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### Keenan Wynn, radio, TV, and movie actor, entertains UM classes during Missoula visit

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IMMEDIATELY

KEENAN WYNN, RADIO, TV AND MOVIE ACTOR,  
ENTERTAINS UM CLASSES DURING MISSOULA VISIT

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10-17-74  
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By Gregory S. Lenihan  
UM Information Services

MISSOULA--

Keenan Wynn, famous radio, television and movie actor, took time off from a film he is making in Butte to visit the University of Montana in Missoula. At the invitation of Philip J. Hess, chairman of the UM radio-tv department, Wynn addressed several classes of radio-tv, journalism and drama majors Tuesday, Oct. 15.

The movie Wynn is making is tentatively entitled "The Killer in Me." Wynn said he plays a mean, nasty old cuss, "and I play it well."

Questioned about pornography and censorship, Wynn said he makes a distinction between what is prurient and what is pornographic. What is prurient may not be pornographic, and what is pornographic, extreme violence for instance, may not be prurient.

Overall, Wynn said he thinks Hollywood is making good movies today. "But when they make junk, they make it with authority," he added. Wynn mentioned "The Exorcist" several times as epitomizing the excellent work being done in Hollywood. "'The Exorcist' should have swept everything at the Academy Awards," Wynn said, "but Universal is the last big studio left, and Universal was exerting all its influence for 'The Sting.'"

Once under contract to MGM for 13 years and 70 pictures, Wynn said he now makes four to five pictures per year, with a television stint or two included.

Asked how he started in the acting business, Wynn said: "I started by flunking out of high school. My father sent me to dancing school, and after that I auditioned for Lakewood Summer Theater in Maine. With some acting experience under my belt, I traveled between theater flops in New York to summer stock to radio and back to flops in New York."

The best training ground for young actors today is in tv soap operas, according to Wynn. "Your day begins around 4 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. You have a few rehearsals, then you're on the air, live. It's good experience, working with older actors and actresses."

Wynn advised prospective actors and actresses to take ballet "to learn how to move" and voice training "to learn how to project." He advised against acting schools: "That's not something you can be taught."

Along with Agnes Moorehead and William Conrad, Wynn returned to radio theater with "CBS Mystery Theater." "You move fast on tape, so you can do one show in a day. But it's going to be hard to steal from television's audience."

Speaking of his father, Ed Wynn, a famous stage and tv comedian, Wynn said: "My father was a clown, not a comedian. A comedian cannot make you cry. Like most clowns, Ed was a depressed person. Chaplin, Gleason and Skelton also are great clowns. But my father was never funny around the house. The only funny thing around our house was me trying to get out."

Among his favorite anecdotes about famous actors, Wynn tells one about "Duke" Wayne. "During the filming of 'Ben Hur,' Charlton Heston passes Christ carrying the cross. There stands Duke dressed as a Roman centurion. His line reads: 'Truly there goes the son of God.' So Duke speaks the lines in a loud, matter-of-fact voice, and the director cuts.

"'Meester Wayne, please to realize thees ees the son of GOD you are talking about. Do the line again, and say it with AWE thees time,' the director instructed.

"So the next cut Duke speaks out in a loud, matter-of-fact voice: 'Ah, truly there goes the son of God.'"

Wynn has been nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actor four times. Those performances were in "See Here, Private Hargrove," "Private Lady," "Holiday for Sinners," and "Dr. Strangelove."

"Since I love the outdoors, I'm in love with Montana," Wynn said. "I ride horses whenever I can. And the people of Butte have treated me so courteously, it's amazing."