



Junior Vanessa Copeland stars as Dolly in the Downers Grove South High School production of "Hello, Dolly!"

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'Hello, Dolly!' comes to stage of Downers Grove South

By **DAN FARNHAM**
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DOWNERS GROVE - The Downers Grove South High School fine arts department will present four performances of the musical "Hello, Dolly!" from April 14 to 17 in the school's auditorium, 1436 Norfolk St.

Performances will take place at 7 p.m. April 14 to 16 and 3 p.m. April 17. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$7 for stu-

dents and seniors.

Set in New York during the turn of the 20th century, the show stars Vanessa Copeland as Dolly, a matchmaker who is actually trying to find love for herself.

The cast includes Tim Werner as Horace Vandergelder, Patrick Mitchell as Cornelius Hackl, Peter Hunt Szpytek as Barnaby Tucker, Mariam Mackar as Irene Malloy, Juliana Arhontas and Leah Crandell as Minnie Fay, Matt

Chiaro as Ambrose Kemper and Lydia Walsh-Rock as Ermengarde.

This is the first time Copeland, a junior, has participated in a musical at Downers Grove South, which is limited to juniors and seniors.

"I wasn't originally auditioning for a lead part, but I was open to the opportunity to do it, and I was excited to do it when I got the chance to do it," she said.

Hunt Szpytek said he was not familiar with the show before being cast but likes the songs and the humor.

"I think anyone can find it funny because it's not too sophisticated, but it's not all slapstick humor," he said.

The students have been practicing for the show since February, and Mackar said she is excited to perform the show for an audience.

"Once you run through the show a hundred times with everybody in the cast, it's just like, 'OK,'" she said. "Once you do it with people who actually respond to it and enjoy it, you get this energy."

Copeland said she is both excited and nervous for the title song of the

If you go

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- **WHEN:** 7 p.m. April 14 to 16 and 3 p.m. April 17
- **WHERE:** Downers Grove South High School, 1436 Norfolk St.
- **COST:** \$8 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors

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show, which includes elaborate dances and her wearing a sparkly costume.

"There is a large staircase that I have to walk down," she said. "I'm concerned for that. That's my biggest fear for the moment."

Faculty members Chris Blum and Joy Belt-Roselieb serve as director and music director, respectively, for the show.

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