

## Actor Goodman frank about experience

Stay healthy and 'don't blow it,' he tells student actors and filmmakers.

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Saturday, March 12, 2005

PALM SPRINGS — "What advice do you have for young actors?" a student asked the movie and television star who stood on a stage Friday before hundreds of fledgling thespians and filmmakers.

"What advice?" John Goodman repeated, booming in his trademark baritone and running a hand through his hair. "Get out."



Gary Coronado/The Post

**Actor John Goodman answers a student's question Friday in the movie studio of the G-Star School of the Arts in West Palm Beach. Hundreds of students attended.**



Gary Coronado/The Post

**Roseanne alumna Goodman leaves his mark in concrete for the G-Star charter's Walk of Legends.**



Goodman, who has created characters both humble (*Roseanne*, *Monsters Inc.*), comically irate (*The Big Lebowski*, *Raising Arizona*) and truly frightening (*Barton Fink*), shared stories and, yes, advice with students at G-Star School of the Arts for Motion Pictures and Broadcasting in Palm Springs.

Taking questions from students packed into the charter school's movie studio, he made jokes, dispensed cautionary tales and provided refreshingly candid answers.

"Stay physically fit and stay away from the heavy drugs," the heavy-set Goodman answered the student who'd asked for advice. "You need all of your senses; you need to record what you experience. You can't do that if you're blistered. Take care of your body. I didn't, and I'm paying for it."

Greg Hauptner, the school's founder, said Goodman was invited as a special enhancement to the school's mission, which is "to bring kids into the real world of acting and motion pictures."

Goodman said he was impressed with what he'd seen of the school and that "it would have been swell" to have attended a similar program. "But I would've wasted my time — stole a car or something," he joked.

Most of the matter-of-fact, 40-minute question-and-answer period centered on Goodman's experiences in acting and on specific projects he'd done.

He talked of his admiration for Marlon Brando, director Mike Nichols and frequent collaborators the Coen Brothers, how much he's enjoyed his 14 stints as host of *Saturday Night Live* and why he does what he does — "I act because I have to. If I didn't, I'd probably go nuts," he said.

He was also brutally honest about some of the less-than-artful decisions he's made, including his role as a protective dad in the randy bartender comedy *Coyote Ugly* ("I did it for the dough"), his turn as Fred Flintstone in the live-action *Flintstones* movie ("It really bit") and things about his career he would change ("I wouldn't have stayed on the television show so long, and I would've taken better care of myself.").

Goodman left his hand imprint in cement to be a part of the school's Walk of Legends and left the students with some frank words of caution: "You guys have a great opportunity. Don't blow it.

"I look forward to working with you in the future."

