



Marissa Roth for The New York Times

Josh Hamilton, center, and Jordana Brewster, facing him, are two of the stars in the NBC mini-series "The 60's," to be broadcast in February. Yes, there will be a companion compact disk.

A Mini-Series Strives to Save the 60's

By JAMES STERNGOLD

HOLLYWOOD

IF ever there was a map of a collective human heart, of where a generation found its emotional epicenter, it was laid out on a set on the Paramount lot here on a chilly day recently. It was a gritty urban street corner where the men wore black turtlenecks and corduroy coats, while the long-haired women, many of them

Greenwich Village, 1964.

This was the last day of filming on the NBC mini-series "The 60's," which is scheduled to be broadcast on Feb. 7 and 8, and it was fitting somehow that the people behind the project — baby boomers — had chosen to close the production of this paean to their ambiguous youth in an unambiguous flight of happy nostalgia. That note of hope is, in fact, central not just to their own mythology but also to this unusually personal bit of television.

it sprang from passion and idealism.

Then the pair stopped to sing some lines from "Mr. Tambourine Man," a hint of their real mission, which was to catch a glimpse of Bob Dylan — to worship, in other words, at the altar of youth, an act as seductive for those creating the mini-series today as it was for them 34 years ago.

"The 60's" tries to chart the course of that decade by following a family, the Herlihs, from 1960 through 1969. The dreams that motivate the children into the thick of the

Nostalgia and mythology aside, the producer calls 'The 60's' a 'Roots' for baby boomers, and a lesson for their children.

tempt to win high ratings, according to the people behind the project. They want it both to recall their history and, in effect, to perform reconstructive surgery on it.

That is because the years have not been all that good to the 1960's. The entertainment industry, mirroring public attitudes, has frequently depicted the decade as a time of misadventures, irresponsibility and illusions, whether in the form of Vietnam War movies or paranoid visions like Oliver Stone's "J.F.K." Another picture, "The Ice