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## A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION

USA

2006

103 MIN.

DIR: ROBERT ALTMAN

PROD: ROBERT ALTMAN, WREN ARTHUR, JOSHUA ASTRACHAN, TONY JUDGE, DAVID LEVY

SCR: GARRISON KEILLOR

CAM: ED LACHMAN

ED: JACOB CRAYCROFT

CAST: MERYL STREEP, KEVIN KLINE, VIRGINIA MADSEN, TOMMY LEE JONES, JOHN C. REILLY, LINDSAY LOHAN, LILY TOMLIN, WOODY HARRELSON

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ROBERT ALTMAN

Robert Altman is the director of more than 30 feature films, including the enduring classics *M\*A\*S\*H* (1970), *MCCABE & MRS. MILLER* (1971), *CALIFORNIA SPLIT* (1974), *NASHVILLE* (1975, SFIFF 2003), *3 WOMEN* (1977, SFIFF 2003), *THE PLAYER* (SFIFF 1992), *SHORT CUTS* (1993) and *GOSFORD PARK* (2001). A master of the densely woven character-driven drama and a legend among actors, Altman has helped shape the careers of Elliot Gould, Shelley Duvall, Keith Carradine and Lily Tomlin, among others. The Kansas City native was awarded a San Francisco Film Society Directing Award in 2003 and an honorary Oscar for outstanding achievement in motion pictures at the 2006 Academy Awards.

THU 5/4	7:00	CASTRO	PRAI04C (FILM ONLY)
THU 5/4	7:00	CASTRO	CLOSE (FILM & PARTY)
THU 5/4	7:00	CASTRO	CLOSEV (VIP FILM & PARTY)

Homespun Americana doesn't get any more down-to-earth than in Garrison Keillor's beloved public radio variety show **A Prairie Home Companion**, the wistful auditory museum of fictionalized old-time song-and-dance acts, witty repartee and vintage ad jingles that has been entertaining listeners since 1974. Now the ultimate on-air raconteur joins forces with the consummate big-screen auteur Robert Altman for what is certain to be hailed as a movie for the ages. **A Prairie Home Companion** arrives packed to the rafters with old familiars and new twists as Keillor and his station WLT players (that's "with lettuce and tomato" for the uninitiated) prepare to deliver one final show in front of a studio audience at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, Minnesota before a Texas corporation takes over the airwaves and the house lights go down on WLT forever. In the tradition of his classic ensembles **Nashville** (1975), **Short Cuts** (1993) and **Gosford Park** (2001), Altman weaves together another unforgettably stellar cast, including Meryl Streep and Lily Tomlin as the country sister act Rhonda and Yolanda Johnson; John C. Reilly and Woody Harrelson as crooning cowboys Dusty and Lefty; Kevin Kline as the down-on-his-luck security guard Guy Noir; Virginia Madsen as the mysterious woman in the white trench coat; and Lindsay Lohan as a dour teen who finds her voice, like so many before her, on a stage that could rightfully be called an American institution. With a sense of jubilant nostalgia for people, places and eras past, Altman and Keillor have concocted a musical-comedy extravaganza that is, in its own unique way, as timeless as the radio show that started it all.

—Andy Bailey

## CLOSING NIGHT

THURSDAY, MAY 4

FILM

7:00 PM CASTRO THEATRE

429 CASTRO STREET (NEAR MARKET)

PARTY

9:30 PM-12:00 MIDNIGHT

MEZZANINE

444 JESSIE STREET, (BETWEEN FIFTH AND SIXTH STREETS)

On Closing Night we bid a warm, wild and teary-eyed farewell to the 15 days of brilliant films, exceptional filmmakers and memorable live events that make up the 49th San Francisco International Film Festival. We will announce onstage the winners of the VirginMega Audience Awards and the Golden Gate Awards and will screen one more unforgettable film and dance the night away at a glorious after-party! Join us at Mezzanine as we bid adieu to the 49th and kick off the 50th! Enjoy exotic sips, scrumptious nibbles and hot music at this historic venue where warehouse minimalism meets sophisticated sound technology. With its sleek interiors, amazing loft-like lounges, and a cushioned dance floor, Mezzanine will set the scene for a spectacular evening. Your ticket includes film, party entrance, two drink tickets and light hors d'oeuvres. VIP ticket includes reserved seating at the Castro Theatre and exclusive VIP Celebrity Lounge at Mezzanine.

SFIFF '06

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