



Summer 8-23-2004

## **Author. Storvteller. Humorist Garrison Keillor to Address Illinois Wesleyan and Hlinois State**

Chelsey Iaquinta  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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### **Recommended Citation**

Iaquinta, Chelsey, "Author. Storvteller. Humorist Garrison Keillor to Address Illinois Wesleyan and Hlinois State" (2004). *News and Events*. 4963.  
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August 23, 2004

Contact: Chelsey Iaquina, (309) 556-3181

Author, Storyteller, Humorist**Garrison Keillor to Address Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Prolific writer and radio personality, Garrison Keillor, will speak and hold a book signing as the featured guest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ames/Milner Visiting Author Program on Wednesday, Sept. 22. Events are free and open to the public. Advance tickets are required for the 7 p.m. program. Tickets may be picked up beginning Sept. 1 at the Braden Auditorium box office and Milner Library general reference desk, both at Illinois State University, or at The Ames Library information desk at Illinois Wesleyan University. There is a four-ticket limit per person. Books by Keillor will be available for purchase at the book the signing.

The following is Keillor's schedule:

Time	Event	Location
2 – 3 p.m.	Brief Remarks, Question and Answer Session	Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, Illinois Wesleyan University
7 – 8 p.m.	Speech, Question and Answer Session	Braden Auditorium, Illinois State University
8 – 9 p.m.	Book Signing	Entrance of Braden Auditorium, Illinois State University

Keillor, a radio hall of fame member, is best known as the host and author of National Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" which is broadcast on over 558 public radio stations and is heard by over 4 million listeners each week. He is also the author of eight books for adults and three for children. His books which include *Lake Wobegon Days* (1985), *Leaving Home* (1992), *The Book of Guys* (1993), and *Me: By Jimmy "Big Boy" Valente as Told to Garrison Keillor* (1999) have made him a regular presence on the best-selling list of American authors.

In addition to his books, Keillor has written poetry and is a gifted storyteller. Known for his presence and delivery, he has created numerous recordings including an audio version of *Lake Wobegon Days* that earned him a Grammy award in 1985. Keillor is also a talented vocalist. His deep singing voice can often be heard on "A Prairie Home Companion" and in 1992 he recorded an album of spirituals and hymns with The Hopeful Gospel Quartet.

A native of Anoka, Minn., Keillor began his radio career as a student at the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated in 1966. Beginning in 1969, Keillor wrote for *The New Yorker* and in 1974, while he was conducting research on an article about the Grand Ole Opry, he was inspired to create a live radio variety show that became "A Prairie Home Companion."