

Putnam boy plays role in DeNiro film

Actor, 7, got his start in productions at Random Farms

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CHAPPAQUA — Christopher Jumper, 7, of Putnam Valley got his first taste of the stage at the Random Farms Kids Theater when he was 5.

Two years later, he has made the jump to the silver screen and will appear as a young Robert DeNiro in the movie "City by the Sea," due to be released this year.

The movie was supposed to be released in the fall, but because of

its subject — the life of a police officer — the release date was delayed after the World Trade Center attacks.

Trish Jumper, Christopher's mother, said his experience with Random Farms taught her son how to take direction — a key factor in his being able to audition for the DeNiro movie.

Christopher's interest in performing was evident at a young age. Christopher's sisters, Alexandra, 11, and Samantha, 9, are also professional actors and Random Farms players.

"Since the age of 2, he was always singing, and saw his older sisters performing. At age 3, I couldn't pull him away from their rehearsals. He'd sit there for hours, enthralled, until 10:30 at

night," his mother said. "When he got a part in Random Farm Kids Theater's "Newsies" last summer, his second production, you could tell he was into it. He was patient. He listened and didn't run around like a typical 6-year-old.

"And he was on stage from beginning to end."

The day before the show opened last summer, Christopher got injured while playing outside and had to get stitches under one of his eyes. He went to the dress rehearsal that night anyway, and instead of resting and watching, he got on stage and did his part.

He found being on the set with DeNiro less taxing.

"I got to ride on a carousel and eat cotton candy," he said.