

Garrison Keillor hosting book awards

GARRISON KEILLOR, the humorist and best-selling author, will host this year's National Book Awards ceremony.

"I am thrilled to be the emcee of the National Book Awards ceremony, a big night in the book world, when you get to see distinguished authors feign nonchalance though they're all giddy and sweaty and their hearts are pounding," Keillor said in a statement Monday released by the awards' sponsor, the National Book Foundation, a non-profit organization.

"Someday I hope to feign nonchalance myself, and meanwhile I'm thrilled to be the emcee."

The awards ceremony will take place Nov. 17 in New York. Keillor, a native of Minnesota, will announce the finalists on Oct. 13 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul.

Keillor's many books include "Lake Wobegon Days," "The Old Man Who Loved Cheese" and "Homegrown Democrat." He also is host of the radio program "A Prairie Home Companion," which airs on public stations around the country.

— From wire reports