

*after. 291-7005.*

## **Keillor the playwright**

Garrison Keillor's satiric comedy "The Mid-Life Crisis of Dionysus" is one of four one-acts being opened Thursday by the New and Improved Theatre Company. Keillor, known as host of radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" and as a droll storyteller and essayist, wrote the play as part of "The Book of Guys," his 1993 collection of short fictional pieces.

Chris Parker, New and Improved's artistic director, said the story of Dionysus reaching 50 was "hilarious." The play is included in a program with "12:21 P.M.," a serio-comedy by F.J. Hartland; "Brontosaurus," a drama by Lanford Wilson, and "Wa Fracks," an absurdist comedy by Ben Ohmart.

"Dionysus," he said, "is a little bit bawdy, has orgies and off-color jokes, but ends with a very nice moment." New and Improved debuted last fall with four one-acts and will continue to do multiple plays, said Parker.

***Opens at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Laughing Cup, 1819 Nicollet Av. S., Minneapolis, through March 23. Tickets: \$6 to \$8. 871-3536.***