

A Prairie Home Companion®

With GARRISON KEILLOR

The Rhubarb Tour

Since 1974, *A Prairie Home Companion* has entertained audiences with a variety-show format that features unforgettable comedy sketches; eclectic music that ranges among many acoustic genres including Folk, Bluegrass, Classical, Folk, Jazz and Rhythm & Blues; and Garrison Keillor's signature monologue, "The News From Lake Wobegon," *the little town that time forgot and decades can't improve*. The two-hour broadcasts in front of theater audiences are carried live throughout the country on over 580 stations – a remarkable feat in a day when many shows are taped ahead and heavily edited before being aired.

This summer Garrison Keillor will be bringing "A Prairie Home Companion: The Rhubarb Tour" to select cities across the country. These special performances will be presented for each live audience we visit and will include Garrison Keillor, The Guys All Star Shoe Band, our Sound Effects Man Fred Newman, and special musical guests from the *Prairie Home* family. These shows have a distinct advantage: Garrison will not have to stop after exactly two hours or meet station break deadlines. With the added time and flexibility, audiences will experience more material, more interaction between Garrison and the performers, and more audience involvement. This will be a rare opportunity to get to know Garrison, and the *Prairie Home* performers, in ways not possible during our broadcast presentations. What many people do not know is that every weekend excellent material rehearsed during the two days previous never makes it on air. Here's your chance to experience it.

[A HOST WHO HAS BEEN CALLED AMERICA'S FINEST STORYTELLER](#)

Garrison Keillor's signature monologue, "The News From Lake Wobegon" is the heart of each week's broadcast, as it will be each stop on our *The Rhubarb Tour*. The lights go down, Garrison Keillor steps into a spot-light and says, "It's been a quiet week in my hometown -- Lake Wobegon, Minnesota..." For the next 15 to 20 minutes, Keillor weaves tales of the Chatterbox Café, Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery, the Sidetrack Tap, the Lake Wobegon Whippets, and all the people who live, love, work and play in this little mythical town that's located somewhere between the mind and heart of it's creator. By the time Keillor ends the monologue with "...and that's the news from Lake Wobegon, where the women are strong, the men are good looking, and all the children are above average," the audience has been transported to small-town America amidst the Ingqvists, Krebsbachs, Tolleruds and Bunsens. Garrison's best-selling novel "*Pontoon – A Story of Lake Wobegon*" grew out of a monologue Garrison developed over many years of touring with shows such as *The Rhubarb Tour*.

GREAT MUSIC

The Rhubarb Tour will feature The Guy's All-Star Shoe Band led by composer and keyboardist extraordinaire Rich Dworsky. The Shoes feature Pat Donohue on guitar and Andy Stein on violin and his array of saxophones. Garrison will also hire musical guests from the *Prairie Home* family to tour with us.

Rich Dworsky composes and performs original music for Garrison on *Prairie Home*, has worked with Al Jarreau and Kristin Chenoweth among others, and has recorded original albums and on the Windham Hill Label.

Pat Donohue is a National Finger Picking Guitar Champion and has several albums on the Red House and Bluesky labels, his latest is *American Guitar* (Bluesky). His songs have been recorded by Chet Atkins, Suzy Bogguss, and Kenny Rogers.

From his roots as a founding member of Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen to his freelance work on Broadway and in concert halls across the country to his original compositions and arrangements, Andy Stein brings an array of talents to bear every time he appears on *A Prairie Home Companion*.

AMAZING SOUND EFFECTS

“Sound Designer” and *Prairie Home* Touring Regular Fred Newman will be joining Garrison for sketches during this summer tour. Fred brings the tour much-needed flexibility: in the unlikely event of a musical emergency he can single-handedly replace the Shoe Band without even opening an instrument case. His book, “MouthSounds, How to Pop Whistle and Honk for all occasions and Then Some”, and its accompanying DVD, is a standard reference guide for the industry.

33 YEARS OF GREAT RADIO

More than 4 million listeners on over 580 public-radio stations in the United States and across the world hear *A Prairie Home Companion* each week. Garrison Keillor is in his 33rd season of writing, producing and hosting one of America's most popular weekly radio shows that continues to attract larger loyal audiences season after season.

We work closely with the local public radio station serving each community to which we bring the *Rhubarb Tour*. They broadcast our show each week to thousands of extraordinarily loyal fans, any one of whom will be thrilled to hear that Garrison is coming to town.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The performance is produced by Prairie Home Productions, an independent company licensed by Minnesota Public Radio.

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prairiehome.org WEB SITE

You will find *A Prairie Home Companion's* web site to be a great resource. Whether you're looking for show information, bio's of performers and guests, photos, post messages to Garrison Keillor, post an online greeting, or to listen to past shows stored in our extensive archives, you will discover that www.prairiehome.org is a very thorough, entertaining and user friendly tool.

Additional Materials

Photos are available upon request. "The Rhubarb Tour" logos, as well as our "A Prairie Home Companion" logo, are available in various electronic formats. Please contact us if you would like to use them.