

## Garrison Keillor's 'companions' live on the air and in real life

By Thomas Kaser  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Garrison Keillor is not only a best-selling author and host of public radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," to be broadcast live from the Blaisdell Concert Hall today.

He's also a man in love. You can tell it by what he's recently been saying and singing on the show, which is broadcast over 263 public radio stations and heard by an estimated 2.5 million listeners in America and Australia. (Local broadcast, over KHPR-FM, is underwritten by Straub Clinic & Hospital.)

In last Saturday's broadcast from Seattle, for example, he said "this is such a romantic time of year," and he spoke of "a guy walking around town, looking at the sky and the trees — a guy about my age, about my height, murmuring to himself, sighing to himself."

And he sang two love songs and talked about cities he would like to be in "if I were in love." Northern cities, he said, are better places for lovers to be because "it's a simple fact that two people can keep each other warm in a northern climate."

"But in the South, where it's warm a good deal of the year, two people can make each other extremely uncomfortable."

And there is the ongoing story, in his weekly monologues, of Senator

### The Honolulu Advertiser entertainment

(that's his first name, not a title) Knute Thorvaldson, the 72-year-old bachelor of mythical Lake Wobegon, Minn., who has fallen in love with a woman from Maine, proposed to her, and now she is coming to visit him at Thanksgiving.

According to recent news reports — real ones — from Minneapolis, Keillor went to the 25th reunion of his high school class in August, was reunited there with a Danish woman, Ulla Skaerved, who was an exchange student at the school 25 years ago, and now they plan to be married at a Lutheran Church in Copenhagen Dec. 29. It will be the second marriage for both.

Is art imitating life, here, or what? "Yes, there's a parallel," Keillor told The Advertiser following a news conference yesterday at the Outrigger Prince Kuhio Hotel, where the show's cast and crew are staying.

"She was the first girl I ever loved. I went out with her while she was an American Field Service exchange student for a year at my high school in Anoka, Minn., and I was infatuated with her."

"It was absolutely fortuitous that I

ran into her at my high school reunion in August. I hadn't seen her in those 25 years, but she remembered me and I remembered her."

He said he has seen her a couple of times this fall and she is due to visit him in St. Paul at — he-lo! — Thanksgiving. He said he plans to fly to Copenhagen Christmas Eve, be married the following Sunday, then return with his wife to St. Paul.

"A Prairie Home Companion" has been on the road for two months while its St. Paul home — the World Theatre — is being renovated. Honolulu is the sixth of eight cities on the tour. Next week's show will come from Los Angeles, the following week's from Chicago.

Today's show begins at 12:45 p.m. but will be broadcast in Hawaii on a tape-delay basis at its regular 6 p.m. time. At yesterday's news conference, Keillor said today's show will be slightly different in that "it will have much more to do with Hawaii and Hawaii's music than with Lake Wobegon."

"It's our chance — our only chance — to present to our audience music I have been very fond of since I first bought an album by the late Gabby Pahinui about 12 years ago."

He said this week's monologue, which he began composing yesterday morning, will be about "people from Lake Wobegon who wanted to come to Hawaii, had plans to come — but those plans fell through."



Advertiser photo by Charles Okamoto

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