

Capsule Critique — The restoration of the 80-year-old World Theater in downtown St. Paul won the admiration of all who attended its "reopening night" last Friday. It also was the envy of the Minneapolis contingent.

It is sad that our town's great historic theater, the State, will be torn down soon.

Garrison Keillor's dedication show was a dandy. The surprise was the theatrical debut of Whitney MacMillan as a folksy emcee.

MacMillan, who heads Cargill, the family grain firm that sponsors Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show, did a Keillor-style monologue. He won his own laughs during his introduction of Keillor.

Another surprise was to see Fred Newman, author of the hilarious best-selling book "Mouth Sounds," working as a sound effects man for the show.

Read the book and you too may be able to mouth a thunderstorm.

Table favors at dinner were gold kazoos.

Actually, the only thing out of sync was the main course of the Lake Wobegon-style dinner. It was chicken. It should have been meat loaf.