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THIRTEEN's *American Masters* goes down home and on-air with *Garrison Keillor: The Man on the Radio in the Red Shoes*, July 1 on PBS

US broadcast premiere takes a candid look at the private man in the public spotlight of A Prairie Home Companion

America's foremost humorist and social pundit, Garrison Keillor takes his skits and monologues across the country in his popular radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*. ***American Masters*** trails this yarn-smith and his crew of actors and musicians as they spin stories and song into American gold in ***Garrison Keillor: The Man on the Radio in the Red Shoes***, premiering nationally Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings). DVD with additional features will be released by Docurama Films on July 7.

Through the course of a year, an intimate lens captures Keillor on- and off- stage as he mingles fact and fiction to create America's collective hometown, Lake Wobegon, on a radio program that carries bona-fide nostalgia. The result is a fascinating inside look at the enigmatic raconteur and how the imaginary world he created became a real place in America.

American Masters is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers.

"Keillor is an American institution," says Susan Lacy, creator and executive producer of ***American Masters***, a six-time winner of the Emmy Award for Outstanding

Primetime Non-Fiction Series. “His stories of Lake Wobegon speak to our inherent patriotism and bring back memories of a simpler time.”

On *A Prairie Home Companion*, Keillor’s running commentary about the human condition has the uncanny ability to home in on the pulse of America. Inventing his own brand of quirky small town stories and everyday characters, mixed with a witty dose of social politics and philosophy, Keillor relates a deeply felt reflection of ourselves, somehow familiar to us all.

“His writing is never from an elevated space, so he connects with his audience,” said Peabody and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Peter Rosen. “But the production value of his show is highly elevated, and the novelty for viewers of this film will be to see how the magic happens.”

An author with more than 20 books to his credit and a syndicated weekly column, Keillor is also a highly sought after speaker and lecturer. He is credited with reviving the virtually lost art of live radio entertainment in America; his weekly radio show, started in 1974, has more than 4 million listeners and is broadcast on 590 stations. Keillor and his characters leapt onto the big screen and an even wider global audience in Robert Altman’s 2006 film, *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Keillor’s down-home commentary and love of heartland America, have made him into an “everyman philosopher.” His highly entertaining radio show is written with a poet’s heart. While comparisons will be made between him and America’s great humorists and essayist – from H. L. Mencken to Mark Twain, from James Thurber, Robert Frost and Will Rogers – Garrison Keillor is unique. In this untraditional biography, we begin to see how and why.

Garrison Keillor: The Man on the Radio in the Red Shoes is a co-production of Peter Rosen Productions, Inc., THIRTEEN’S ***American Masters*** for WNET.ORG and ITVS. The film is produced and directed by Peter Rosen and is written by Sara Lukinson. Monologues are by Garrison Keillor. Executive Producers are Susan Lacy and Sally Jo Fifer. Sally Jo Fifer is Executive Producer of ***ITVS***. Susan Lacy is the creator and Executive Producer of ***American Masters***.

American Masters is produced for PBS by THIRTEEN. To take ***American Masters*** beyond the television broadcast and further explore the themes, stories, and personalities of masters past and present, the companion Web site offers interviews, essays, photographs, outtakes, and other resources. ***American Masters*** is made possible by the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding for ***American Masters*** is provided by Rosalind P. Walter, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Jack Rudin, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, and public television viewers.

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