

SALINAS/SAN JOSE

Garrison Keillor to receive 2007 Steinbeck award

Famed American cultural commentator and entertainer Garrison Keillor, most popularly known for his radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," will receive the 2007 John Steinbeck Award from San Jose State University and the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas.

Keillor's contributions to American culture range from hosting his popular radio show on National Public Radio to screenwriting, music, acting and writing. His latest novel, "Pontoon," has just been published.

The Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose State University created the Steinbeck award in 1996. Named for the Salinas-born, Nobel Prize-winning writer who died in 1968, the award honors writers and artists whose work captures the spirit of Steinbeck's empathy for and belief in the common man.

Thomas Steinbeck will present the award Sept. 25 at the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in the San Francisco Bay Area.