

# Borgnine donates scripts to UNA

By NATALIE STOUGH  
Lifestyle Editor

Governor Don Siegelman declared April 23 Ernest Borgnine Day in the state after the Academy Award-winning actor donated his collection of original movie and television scripts to the university last week.

Borgnine announced the gift after a presentation during the second annual George Lindsey UNA Television and Film Festival.

The presentation was given by fellow actor Dr. George Lindsey and UNA Assistant Professor of Journalism and Festival Chairperson Bobbie Hurt. It resulted in Borgnine being honored with a commemorative Golden Lion Award.

The collection will be donated in a formal presentation to the newly-dedicated George Lindsey TV and Film Collection in Collier Library which features scripts from "The Andy Griffith Show."

"George Lindsey had a dream to leave a lasting legacy for students at his university and he gave scripts from one of the most successful TV shows of all time. I had a dream to have a place or a resource for students who dream of a place in entertainment. Borgnine wanted to give something back and with his gift he made all our dreams come true," Hurt said.

Borgnine's acting career has spanned five decades, having made his film debut in 1951 and continuing to work through the 1990s. He has acted in over 100 movies, including *From Here to Eternity* (1953), *The Dirty Dozen* (1967), *The Poseidon Adventure* (1972), *Escape From New York* (1981) and *Gattaca* (1997). He won an Academy Award for his lead role as Marty Piletti in *Marty* (1955). He also won best foreign actor from the British Academy Awards; a Golden Globe, USA; best actor from the

National Board of Review, USA and was awarded best actor from the New York Film Critics Circle for the same film. In addition, he was nominated for a Daytime Emmy for his performing in an animated program for "All Dogs Go To Heaven: The Series" (1997) and he was also nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for best supporting male for *Spike of Bensonhurst* (1988). In addition to being given a day in the state by

"I do not want to take any light away from George Lindsey. He's my buddy. If it is any help to the festival, I would like to donate my collection of scripts. They will go to better use at UNA rather than to some big college, who would be thankful for them, but who would just put them in among many others. Mine would just get lost in the shuffle. Here they will be studied. This is what paying back is all about."

of New York's American Theatre Wing, named UNA's 1973 Alumnus of the Year, was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1983 and in 1992 was conferred an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Last year's first ever annual festival attracted 39 entries and brought guests like Tom Cheronos (director of the *Seinfeld* episodes for the first four years and a Golden Globe, Peabody and Emmy

winner) and George Yanok (whose script-writing credits include *A Time to Triumph*, *Stormin' Home* and *North Beach and Rawhide*).

This year's festival drew in 44 entries from 14 states across the country. *It Weeps In My Heart*, Cheyenne Bellamy, director, Howard and David Bellamy, producers, Dade City, Fla. won the Golden Lion in the student category for music video. *Spears*, Scott Spears, director, Scott Spears and Becky Willingham, producers, Jasper, Ga. came in as runner-up in the same category.

For short documentary in the student category *Papa*, Philip Scarborough, director/producer, Jackson, Miss., won. The runner-up was *then and now... I Am Somebody*. The Snapshot Reporters, directors, Seldon Smith, producer, Birmingham.

Dr. Lindsey presented the Golden Lion award in the student category for short narrative to the makers of *Screwed: A Hollywood Bedtime Story*; George Tramountanas, director, Tramountanas and Milan Petrovich, producers, Los Angeles, Cal. The runners-up (tie) for the division were *Le Systeme*, Kristian Broems, director/producer, Starkville, Miss.; and *Slings and Arrows*, James Cude, director, Tony Nasser and James Cude producers, Los Angeles, Ca.

In the professional category the winner for the music video division was *Some Broken Hearts*, Jim Shea, director, Robin Beresford, producer, Nashville, Tenn. The runner-up for the same division was *Waiting for a Train*, Rick Brown and Dr. Darrel Latch, **-continued on page 7**



UNA photos at right and left by Shannon Wells



UNA photo at left by Allison Brazier



ERNEST BORGNINE was the honored guest at this year's George Lindsey Television and Film Festival. Borgnine and Lindsey, seen here having fun around the UNA campus, have both donated priceless television and film scripts to help stock the newly-dedicated George Lindsey TV and Film Collection, located in Collier Library.

