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# Keillor returns to radio

## Big Apple show has Minnesota core

By JOHN DuBOIS  
*Times Staff Writer*

Garrison Keillor says he still has a thing about his little Minnesota town — the mythical Lake Wobegon.

But, as his new radio show that debuted live Saturday night from Brooklyn, N.Y., proved, it isn't home anymore.

... I stuck up for New York City (recently)," he said. "Same way I defend American foreign policy when I'm in Denmark. So I guess I've become a New Yorker."

No matter, though, where he hangs his hat nowadays. There were Central Minnesota fans who liked his new "American Radio Company of the Air" almost as well as his old "Prairie Home Companion."

"One of the things we noticed was the talent. It's a sight more professional than it used to be," said Beth Bromen, a Sauk Centre woman who listened to the new show with her husband.

"I listened to the whole thing—I didn't turn it off. But I thought it was weaker than the old show," said Bob Spaeth, St. Joseph.

That old show was quite the show. "Prairie Home Companion," broadcast live Saturday nights from the World Theatre in St. Paul, built an audience of more than 4 million listeners after 13 years.

That all ended in September of 1987, when Keillor and his Danish wife tried escaping the limelight by moving to Denmark. That didn't last long as the couple beat it back to New York.

"They say muggers don't fool with lunatics," Keillor quipped. "Well, in two years (of living in New York City) no one's bothered me."

Keillor's two-hour show, broadcast live on Minnesota Public Radio from Brooklyn Academy of Music, was filled with the kind of old-time

tunes heard on his old show. Eileen Farrell, for one, sang several jazzy tunes, including, "Black-berry Winter."

There were other similarities: Remember when Keillor used to read his "Hello out there" letters? He did it again, including this beauty: "Larry from Watertown says 'uff-da' to all the folks in Wisconsin."

There were fake commercials, too, including one from "Harvey's Beauty Milk," a skin cream.

Then, there was a skit about a boy who wrote a book, "which dumps all over his family."

"I thought it was going to be memoirs from his childhood," his mother sighed. "Get back at your mama, get back at your pa," Keillor and company sang in a rap song. "Don't get yourself a gun, get



Garrison Keillor  
Now in Brooklyn

Keillor/2B

marshal, Daniels said. St. Cloud Marine Corp

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yourself a word processor.”

But, perhaps, the most familiar part of the show was when Keillor told a few stories about Lake Wobegon. He had said in a previous interview that he wasn't going to do that.

“I think it's still possible to love two places,” he said. “And I still do have a thing about my little town in Minnesota — Lake Wobegon.”

Keillor told listeners that he had been there recently and was surprised how little things had changed.

“You have a hard time figuring out what year it is,” he said. The water tower still misspells the name of the town; the Statue of the Unknown Nor-

wegian still has a coat of lipstick on its lips.

And the Lutherans are still going to church.

The minister “preached a good one Thanksgiving,” Keillor said. “It was so good people almost came up and told him so afterward. The sermon was called: ‘Sin Boldly.’ ”

That's what Clyde Weivoda, an Albany listener thought Keillor had done by trying to make a comeback. He didn't think Keillor's show would last its scheduled 20-week run.

Said Weivoda: “He should never have said ‘Hello’ again.”

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**Snowmobiler dies**