

Garrison Keillor comes to King Center

BY PAM HARBAUGH
FLORIDA TODAY

While Garrison Keillor is known far and wide for his storytelling, he is surprisingly at a loss when trying to describe his appearance Tuesday evening at the King Center for the Arts in Melbourne.

"I guess it's sort of a performance," he mused. "It's kind of a simple matter of walking up with your hands in your pockets, and you just start talking. It's not stand up comedy. It's not just storytelling. I don't know what to call it.

"It's just sort of a kind of literary dance."

Keillor, host and writer of PBS' "A Prairie Home Companion" and "The Writer's Almanac," will tell a few stories, sing a few songs, recite

See KEILLOR, 2D



If You Go

What: Garrison Keillor

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Where: King Center for the Performing Arts, 3865 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne

Cost: \$30 to \$50, plus handling

Call: 242-2219 or visit www.kingcenter.com.

Show includes sonnets about Minnesota winters

KEILLOR, from 1D

a few poems and generally delight Brevard fans of mythical Lake Wobegon.

Make no mistake, his appearance is not like "A Prairie Home Companion," which is a fully produced radio show. If his literary dance is anything like it was when he was here in 2007, it will be pretty low-key with plenty of home-spun wit and irony.

Born in 1942 in Anoka, Minn., Keillor lives in St. Paul with his wife and daughter. While you may think he's Lutheran (a recurring motif in his Lake Wobegon stories), he actually is a member of the Episcopal church.

In 1988, he took a two-year hiatus from his show when he moved to Denmark.

It gave him a "greater appreciation of the little things in America," especially the language and small talk that takes place among strangers here.

A winner of the 1999 National Humanities Medal, Keillor is the author of more than a dozen books, including "Lake Wobegon Days" and "Homegrown Democrat." He wrote the 2006 film



Photo courtesy of Dana Nye

Telling tales. Fred Newman, left, Tim Russell, Sue Scott, and Garrison Keillor make up the cast of "A Prairie Home Companion."

"A Prairie Home Companion," which was directed by the late Robert Altman and starred Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline.

The non-glossy quality of his live radio shows gives encouragement to regular people that "they, too, can do something like this," he said.

"The stories, I think are encouraging to people in small towns, from small towns, from the Midwest and people my age," he said. "They are stories that include some of their history as well. And in popular culture today, I think people feel a bit lost and a little bit ig-

nored.

"And then, of course, it makes them laugh. . . . I think I am encouraging people to tell their own stories, partly because I don't do it all that well. When they listen to me, they think, 'I have a story better than that one.'"

His show on Tuesday will include some sonnets he has recently written and some stories about winter in Minnesota.

"People in Melbourne would want to hear about that and hear what they're missing." ■

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