Governor Siegelman, Borgnine also had the status of honorary trooper conferred on him by state trooper Keith Mickle.

Borgnine has also acted in 22 made-for-television movies, including *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1979), two miniseries and one documentary. Borgnine also acted in four television series, including unforgettable roles as Lt. Cmdr. Quinton McHale in the 1960s' "McHale's Navy," and as Dominic Santini in the 1980s' "Airwolf." He also made 30 guest appearances on television shows, from the "Zane Grey Theater" and "The Andy Williams Show" to "Murder She Wrote," "The Simpsons" and "JAG."

Upon giving his gift Borgnine said,

Dr. Lindsey has been involved in stage television and film acting for four decades, including his performance as the voice of Deadeye in *The Rescuers*, the voice of Trigger in the movie *Robin Hood* (1973), the 1969 television series "Hee Haw" and the 1981 film *Take This Job and Shove It*. He has also guest-starred on several television shows including "NewsRadio," "M\*A\*S\*H," "Gunsmoke" and "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," but he is best remembered as the well-meaning but slow-witted Goober Pyle on "The Andy Griffith Show."

Dr. Lindsey graduated from UNA in 1952 after serving the university well on the football field. He is also a graduate

## Borgnine scripts to be officially recognized at F



UNA photos by Allison Brazier



director, Alan Blomquist and Rachel Broker, producers, Los Angeles, Ca. won for short narrative. The runners-up (tie) were *The Gift*, Tanya Boyd, director, Tanya Boyd and Miriam Jacobs, producers, Los Angeles, Ca.; and *April Fool*, Benjamin Shelfer, director, Sagi Steven Adirim, producer, Los Angeles, Ca.

Borgnine presented the award to the winner in the full length narrative division for *Night Orchid*, Mark Atkins, director, Mark Atkins and Ralph R. Clemente, producers, Boca Raton, Fla.; runners-up (tie) *Main Street*, Jeffrey L. Weaver, director, David Taber and Stacey Ziepfel, producers, Glendale, Ca.; and *Thee Maann*, Michael Papajohn, director/producer, Los Angeles,

Ca. The tentative dates for next year's festival are set for April 27-29, 2000 but the UNA campus won't have to wait until then before it will get star-struck again since UNA president Robert L. Potts asked Borgnine to return to campus as speaker for the December 18, 1999 commencement. During that time a formal presentation of the donated scripts will be made.

"To have Ernest Borgnine's original scripts donated to the George Lindsey/UNA Film Festival is like finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. How blessed are we to know him," Dr. Lindsey said.

While thanking his friend George Lindsey and the festival producers for honoring him, Borgnine noted that film and television industry personages should use their acclaim and status to help those starting out in the business. "It is wonderful to be able to put something back," Borgnine said.

ANYTHING FOR A FAN... Ernest Borgnine takes time out from a busy schedule to sign an autograph.

Continued from page 1

directors/producers, Tuscaloosa,

In the short documentary *Roses of Crimson* won; in Rieland, director/producer, Tuscaloosa. The runners-up (tie) *Turning for Generations*:

*Miller's Pottery*, Max Shores, director/producer, Tuscaloosa; and *Rosenbaum House: Frank Lloyd Wright In Alabama*, Tommy V. Wier, director; Tommy V. Wier and Anna Goodson, producers, Birmingham.

*Detached*, Rebecca Carpenter,

Mark Atkins and Ralph R. Clemente, producers, Boca Raton, Fla.; runners-up (tie) *Main Street*, Jeffrey L. Weaver, director, David Taber and Stacey Ziepfel, producers, Glendale, Ca.; and *Thee Maann*, Michael Papajohn, director/producer, Los Angeles,