

Borgnine donates scripts to new collection at Collier Library

On campus as guest speaker for the final commencement of the century, Academy Award-winner Ernest Borgnine, of Beverly Hills, Calif., formally presented to the University of North Alabama his personal leather-bound collection of movie scripts, collected throughout a long and distinguished career.

Dr. Borgnine gave the collection of 101 leather-bound scripts and about 50 unbound scripts to UNA President Robert L. Potts, UNA alumnus and longtime friend George Lindsey and Dean of Information Technologies Garry Warren at a ceremony in Flowers Hall. The collection, which was on public display in the lobby of Flowers Hall during the commencement exercises, will have a permanent home in the Collier Library archives.

"I gave my scripts to the University of North Alabama because I know they will be used immediately to the best advantage of the students," Borgnine said.

In accepting the scripts, Potts said, "How fortunate we are that a film legend like Ernie Borgnine has

given his priceless scripts to our university. Our film and theater students will be inspired by and learn from this magnificent gift. Our entire university community is deeply grateful for his generosity."

Dr. Lindsey said, "I am honored that my dear friend Ernie Borgnine is giving this testament of his great acting career to my alma mater."

"The university is exceedingly fortunate to be the recipient of such an outstanding collection of movie and television scripts. The collection is unique, not only for the variety of subjects and the time frame it spans, but also because it includes the script for which Mr. Borgnine received the Oscar, Marty. These materials significantly strengthen the university's resources in the areas of film and television, and will serve to inspire students and scholars for years to come. It is with a great deal of gratitude that we offer our thanks to Mr. Borgnine," said Dr. Warren.

Among the film scripts presented to UNA are those for "Hamlet" (1949), "From Here To Eternity" (1953), "Marty" (1955), "Barabbas" (1962), "The Dirty Dozen"



Borgnine, Warren, Lindsey, Potts

(1967), "The Wild Bunch" (1969), "The Poseidon Adventure" (1972), "Escape From New York" (1981), "McHale's Navy" (1997) and "Abilene" (1998). Among the television scripts are those of "Zane Grey Theater" (1956), "McHale's Navy" (1962-66), "Dean Martin Show" (1973), "Little House on the Prairie" (1974), "Ghost of Flight 401" (1978), "All Quiet on the Western Front" (1979), "Airwolf" (1984) and "Single Guy" (1995).

A Hamden, Conn., native, Borgnine, after a stint in the U.S. Navy, attended the Randall School of Dramatic Arts. He debuted in Harvey on Broadway and appeared in many television shows in New York early in his career.

After showing his acting brilliance as the brutal stockade sergeant Fatso in the film "From Here To Eternity", he won world acclaim for his Oscar-winning portrayal in the title role of "Marty," the Bronx butcher. Among his favorite roles since then have been those in "The Catered Affair" with Bette Davis and "Bad Day At Black Rock". He has performed in nearly 100

movies and has made guest appearances on almost as many television shows. In the 1960s, "McHale's Navy," in which he starred, set a standard for broad comedy and ensemble work.

His recent roles have been in "Hoover," "JAG," "Small Soldiers," "Last Great Ride and Mel". The Lindsey/UNA Film Festival hosted the eastern U.S. premiere in April of "Abilene," in which Borgnine starred.

For his work in the arts, Borgnine has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the Columbia College-Hollywood, and he holds two other honorary degrees.

His career will be highlighted in an A&E special January 24.

Borgnine's wife Tova heads her own world-famous cosmetics company and is becoming as well known on television with her products

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