematic -- at least so far.

Chat rooms and theater insiders have been volunteering casting ideas that range from the fantastic to the obvious: Oprah Winfrey ("An exciting idea, but I don't think she could devote a year to the production," says Herman); Meryl Streep ("She can do anything."); Barbra Streisand, star of the 1969 screen version ("She's the right age now, but she's never coming back to Broadway."); Patti LuPone ("Magnificent."); Reba McEntire ("I'm crazy for her, but I'm not sure about the accent."); Bernadette Peters ("We were close friends and I obviously love this lady, but I just don't know.").

"Hello, Dolly!" originally starred Carol Channing on Broadway, followed by a series of leading ladies from the screen and stage, including Ginger Rogers, Pearl Bailey, Betty Grable, Martha Raye, Mary Martin and Ethel Merman. The premiere production ran for 2,844 perfs. It was also revived on the Rialto with Bailey in 1975 and with Channing in 1978 and 1995.

Source: *Miami Herald*, Posted on Monday, August 11, 2008

'Hello, Dolly!' composer Jerry Herman digs digital age

By Steve Rothaus

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He may be the last of the old-time Broadway composers, but this summer Jerry Herman entered the digital age in a big way:

Two of his classic songs from *Hello, Dolly!* were prominently featured in the computer-animated children's hit, *WALL-E*; and nearly his entire catalog of cast albums has been reissued for digital download by Sony BMG Broadway Masterworks.

"Isn't that exciting? The best thing that can happen to someone like me is to know his work will go on," Herman, 77, said by telephone from his home in Los Angeles. "Sony has done that for me. This is forever -- the ability to download a Broadway show and have it." Shows can be downloaded at sites including iTunes and

Amazon.com. Burned-to-order compact discs with original cover art and liner notes are available only through ArkivMusic.com.

Herman said he wasn't sure what to expect when he and life partner Terry Marler went to see *WALL-E*. The theater was filled with kids whose grandparents were young when Herman composed *Dolly* in 1963. Everyone sang along with Herman's songs, *Put on Your Sunday Clothes* and *It Only Takes a Moment*.

"They were absolutely rapt," according to Herman. 'I said to my friend Terry, 'This is a new life for my old songs. No one will know they are 45 years old.' "

Herman, a University of Miami theater graduate, became a Tony nominee for his second Broadway show, *Milk and Honey*, in 1961. His next musical won him the award in '64: *Hello, Dolly!*, which became the longest-running show of its time with 2,844 performances. In May 1964, Louis Armstrong's *Hello, Dolly!* recording briefly displaced The Beatles' *Can't Buy Me Love* as No. 1 on Billboard's Top 100 chart, later winning the Grammy for Best Male Vocalist.

RCA Victor released three *Dolly* cast albums: Carol Channing with the original Broadway cast (1964); Mary Martin and the original London cast (a limited distribution in 1966); and Pearl Bailey with an all-black cast featuring Cab Calloway (1967). Other Broadway *Dolly*s were Ginger Rogers, Martha Raye, Betty Grable, Dorothy Lamour, Phyllis Diller and Ethel Merman, whom Herman had in mind when he wrote the score. "I had all those different and marvelous talents doing that material," Herman said. "Every *Dolly* was different. Each *Dolly* brought her own persona to the role without having to change a note or a word."

After *Dolly* in 1966, Herman had another huge hit: Angela Lansbury as *Mame*. Other shows followed, including *Dear World* (with Lansbury in 1969) and Herman's favorite, *Mack & Mabel* (with Bernadette Peters and Robert Preston in 1974).

In 1983, Herman's *La Cage aux Folles* opened, winning him another Tony and providing the gay community with an anthem: *I Am What I Am*. Surprisingly, Herman said, *La Cage* -- about a gay drag performer -- has become his most-performed musical.

"It's playing in more places than you would believe. Right now it's in Slovakia and Norway, Argentina, Australia. All over the globe," he said. "And I thought that it had a limited appeal." Herman's work has universal appeal, said Vincent J. Cardinal, producing artistic director of the Jerry Herman Ring Theatre at University of Miami.

"I don't want to sound too cliché about it," Cardinal said. "The truth is that he is a masterful songwriter, but it's his belief in the human spirit that makes him someone for all time. *WALL-E* is a testament to that. Those very hopeful songs -- and as we think about the future and what life becomes -- are what we connect to as the very best of humanity."

Cardinal said his students love Herman as much as their parents and grandparents do.

"He writes honestly and that never goes out of style," he said. Next spring, Herman's namesake theater at UM will finish its 2008-09 season with a new production of *Hello, Dolly!*

The young UM fans even created a Facebook group in his honor. With 72 members, it's called "I Wish Jerry Herman Was My Grandpa."