

Wynn, Earl Raymond ^[1]

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by William S. Powell, 1996

25 Nov. 1911–17 Sept. 1986

Earl Raymond Wynn, educator and actor, was born in Coal Valley, Ill., the son of Zadoc Hardin and Mary Jane Ziegler Wynn. He was graduated from [Augustana College](#) ^[2], Rock Island, Ill., in 1932 and received an M.A. degree from [Northwestern University](#) ^[3] in 1934. Wynn taught English and speech at [Tarkio College](#) ^[4] in Missouri and speech at Northwestern. In 1938 he joined the faculty of [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[5], first in the dramatic arts and then in charge of radio. From 1947 until his retirement he was professor of radio, television, and motion pictures.

In the early 1940s, from Chapel Hill, Wynn produced and directed the program *Men of Action* for the Mutual Broadcasting System coast-to-coast network. During [World War II](#) ^[6], as an officer in the Naval Reserve, he was writer-producer for training films. At the university he introduced the idea of a communications center as well as organized and helped to develop it. He also was executive director of the North Carolina Communications Study Commission and executive secretary of the North Carolina Educational Radio-Television Commission.

Wynn was an actor in several summer outdoor dramatic productions: *The Lost Colony* ^[7], *Unto These Hills* ^[8], and *The Legend of Daniel Boone*, among others. He directed and performed in a number of Carolina Playmaker productions and contributed articles to journals on speech, television, radio, and acting. He retired in 1977 but occasionally taught classes until 1982.

In 1939 he married Irene Grace Schwartzinger; they were divorced, and in 1951 he married Rhoda Mabel Hunter. He was the father of two children, Stacy Hunter and Sherry.

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Additional Resources:

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[Biographies](#) ^[10]

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[Public service](#) ^[14]

[Radio](#) ^[15]

[Universities and colleges](#) ^[16]

Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) ^[17]

Origin - location:

[University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) ^[18]

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1 January 1996 | Powell, William S.

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