



## Actors Stories are a SAG Awards® Tradition

When the first Screen Actors Guild Awards® were presented on March 8, 1995, the ceremony opened with a speech by Angela Lansbury introducing the concept behind the SAG Awards and the Actor® statuette, along with giving a little of her own history as a performer: "I've been Elizabeth Taylor's sister, Spencer Tracy's mistress, Elvis' mother and a singing teapot." She ended by telling the assembled audience of SAG Awards nominees and presenters, "Tonight is dedicated to the art and craft of acting by the people who should know about it: actors. And remember, you're one too!"

Thus began a tradition of the Screen Actors Guild Awards opening with a distinguished actor telling the audience a bit about his/her perceptions of their craft or some brief biographical anecdote. For the first eight years of the SAG Awards, that tradition was carried on by a single actor each year, with Michael Keaton, Dennis Hopper, John Lithgow, Kathy Bates, Whoopi Goldberg, James Woods and Sir Ian McKellen following chronologically in Lansbury's footsteps.

The concept was so well received that for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual SAG Awards, supervising producer Gloria Fujita O'Brien suggested a new twist on the tradition. By having actors tell shorter stories, it would allow room for actors of all ages and backgrounds to tell tales with many different emotional tones. To make it even more fun for the audience, the producers decided to keep the identities of those storytellers secret until they popped up on camera.

Since the 9<sup>th</sup> SAG Awards on March 9, 2003, 71 actors have told their stories, typically closing with their name and the signature line, "I'm an actor." The following is a complete alphabetical list of these special storytellers:

Alan Alda  
Will Arnett  
Alec Baldwin  
Kathy Bates  
Halle Berry  
Demian Bichir  
Ellen Burstyn  
Rose Byrne  
Steve Carell  
Keisha Castle-Hughes  
Tom Cavanagh  
Darren Criss  
Marcia Cross  
Jon Cryer  
Tyne Daly  
Kristin Davis  
James Denton  
Edie Falco  
Sally Field  
Jenna Fischer  
Victor Garber  
Jeff Garlin  
Jennifer Garner  
Brad Garrett

Anne Hathaway  
Dennis Haysbert  
Patricia Heaton  
Marg Helgenberger  
Hal Holbrook  
Helen Hunt  
Jeremy Irons  
Shirley Jones  
Anil Kapoor  
Ben Kingsley  
Jane Krakowski  
John Krasinski  
Melissa Leo  
Eva Longoria Parker  
Bernie Mac  
Kyle MacLachlan  
Julianna Margulies  
Jesse L. Martin  
Jack McBrayer  
S. Epatha Merkerson  
Alfred Molina  
Cory Monteith  
Thandie Newton  
Sandra Oh

Jim Parsons  
David Hyde Pierce  
Randy Quaid  
Phylicia Rashad  
Amber Riley  
Freddie Rodriguez  
Rico Rodriguez  
Rebecca Romijn  
Doug Savant  
William Shatner  
Sherri Shepherd  
Jada Pinkett Smith  
John Spencer  
Julia Stiles  
Eric Szmanda  
Chris Tucker  
Sofia Vergara  
Jessica Walter  
Emily Watson  
Keith Williams  
Vanessa Williams  
Evan Rachel Wood  
Alfre Woodard

Transcripts of all the past Actors' Stories can be found at [sagawards.org](http://sagawards.org).

