



(Photo by Erik Borg)

Garrison Keillor (left) is seen in a 1983 performance of "Prairie Home Companion" at Middlebury College. He announced Tuesday he would bring the radio program back to Middlebury in May.

Keillor to Say Goodbye Again

MIDDLEBURY — Garrison Keillor announced Tuesday that he would return to Middlebury to say farewell again.

At a news conference in New York, Keillor announced that he would present "A Prairie Home Companion: The 2nd Annual Farewell Performance," starting at Middlebury College on Saturday, May 28 and continuing for a week with a schedule of performances that will conclude at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

The two-hour stage production, which will be recorded for rebroadcast over the American Public Radio Network, will feature commercial parodies, musical selections, an eclectic assortment of guests, and a monologue by Keillor, all of which made "A Prairie Home Companion" America's most popular public radio show.

"The return of A Prairie Home Companion to the Middlebury College campus for the second time in five years is an event that has long been awaited," college President Olin Robison said.

Keillor's lineup of guests for the Middlebury performance includes such "Prairie Home Companion" favorites as Butch Thompson, ragtime and traditional jazz pianist; bluesgrass and folk singers Robin and Linda Williams; singer-actress-comedienne Karen Morrow; and Rich Dworsky, Tom Keith, Kate MacKenzie and Dan Rowles providing a new chapter in the radio drama, "Buster, The Show Dog."

Keillor will also bring new news from Lake Wobegon, "the

little town that time forgot."

The Middlebury performance will initiate a series of performances that will conclude at New York's Radio City Music Hall one week later. The series will include appearances at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass., on May 29 and 30.

Keillor first said farewell in his final live performance and broadcast on June 13, 1987, from the World Theater in St. Paul, Minn.

"The old Prairie Home show was a pretty good radio show," commented Keillor in explaining his return. "But after it ended people started to remember it as wonderful and even fabulous and soon, I am afraid, nostalgia will make that show into a legend which it certainly never was at the time we did it. So I wanted to do the show again before people started to admire it so much that I wouldn't be able to perform without damaging my reputation."

Keillor currently lives in New York where he writes humorous articles for The New Yorker. "It is our farewell performance and I hope the first of many," he said.

"A Prairie Home Companion" was broadcast live every Saturday night for 13 years. In 1980 it began broadcasts nationally over the American Public Radio Network and quickly attracted an audience estimated at 4 million. For the last two years of its live broadcasts, the weekly program was also broadcast in Australia.

Tickets for the May 28 performance will go on sale on

Saturday, March 26, at 9 a.m. in the lounge of Proctor Hall on the Middlebury College campus. There will be approximately 700 tickets available for the performance, and they must be purchased in person. There will be a limit of six tickets per person. Tickets are \$12, and all seats are unreserved.

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can win
often

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