



## Actor tells students

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Being an actor is "exciting" and "very creative," actor Thom Christopher told the 126 students at West End Catholic Elementary School yesterday.

But it also hurts.

"When the highs are high, they're very, very high. And when the lows are low, it's very, very low," Christopher said.

Photo by John L. Goff  
THOM CHRISTOPHER

Appearing in ATL's 'Uncle Vanya'

Christopher, who is appearing in the Actors Theatre of Louisville production of "Uncle Vanya," talked to the students at the school at 3308 Chauncey Ave. yesterday about what it's like to be an actor.

He was invited by the Rev. Donald Goetz, who met Christopher at the YMCA at Second and Chestnut streets, where both were working out. Goetz is pastor of Immaculate Heart Catholic Church. West End Catholic is behind the church.

Goetz took Christopher on a tour of Louisville this week, and then thought to ask him to speak to fifth elementary students.

The actor told the students that acting can be a difficult business.

## about joy and pain of his craft

Sometimes actors can work for a year and make a lot of money — and then not work for five years, he said. And rejection can be painful, but actors must be able to handle it to succeed.

"I think it's a business that will tell you very early on whether you can be in it — if you can take it," he said.

Christopher has appeared in such television series as "Kojak," "Simon and Simon" and "T.J. Hooker." But the students seemed to remember him most from his role as "Hawk" in the series "Buck Rogers in the 25th Century." Christopher appeared in the series during its second season, 1980-81.

Most of the questions from students had to do with the special effects in that series and in other productions.

"How did the laser come out of the man's eyes?" asked fifth-grader Jamon Little, 10. He was referring to a scene from one of the segments in which Christopher's character was struck by blue laser beams that came out of another character's eyes.

Christopher told the group that first, he and the other character were filmed looking at each other. Later the laser special effect was added, he said.

One student wanted to know how much money Christopher makes,

but the actor dodged that question. "No actor ever asks another actor how much money he makes," he said.

He told the children that if they wanted to become actors, singers or dancers they should pursue their goals by participating in local theater groups, such as Stage One, Louisville Children's Theatre or Walden Theatre.

"If you want to be actors, dancers and singers ... there are things available — take advantage of them," Christopher said.

At the end the students gave him a standing ovation — before many scrambled to get his autograph.

