

Garrison Keillor returns to Manchester with 'Love Me'

MANCHESTER CENTER — On Monday, August 18, from 5 to 7 p.m., Northshire Bookstore will welcome the man Time magazine calls "The funniest American writer" — the inimitable Garrison Keillor.

The host of NPR's wildly popular "A Prairie Home Companion" will sign his newest book, "Love Me." Keillor is returning to Manchester after visiting this past fall.

"Love Me" is Keillor's first non-Wobegon book of fiction since 1993's "The Book of Guys," and he brings all of his storytelling talents to bear in this delightful comedy of errors. The novel charts ambitious writer Larry Wyler's rise to fame, his subsequent fall, and the redemption that finally comes to him as the author of the "Ask Mr. Blue" advice column in the local St. Paul paper.

When Larry's first novel becomes a major bestseller, he leaves Minnesota and his big-hearted wife for an apartment with a wrap-around terrace in Manhattan. He slides into an office at The New Yorker, pals around with legendary editor William Shawn,

and settles into life as a literary man-about-town — all of which Keillor parodies to hilarious effect.

When Larry's second novel bombs, he descends into writer's block and skulks back to St. Paul to take a job writing an advice col-



Garrison Keillor

umn — helping lovelorn locals such as "Exasperated," whose wife, a former federal judge, has traded in her career for a pair of roller blades; "Discouraged," who yearns to leave his cubicle for a life of freedom in Montana; and "Secular Humanist," who

suddenly realizes his girlfriend is Amish. It's a low rung on the literary ladder, but writing common sense advice to the lonely and frustrated initiates Larry's own recovery.

"Love Me" is told with Keillor's

trademark wit, compassionate humor and eye for human weakness. A hilarious and heartfelt novel about ambition, success and failure, it extols the virtues of real love and a steady job.

Keillor is the author of 13 books, including "Lake Wobegon," "Summer 1956," "Wobegon Boy," and "Lake Wobegon Days." From 1999-2001, he wrote a column "Dear Mr. Blue: Advice for Lovers and Writers" on Salon.com. His popular Saturday-night public radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," is in its 27th season.

A member of the Academy of Arts & Letters, he lives in St. Paul with his wife and daughter.

For more information on this and other events, call 802-362-2200 or 1-800-437-3700, or visit www.northshire.com.