

Great F. Scott! A 'Home'-town hero at last

By **DAVID HINCKLEY**

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GARRISON KEILLOR, whose gentle writing tends only to hint at the dark undercurrents of life, will spend his radio show this weekend paying tribute to an earlier author whose work put the dark undercurrents right up on the surface:

F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion," heard Saturday at 6 p.m. on both WNYC-AM (820) and WNYC-FM (93.9), then again Sunday at 11 a.m. on WNYC-FM, will be devoted entirely to Fitzgerald, who was born 100 years ago yesterday in St. Paul, Minn.

Which is, of course, where "Prairie Home Companion" originates.

The "Prairie Home Companion"

broadcast caps a week of Fitzgerald events in St. Paul, organized by Keillor in cooperation with many other well-known contemporary writers.

Keillor sees this as long-overdue hometown recognition for, arguably, the best American writer of the century.

RADIO

"Fitzgerald is a beautiful writer, his best writing as graceful and truthful as

ever," says Keillor. "He was a heroic man who was defeated and kept on fighting. He and his wife, **Zelda**, enjoyed shocking the staid burghers and boosters of the '20s, and succeeded, but at great cost, and one cost has been that Fitzgerald is without honor in his hometown."

Events include seminars and read-

ings of Fitzgerald's work, including the novels "The Great Gatsby," "The Last Tycoon" and "Tender Is the Night." There will also be a first-day unveiling of a Fitzgerald postage stamp.

Participants in Saturday's "Prairie Home Companion" are expected to include **Joseph Heller, Donald Hall, Tobias Wolff, Scott Donaldson, Bobbie Ann Mason, Eleanor Lanahan** and **Frances Kroll Ring.**

Sam Shepard and **Jessica Lange** are penciled in, if their movie-making schedules permit, while **E.L. Doctorow** has sent in a contribution.

Besides the "Prairie Home Companion" show, Fitzgerald fans can tap into the St. Paul celebration on the Internet (<http://www.mpr.org>) — or find out what's happening by calling (612) 290-1131, the Fitzgerald Events Line.