

ENCORE REVIEW

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By **MIKE SWEENEY**
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

FORT WORTH —
Radio is better when you
can see it.

If you closed your eyes,
you'd find that last night's
nonbroadcast perform-
ance of Garrison Keillor's
*American Radio Com-
pany* was like his weekly
radio show, right down to
a repeat of *Don't Fence Me In* from Saturday's live broadcast.

But the Will Rogers Auditorium audience paid a lot more
than the price of a couple of AA batteries to do more than
listen.

For their money, which benefits KERA/90.1, they got all the
expressions on Keillor's rubbery face — long chin, funny
smile that obscures his upper lip, endearing befuddlement.

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Crowd sees Keillor give killer show

Keillor

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They got to see how soundmeister Tom Keith makes doors creak, winds moan and elk — what the heck do elk do? howl? moo? And they got to bask in the good feelings that Keillor generates when he talks about small towns or writes funny lyrics to familiar songs, such as his fictional biographical sketch of George Bizet (did you know he was Duane from Omaha?) set to a tune from *Carmen*.

Worth it? Sure.

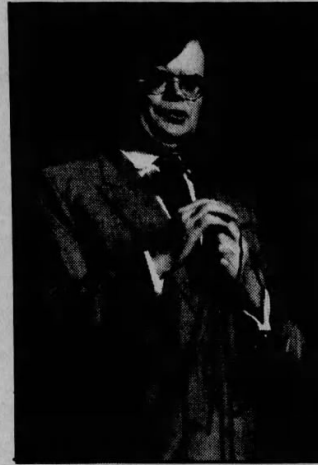
Keillor served up songs from the Coffee Club Orchestra ranging from Dixieland to washboard music, added some Spanish flavoring from Austin singer/songwriter Tish Hinojosa and topped it all with a can of cowboy corn.

Case in point: The Lonesome Radio Theater performed *Danny the Novelist*, about a parking attendant who writes western novels. His book titles don't translate into print easily, but they include, roughly, *Ck, Ck, Giddy up Beauty, C'mon Big Girl, Away* (that's one book) and *Pa, Look Out, It's Aiiiiieeee*. Watching how Keillor, Ivy Austin and William Parry milked the reading of the typewritten script for laughs is a lesson in how to have fun with a little imagination and a sound effects man.

The evening's highlight (aside from a Keillor-Hinojosa polka) was the news from Lake Wobegon, Minn., which let Keillor get off a few Fort Worth and Dallas jokes.

Discussing the Krebsbachs' trip to Dallas to visit their son, Wesley, who has some description-defying job in one of those glass towers, Keillor reflected on the differences between FW and D.

Dallas "is a Westerner's idea of what New York ought to look like," he said. While it may be the flashy



Fort Worth Star-Telegram/JOYCE MARSHALL
Garrison Keillor's expressions add to the sound of hearing him live.

ABOUT LAST NIGHT

Sunday night
Garrison Keillor's *American Radio Company* with guest Tish Hinojosa
Will Rogers Auditorium, Fort Worth

ATTENDANCE: Just a handful of empty seats.

THE CROWD: Some angry muttering by those who expected Ticketmaster to mail their tickets yet still had to wait in long lines to claim them.

MUST BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED: Keillor (very tall) doing the polka with Hinojosa (very un-tall) to close the show.

girl at the party, "Fort Worth is more like the woman you end up talking to later in the evening."

Keillor, whose home of St. Paul is the little sister to another glamour town, ought to know. He may have been in Fort Worth only a day, but he seemed to feel at home, as did those who saw him.