



Staats (pronounced like "states") Cotsworth, born on 17 February 1908 in Oak Park, Illinois, built a career as one of the busiest actors in the golden era of radio. Not only did he help introduce a number of characters over the airwaves during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, but he also could transition easily before live audiences bringing a variety of portrayals to the theater. When he wasn't handling roles in these areas, Cotsworth was seen in [films](#) and episodes of noted television dramas and series, too.

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His [radio](#) days resulted in credits that practically read like an almanac, holding down a presence in as many as 10 daytime dramas in which he maintained running parts. This run, especially through the 1940s, rewarded Cotsworth income-wise, too.

He was one of the actors playing Wolfe Bennett on "Lone Journey," which originated in Chicago, Illinois, and first heard over the NBC Network in 1940. "The Right to Happiness," which started out in 1939 and was alternately heard over NBC and CBS, had Cotsworth in the role of Alex Delavan, and he was Phil Stanley in "When A Girl Marries," the serial drama first heard over CBS in 1939. In "Mr. and Mrs. North," Cotsworth was Detective Bill Weigand in the mystery-adventure debuting on NBC in 1942. For "Front Page Farrell," he shared the lead role of David Farrell in 1943; "Big Sister," which began in 1936 over the [CBS Network](#), saw Cotsworth contribute to the character of Dr. [John Wayne](#); sharing the prominent part of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the documentary "The March of Time," 1943 to 1945 over NBC and ABC; drama "Cavalcade of America," NBC, 1943 and 1944; as one of the actors portraying Edward Leighton in "Amanda of Honeymoon Hill," CBS, 1944 and 1945; "The Second Mrs. Burton," as Dr. Jack Mason, this program began over CBS in 1945; narrator of "These Are Our Men," NBC, 1947; "Great Plays," NBC, 1948-1949; "Macbeth," NBC, 1949; "The Disenchanted," NBC, 1949; drama "You Are There," CBS, 1948-1949; "Mark Trail," sharing in the lead role of a presentation originating over Mutual in 1950; and "Marriage for Two," NBC and ABC (1949 to 1952, as Roger Hoyt, husband to Vikki).

When he managed some additional spare time, Cotsworth also turned up on such series as "The Man from G-2," as Major Hugh North in the international spy [adventure](#) first heard over ABC in 1945, plus "Rogue's Gallery," debuting on NBC in 1945.

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Despite such a steady volume of input, Cotsworth was perhaps best recognized by listeners as the nighttime supersleuth Casey, in "Casey, Crime Photographer" ([CBS](#), 1944-1945). He was the ace cameraman for the "Morning Express," a crusading newspaper.

Sandwiched around this top-rate radio work, Cotsworth also proved his ease in transitioning between microphone and live audience. His arrival in New York had triggered the start of a line of portrayals in the theater. The actor maintained a steady agenda in this facet of [entertainment](#), his credits only thinning out when the lure of radio drew him into that medium, as noted earlier.

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For his vast creative pursuits, Cotsworth was awarded by his peers with the Sylvania Achievement Award (1949) for his performance in the title role of "Casey, Crime Photographer"; the West Philadelphia High School Award of Merit (1954); and the Actor's Fund Award of Merit (1960). His artwork earned him the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts Penrose Award (1959) and the Knickerbocker Artists' Oil Painting Award (1962).

Away from the spotlight, Cotsworth enjoyed swimming, reading, and writing; was president of The Episcopal Actors Guild from 1968 to 1971; and was married twice, to Muriel Kirkland (1903-1971) and to Josephine Hutchinson (1903-1998), two highly visible actresses in their own right through their many and significant show business credits.

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Following his industrious life, Cotsworth died on 9 April 1979 in New York City.

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For the Old Time Radio Researchers, I'm Colin Campbell, your announcer.'