

## Program Notes — Guy Noir: The Ballet

Premiere: September 29, 2005, State Theatre, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Character created by Garrison Keillor

Storyline by James Sewell and Sally Rousse

Narration by Garrison Keillor

Choreography by James Sewell

Lighting by Kevin A. Jones

Costumes by Mary Hansmeyer

Properties by Kevin A. Jones, Mary Hansmeyer

### Original Cast (in order of appearance):

Guy Noir	Benjamin Johnson
Allegsa Goodthing	Peggy Seipp-Roy
Barry Shnikov	Justin Leaf
Martha Isadora	Penelope Freeh
German Polka Dancers	Brittany Fridenstine and Nicolas Lincoln
CEO of Acme Tulle Co.	Sally Rousse
Apprentice	Sara Hoenes

*“Guy Noir: The Ballet”* is based on the character created by public radio’s Garrison Keillor. Choreographed by James Sewell, with recorded narration by Keillor, the ballet is set primarily to American jazz music with film noir lighting. Guy Noir is a registered trademark and used by permission.

I have always been a fan of Guy Noir and his adventures. I could not listen to an episode on the radio without seeing it in my mind's eye as a ballet. It has been exciting to make some of those images into reality.

Garrison Keillor's generous openness to my creative process, combined with his skillful guiding hand, led me into the world of Guy Noir. His insights into who the characters are and how they interacted allowed Sally Rousse and me, with special help from Brian Sostek and Megan McClellan, to develop this story. Ultimately, Guy Noir overlaps nicely with my long time fantasy of making a ballet with power tools.

— James Sewell, 2005