

Region folks excited over chance to see Keillor live at Orpheum

By Delores Ballard
Sun senior writer

Even before the deal is finished, out-of-town requests for tickets to see Garrison Keillor at the Orpheum in Memphis already are flooding in.

Keillor is expected to do his "American Radio Company of the Air" program for public radio live at the historic Memphis theater on June 2, said Dan Campbell, station manager of WKNO-FM 91. The Memphis public radio station carries the show.

The show normally originates from New York and is heard nationwide and in several foreign countries.

Keillor, who gained a national audience with his first radio program, "A Prairie Home Companion," endeared himself to fans with winsome, humorous tales of his Minnesota boyhood. He went on to become a best-selling author with a print version of his yarns, set in the fictitious Lake Wobegon.

He appears equally in demand as a live performer. Campbell said the day after the announcement of a tentative agreement between the station and Keil-

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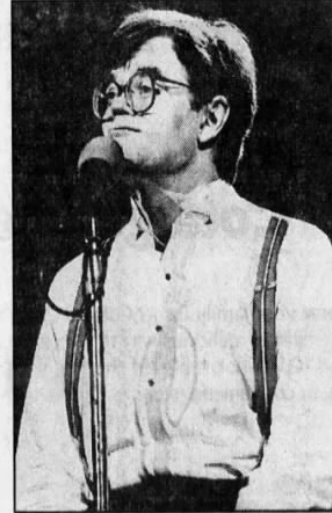
— Dan Campbell,
WKNO-FM station manager

lor's show, inquiries came in from as far away as Nashville and Jackson, Miss.

"Everybody wants tickets and we don't even have any printed yet," said Campbell, who expects to sign the agreement with Keillor's radio company this week.

The live broadcast of "American Radio Company" may also feature Beale Street blues singer Ruby Wilson. Show officials have heard her perform and "I know they're going to ask her to be on the show and negotiate a price," Campbell said.

Ticket information will be released to the public as soon as all details are firm, Campbell promised. First option on tickets goes to WKNO-FM members.



Garrison Keillor, creator of 'A Prairie Home Companion,' is in hot demand on public radio, in print and as a live performer.