

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The quirky characters of Minnesota humorist **Garrison Keillor's** "A Prairie Home Companion" may be headed for the silver screen.



KEILLOR

A cinematic version of the popular radio show is tentatively set to begin shooting in January at the Fitzgerald Theater, with director **Robert Altman** at the helm, the Star Tribune of Minneapolis reported Saturday.

Keillor wrote the screenplay — about life backstage at the radio show. The movie is expected to star **Meryl Streep** and **Lily Tomlin** as a fading sister duet act and **Tom Waits** and **Lyle Lovett** as Dusty and Lefty, the singing cowboys.

"Altman and Keillor — that's a happy combination of American masters," said Tony Judge, who is coordinating the project for Prairie Home Productions. "They've become good working partners."

Judge said the two icons met "through good and lucky chance," and Altman became interested in a film.