

WARNER THEATRE

Garrison Keillor Still Expected To Perform Thursday In Torrington

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Garrison Keillor, the former host of "A Prairie Home Companion," is still scheduled to perform Thursday night at the Warner Theatre In Torrington amid the news of his firing after alleged improper behavior.

Lynn Gelormino, executive director of the Warner Theatre, says that Keillor's appearance had not been canceled or postponed as of 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Gelormino said that the event is a "rental," meaning the theater was being rented for the occasion and is not a production of the Warner itself. She has been in touch with the promoter and will announce any cancellations or postponements on the Warner website and elsewhere.

The appearance was scheduled through DSP Shows and Premier Concerts, according to a flyer for the event.

When reached Wednesday afternoon, a representative for DSP Shows said, "We're not able to comment." Premier Concerts did not return a request for comment.

A Wednesday night performance

featuring Keillor at The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, Mass., was canceled by DSP about three hours before Keillor was scheduled to take the stage, according to the Berkshire Theatre Group's Facebook page.

A Sunday night performance at Babeville in Buffalo, N.Y., was also canceled, according to the venue's website.

Keillor told The Associated Press of his termination in an email on Wednesday. He said he had been fired by Minnesota Public Radio over allegations of what the network called improper behavior.

Keillor didn't detail the allegation to AP, but in an email to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, he said the incident involved putting his hand on a woman's bare back in an attempt to console her.

"I meant to pat her back after she told me about her unhappiness, and her shirt was open and my hand went up it about six inches. She recoiled. I apologized. I sent her an email of apology later and she replied that she had forgiven me and not to think about it," Keillor told the newspaper. "We were friends. We continued to be friendly right up until her lawyer called."

In his statement to AP, Keillor said it

was "poetic irony to be knocked off the air by a story, having told so many of them myself. But I'm 75 and don't have any interest in arguing about this. And I cannot in conscience bring danger to a great organization I've worked hard for since 1969."

Keillor retired as host of the long-running public radio variety show in 2016. His hand-picked successor, mandolinist Chris Thile, is in his second season as "Prairie Home" host. After Keillor retired, he continued to work with MPR on other projects.

MPR also said the name of the show, produced and distributed nationwide by American Public Media, would be changed. The show has been named "A Prairie Home Companion" for more than 40 years. MPR also said it will end distribution of "The Writer's Almanac," Keillor's daily reading of a poem and telling of literary events, and end rebroadcasts of "The Best of A Prairie Home Companion" hosted by Keillor.

Keillor played New London's Garde Arts Center Oct. 7 and is scheduled to appear at the Ridgefield Playhouse Feb. 11.

Courant staff writer Christopher Arnott contributed to this story and an Associated Press report is included.