

Say hello to Dolly, Sally Struthers Monday

By Jake Sovich
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Next week say aloha, hola, bonjour, guten tag, konnichiwa or just hi to Sally Struthers, who stars in the Broadway classic "Hello Dolly."

The Broadway in Great Falls show is Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts theater.

A two-time Emmy and Golden Globe winner, Struthers, 65, stars as the strong-willed matchmaker Dolly. Dolly travels to Yonkers, N.Y., to find a match for the ornery unmarried tycoon Horace Vandergelder. This is Struthers' first national tour of "Hello Dolly."

Best known for her work as Gloria in the television series "All in the Family" and more recently as Babette on Gilmore Girls, Struthers' career has spanned four decades.

In addition to her TV career, she has shined on the musical theater stage nationwide with featured roles in Broadway productions of "Annie," "Grease" and "The Odd Couple," and regionally in "The Full Monty," "Mame," "Legally Blonde" and "Chicago."

Struthers said she's looking forward to looking up and seeing Montana's acclaimed Big Sky when she gets to Great Falls.

"Montana is famous for the big blue skies, and the big-



Broadway in Great Falls presents "Hello Dolly" featuring Sally Struthers. The performance is Monday. COURTESY PHOTO

hearted citizens and we're bringing a big show," she said. "There's everything big all the way around so it's going to be so good."

"Hello Dolly" includes the classic songs "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," "It Only Takes a Moment" and the show-stopping "Before the Parade Passes By." It has appeared on tour and on Broadway off and on since 1964.

Music and lyrics were written by Jerry Herman and the book by Michael Stewart.

Struthers said before the current company started the latest "Hello Dolly" tour, they got in contact with Herman and asked him if Struthers would be a good fit for the title role. Struthers said he gave her high

praise, which she considers among the best compliments she's ever received.

"I think that the only better approval that I'm ever going to get than that is if St. Peter lets me in," she said.

Struthers added they expect 92-year-old Carol Channing to attend their March show in Palm Springs. Channing first played the role of Dolly in the original Broadway play in 1964.

"I couldn't be more excited," Struthers said. "I already know her, I've already dined with her, I already have had a one-on-one experience with her but for her to honor our production by coming to see it — we're all on pins and needles. She is the quintessential Dolly."

Since its multi-Tony Award

winning Broadway premiere in 1964, the show has had three Broadway revivals and boundless international success, as well as a film adaptation that was nominated for seven Academy Awards in 1969.

This production is directed by Jeffrey B. Moss, with choreography by Bob Richard, lighting design by Charlie Morrison and musical supervision by Skip Brevis. The executive producer is Daniel Sher at Big League Productions, Inc.

Tickets for Monday's show are available at the Civic Center Mansfield box office, by phone at 455-8514 on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or online at ticketing.greatfallsmt.net. They are \$52.50 and \$57.50.