



Hello, Dolly! Synopsis

Act I

When asked what the vibrant character Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi does for a living she simply responds, "I meddle." One of America's most beloved musicals opens with Dolly and client Ambrose traveling to Yonkers, New York, looking to find a hand in marriage. At Grand Central Station, Dolly explains *I Put My Hand In* describing why she likes matchmaking and promising Ambrose that he will marry the lovely Ermengarde. That is not all the love in the air, however, when Dolly confides in her late husband that she will be pursuing her own match with Ermengarde's uncle Horace.

Back in Yonkers, the miser of a man Horace Vandergelder, denies his niece, Ermengarde, from marrying Ambrose. His spirits don't falter at the prospect of finding a new wife for himself, and he prepares to court Irene Molloy, another of Dolly's clients. Vandergelder's two clerks, Cornelius and Barnaby, listen to him wholeheartedly reason why *It Takes A Woman* in the home.

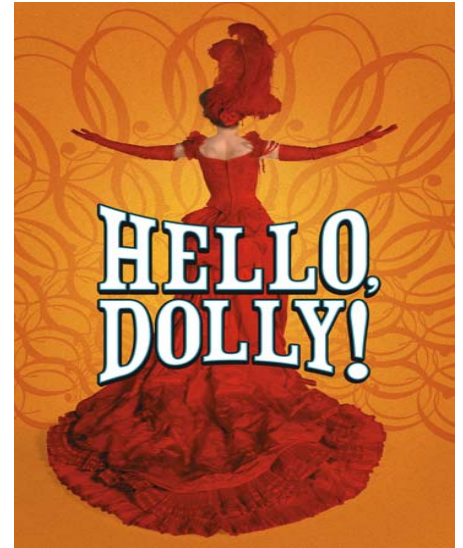
Dolly arrives and quickly learns of Vandergelder's attempts to court Irene Molloy. Catching him off guard, Dolly convinces him to explore other options- even offering "an heiress." Her meddling starts to pay off after convincing Ambrose and Ermengarde the only way to show Vandergelder wrong is to win the Polka Dance contest in a New York restaurant, Harmonia Gardens (Cornelius and Barnaby sneak away as well excited by the idea of an adventure in the big city). On their way out they sing *Put On Your Sunday Clothes* joined by the townspeople of Yonkers for a joyous *Put On Your Sunday Clothes- Reprise*.

Irene Molloy sits waiting for Vandergelder as her eager assistant Minnie Fay gossips. Irene admits she doesn't really love Vandergelder, but if she ever did love a man she would attract him with *Ribbons Down My Back*. In all the excitement of the city, Barnaby and Cornelius wander into Irene Molloy's shop innocently flirting before Vandergelder interrupts them. As the clerks hide in the wardrobe madness ensues finally saved by Dolly and the mismatched group's song *Motherhood*. A very upset Vandergelder leaves to attend a parade on 14th street, and Dolly pronounces the only way to make amends of the situation is for Barnaby and Cornelius to take the two women out *Dancing* at the Harmonia Gardens.

Later Dolly runs into an old acquaintance from the life she left behind, and after one more conversation with her late husband she decides to start a new life. Meeting a frustrated Vandergelder on 14th Street, he agrees to have dinner with the "heiress" she mentioned, but fires her as a matchmaker. All is not lost for our heroine, however, and she declares, "He's as good as mine!"

Act II

Act Two opens with Cornelius and Barnaby persuading Irene and Minnie that real *Elegance* comes from walking to dinner, not driving (and its not bad on their checkbooks either). Rudolph, the headwaiter at Harmonia Gardens, teaches his staff how *The*



Waiters' Gallop should impress their company- especially Dolly. As dinner starts Cornelius and Barnaby stress over what their dates eat since they cannot afford the meal. Vandergelder, particularly dismayed with his date, Ernestina Money, doesn't have time to be too concerned because he is busy being furious at Dolly's matchmaking skills.

Dolly majestically enters to the ecstatic waiter's delight who welcome her with a round of *Hello, Dolly!* showing how excited they are that their favorite customer has returned. Everything falling into her plan, Vandergelder tells Dolly he is having an awful time. She then persuades him to think he wanted her to marry him, but playing coy she refuses. To worsen the night for Vandergelder, his wallet gets accidentally switched with one of his clerks who realize now they have more than enough money to pay for dinner.

Music plays and *The Polka* contest starts with Dolly as a guest judge. Vandergelder for the first time sees Ambrose, Ermengarde, Cornelius, and Barnaby. Pandemonium erupts as he tries to sort out all the action, but the police arrive trying to solve the disturbance. In court, Cornelius sings *It Only Takes a Moment* to fall in love with Irene. The judge, touched by Cornelius' sentiment, releases everyone, but Vandergelder. Dolly says *So Long Dearie* to the broken man saying she would leave him just like the others did.

Vandergelder welcomes Dolly the next day (*Hello, Dolly!- Reprise*) and after they sort out all the mess finally they are able to be together. After the *Finale* Dolly departs the stage with a wink saying, "Money, pardon the expression, is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless it's spread around, encouraging young things to grow."