



Sue Scott

Garrison Keillor

Tim Russell

'Prairie Home Companion' performers agree they have the
'Best gig in the biz'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left, Fred Newman, Tim Russell, Sue Scott and Garrison Keillor perform in "A Prairie Home Companion." The weekly radio show will broadcast live Saturday from Winona State University's McCown Gymnasium.

Show to broadcast live Saturday from Winona

By Kari Knutson
Winona Daily News

Lake Wobegon comes to Winona this Saturday as Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" is broadcast live from Winona State University's McCown Gymnasium. This week's musical guests are the Marcia Ball Band and Beau-Soleil. More than 4 million listeners tune in each week to the popular radio show.

Sue Scott and Tim Russell were faithful listeners before joining the show as cast members. Scott joined the show in 1992 as a radio comedy actor. Originally from Arizona, she became a fan of the show when it moved to New York City. She liked how Keillor included

Broadway actors in the show. When the show moved back to Minnesota, Scott decided to audition for it. Keillor thought she captured the Minnesota accent.

"Maybe because I wasn't a native, I could hear better," Scott said.

"We don't have many things like this. There's some universal thing encompassed in the stories that (Keillor) tells."

Tim Russell, voice actor

Scott loves the way Keillor tells stories, often temporarily.

"He is writing constantly," Scott said.

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**A
Prairie Home
Companion**
With GARRISON KEILLOR

IF YOU GO

WHAT: "A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor"
WHEN: 4:45 p.m. Saturday
WHERE: Winona State University's McCown Gymnasium
TICKETS: Floor seating for \$35 and \$45, bleacher seats for \$20, available at the WSU Alumni Office, Somsen 206, or by calling (507) 457-2655.
WEB SITE: www.winona.edu/150years

PRAIRIE

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"I don't know when he sleeps."

She considers her job the best gig in show business.

"People have found things to like about the show. Even if you didn't grow up in a small town, they romanticize about it," Scott said. "If they did, they feel like they're coming back home when they listen."

Russell joined the show in 1994. He had been working in radio and television for years, honing his talent for creating characters and impersonating people.

"It's been great," Russell said. "Thanks to his creativity, it's always something different."

Russell started out doing impressions of cartoon characters to entertain his friends. Now he's working on perfecting his Barack Obama impersonation.

"Part of the job is being totally observational," Russell said. "In these election years, I'm watching debate after debate."

Like Scott, Russell says it's the best gig he could hope for. He believes the key to the show's success is Keillor's genius.

"We don't have many things like this," Russell said. "There's some universal thing encompassed in the stories that he tells."

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