

Wendell Niles

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Wendell Niles (December 29, 1904 – March 28, 1994) was one of the great announcers of the American golden age of [radio](#). He was an announcer on such shows as *[The Charlotte Greenwood Show](#)*, *Hedda Hopper's Hollywood*,^[1] *[The Adventures of Philip Marlowe](#)*,^[2] *[The Man Called X](#)*,^[3] *[The Bob Hope Show](#)*, *[The Burns & Allen Show](#)*, *[The Milton Berle Show](#)* and *[The Chase and Sanborn Hour](#)* . On February 15, 1950, Wendell starred in the radio pilot for *The Adventures of the Scarlet Cloak* along with [Gerald Mohr](#).

He began in entertainment by touring in the 1920s with his own orchestra, playing with the [Dorsey Brothers](#) and [Bix Beiderbecke](#).

Niles moved to [Los Angeles, California](#), in 1935 to join [George Burns](#) and [Gracie Allen](#).

He and his brother, [Ken](#), developed one of the first radio dramas, which eventually became *Theatre of the Mind*.

He toured with [Bob Hope](#) during [World War II](#) and narrated a 1936 [Academy Award](#)-winning short film on the life of tennis great [Bill Tilden](#).

Among his [film](#) credits is *[Knute Rockne, All American](#)* with [Ronald Reagan](#).

Wendell Niles was the announcer for "America's Show Of Surprises"..."It Could Be You", and the Hatos-Hall production "Your First Impression". Niles was also the original announcer for *[Let's Make a Deal](#)* during that show's first season in 1963 and 1964; he was later replaced by [Jay Stewart](#).

Wendell and his brother Ken Niles are the first brothers to have stars on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](#).

He died of [cancer](#) in his [Toluca Lake](#) home at the age of 89.

