

Movies



Garrison Keillor, Lily Tomlin, Meryl Streep and Lindsay Lohan in *A Prairie Home Companion*, opening next Friday.

Exclusive: A love song by Garrison Keillor

The radio legend pens an original song (well, almost) for USA WEEKEND readers about his movie experience.

THE FAMOUSLY FOLKSY radio show *A Prairie Home Companion* goes glitzy next weekend with a movie version starring a bushel of Hollywood biggies that includes Meryl Streep and Lindsay Lohan. Host Garrison Keillor, who wrote the screenplay and plays himself in the film, was so psyched about his big-screen debut that he wrote a song about it and sang it on the air last fall to the tune of Elvis' *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* We heard his little ditty and asked him to do one last thing: expand his exposition, exclusively for USA WEEKEND, and, we admit, drop a few more o' them fancy celebrity names while he's at it. Here, the entire Keillor composition — including the first 10 lines he wrote just for us — about an intimate moment with, well, read on. (And for the record, Keillor is happily married.)

A Carol to Meryl

By Garrison Keillor

*There's no gilded pagoda in St. Paul, Minnesota,
No mansion with a winding staircase.
No gold filigree, just people like me,
A man with a long mournful face.
Then out of the blue came a bid for me to
(Good Lord! Knock me down with a barrel!)
Do a movie (yes, me) with a studded marquee
Including the fabulous Meryl.
Now it's done, I'm downhearted. Meryl's departed.
Lily Tomlin, Lindsay Lohan, Kevin Kline.
And how can I prove we were making a movie
With a face that's as common as mine?
I am lonesome tonight, I miss you tonight,
The lights and the cameras and Bob.
I remember the day, the page of the screenplay,
Where I kissed you 'cause that was my job.
Did you feel something thrilling, when our lips met?
Have you gone to New York but think of me yet?
You have kissed many men. Can we do it again?
Meryl Streep, are you lonesome tonight?
I have boundless affection for Altman's direction,
He encouraged us to improvise.
So when they clicked the clacker, I gave you a smacker
And I noticed that you closed your eyes.
I am lonesome tonight, I miss the bright lights,
I miss the stagehands and key grips,
I miss the whole crew, but especially you
And your smile and your exquisite lips.
I know you've kissed Redford and Eastwood and Beatty,
And Robert De Niro, you've been his leading lady,
But when you kissed me, was there faint ecstasy?
Meryl Streep, are you lonesome tonight? ☐*

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