

community



Edith Ivey

An interview with film star Edith Ivey, on location in the 'Boro

Edith Ivey has been an actress for more than half a century, getting her start in radio soap operas when they were the height of entertainment. As radio began to falter with the advent of television and film, Ivey made the transition to television with the Howdy Doody show and others. She continued to work in television, and later, film, throughout her life.

About a year ago, GSU student James Kicklighter began work on a documentary project called *Theater of the Mind*, which delved into the history of early radio through interviews with those who were involved, including Ivey. Now with several successful projects under his belt, Kicklighter is working to finish up his degree at GSU and one of his classes called for him to create a short film. He wrote the script for *The Car Wash*, which revolved around a conversation in a car wash waiting room between an older woman and a young man. Kicklighter immediately knew who he wanted for the female lead, and sent the script to Ivey, not knowing whether she would accept the role, or even if she was available. Turns out, she was available, but Ivey said that even if she wasn't, she would have rearranged her schedule in order to be involved. The script was so perfect, she said, that every line on the page was exactly how she would say it in real life. "I would have thought that no one under the age of 50 could have even thought about writing this material."

Filming on *The Car Wash* took place a couple weeks ago at the Statesboro Car Wash and Ivey took the time to answer a few questions about everything from her long career to the importance of providing opportunities for upcoming talent and the future of the film industry.

You've worked with James Kicklighter before, on *Theater of the Mind*, what was it about that experience that led you to agree to be in this film?

That's how I met James, in Atlanta. I was very pleased with the work. You'd never know it was his first project. What impressed me about James was that he was tremendously organized.

He knew exactly what he wanted, that's why I had no idea this was a new venture for him.

You recently worked on *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Do you enjoy working on both larger projects, like *Benjamin Button*, and smaller projects like this?

It doesn't make any difference really. I'm an actor and I like to work. The thing about *Benjamin Button* that made it really interesting, other than that Brad Pitt is in it, which is no small thing, but it is a historic film in that it is a kickoff of the digital age for Paramount and Warner Bros. The people in charge there said that within five years they expect all movies to be made digitally. This is the start of a whole new era, much bigger than going from black and white to color TV, this is a much larger jump. My husband and I were in one of the first two-color television shows, so then to be in the first large movie to kick off the digital age, that will just blow your mind.

You started a program called Casting About to help young actors connect with casting agents. Is helping young talent something that's important to you?

I think every actor and director in the business who makes a living at it wants to give back. These people are the future and it's such a terribly hard business, that if we don't help each other, there won't be an artistic community.

What has been the best experiences so far in your career? To answer simply, just working. I'm acting much later in my career than most actresses do, and I consider myself lucky. One of the highlights though was the first radio soap I got in New York City. I had been there six weeks and I worked a show called *This is Nora Drake* on CBS. I thought I had died and gone to Heaven. I loved it. The next one was working for a while on *Howdy Doody*, which was the first and largest children's show in the nation. I was one of the four Princess Summerfall Wintersprings. And then the last was working with David Fincher [the director of *Benjamin Button*.]

NEWS

Local bits of this and that

Georgia Southern University Showing Its Holiday Spirit with Annual Holiday Helpers Campaign

Georgia Southern University is showing its holiday spirit with an annual tradition that helps those less-fortunate in the community, the 16th annual Holiday Helpers campaign.

The Holiday Helpers Tree at Lakeside Café is adorned with about 800 tags, each one representing a person or family in the community who needs some help during the holidays. Eighteen local agencies are being served by this year's campaign.

Each day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. (except during Thanksgiving week), Georgia Southern students, faculty and staff are invited to take a tag or two from the tree and buy the gifts that are suggested. The gifts must be brought to Lakeside Café by Dec. 2.

"Holiday Helpers is an amazing thing that happens. Not only are more than 800 gifts bought, but volunteers put in hundreds of hours," said Diana Hensley, Coordinator of Civic Engagement in the Office of Student Leadership.

About 200 volunteers will help make Holiday Helpers a success again this year, by assisting with the daily tag checkout at the tree, wrapping presents as they are brought in and delivering the gifts.

The Holiday Helpers campaign is sponsored by Georgia Southern's Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement and the Sociology and Anthropology Department.

First win for Eagles Head Coach

The Georgia Southern men's basketball team gave Charlton "C.Y." Young the best gift for his official homecoming – a 108-59 victory for his first-ever win as a head coach. The 1994 alum and Eagle Hall of Fame point guard accepted congratulations from well-wishers after the final buzzer and then stood on the sidelines for a while.

"I am proud of all the guys, and I am happy with our effort and willingness to defend," said Young. "We are getting very close to playing as a team," said Young. "We improved the way we moved the ball, but we need to work on our transition defense and rebounding."

BLOTTER

The 411 on Bulloch County Crime



I guess people were in the mood for trouble following GSU's Homecoming weekend. Let's see who drew the attention of the men in blue.

- Do not steal while intoxicated, because it's a good way to get caught, as one man found out on Nov. 16 when he tried to steal three packs of gum at Wal-Mart but was caught. Oh, and he had some marijuana in his pocket. So he was arrested and taken to jail. No word on whether he was able to take care of his munchies.

- Apparently someone in town decided not to let a lack of money ruin their party and decided to take care of their alcohol needs the illegal way. Rusty's Tavern reported that someone stole \$1,118 worth of alcohol on Nov. 16. A hole was cut into the fence behind the bar and the equipment shed was broken into with bolt cutters.

- In one of the most intense beer pong games ever on Nov. 16, which also served as a perfect example of one of the age old ages – Don't talk shit if you can't back it up – a man showed up at the Statesboro Police Department to report that he had been playing beer pong and then was punched repeatedly in the face after remarking on his opponent's lack of shooting ability, resulting in bruised eyes, nose, and undoubtedly, ego.

- On Nov. 15, police arrested a man walking down the road from Parker's Enzone after the store reported a man fitting his description taking a couple of beers and leaving without paying for them. Police found the two bottles in his pants. The beer that he went through the trouble to steal? Miller High Life.