

"Hello, Dolly!" wraps up Summer Lyric's 2015 season

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Elizabeth Argus is the meddlesome but well-meaning title character of Summer Lyric Theatre's *Hello, Dolly!* (Photo by Michael Palumbo)

For its last production of 2015, [Summer Lyric Theatre at Tulane University](#) brings to life the woman with the “happiest smile, the warmest heart and the largest appetite in the city of New York” ? Dolly Gallagher Levi, the titular character of *Hello, Dolly!*

The [show](#) opens tonight (July 30).

The story of a meddling matchmaker who sets her eye on a cantankerous bachelor,

Hello, Dolly! is a Broadway staple that was turned into a 1969 Academy Award-winning film. Jerry Herman's score is famous in its own right; Louis Armstrong had a [No. 1 hit](#) with the title song.

In Summer Lyric's version, local high-school music educator and Tulane alumna Elizabeth Argus plays Dolly.

Argus says the story, set in turn-of-the-century New York, stands up to time. "The whole show is just an exclamation of joy and life â?¡ A hundred years ago, men and women hoped for and longed for the same things we hope for and long for today. We're no different."

Director [Diane Lala](#), also a Tulane alumna, agrees. "When I first got it, the script drew me to it immediately," she says, describing it as "very witty and smart."

[Argus](#) says SLT is a unique, brisk theatrical environment that only allows weeks to prepare.

"Summer Lyric is such an intense, kind of a contracted rehearsal process ? you have to grow fast." In that way, Dolly's quick-thinking antics are perfectly suited to this stage.

"It's very humbling and awe-inspiring to find myself doing this [role]," Argus continues, especially since Broadway giant Carol Channing defined Dolly. "I'm always ? in my mind and in my heart ? I'm always this awkward little 12-year-old girl."

Nonetheless, she adds, "I'm having a blast!"

Bobs Edes Jr. plays the grumpy bachelor Horace Vandergelder, who sees Dolly not as warm or happy but "damned exasperating." Will he have a change of heart? Find out during the musical's run, through Sunday (Aug. 2) in Dixon Hall.

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Elizabeth Argus