Maureen Arthur*

Maureen Arthur was a captivating actor best known for her role as Hedy La Rue in the Broadway hit "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Throughout her career, she spoke fondly of her time at University City High School, where she was an honor student and part of many student activities. She was a founder of the high school's popular Wigwam teen dance night at the University City Community Center.

Maureen Arthur

Class of 1952

Arthur's lively La Rue won hearts in a national tour, then on Broadway in 1961. It ran for 1,400 shows, earning seven Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize. In 1967, she starred as La Rue in the film adaptation alongside Robert Morse, Rudy Vallee and Michele Lee. Her memorable entrances in the film were accompanied by a playful "va-va-voom" drumbeat.

Born to a theater-owning family, she sang at the Fox Theatre with organist Stan Kann. She later studied drama at New York City's Neighborhood Playhouse and debuted in the 1958 film "Hot Rod Gang." She appeared on TV in shows that included "Whirlybirds," "Bourbon Street Beat," "Richard Diamond, Private Detective," "Mork & Mindy," "Perry Mason," "Get Smart," "Love, American Style," and "Murder She Wrote," among others. Her talents brought her to Steve Allen's "Tonight Show," where she impressed with Marilyn Monroe impersonations. Besides "How to Succeed," Arthur had memorable roles in films like "Thunder Alley" (1967), "The Wicked Dreams of Paula Schultz" (1968), "Killers Three" (1968) and "A Man Called Dagger" (1968).

Arthur was most proud of her involvement with Variety Club, the Children's Charity. She traveled the world as a spokesperson and entertainer helping to raise millions of dollars for children. She appeared on hundreds of telethons worldwide.

*Posthumous