



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 9th 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 9th SAG Awards on March 9, 2003, 78 actors have told their stories, typically closing with their name and the signature line, "I'm an actor." Transcripts of all the past Actors' Stories can be found at sagawards.org. The following is a complete alphabetical list of these special storytellers:

Alan Alda	Sally Field	Melissa Leo	Rico Rodriguez
Will Arnett	Jenna Fischer	Juliette Lewis	Rebecca Romijn
Alec Baldwin	Victor Garber	Eva Longoria Parker	Doug Savant
Kathy Bates	Jeff Garlin	Rob Lowe	William Shatner
Halle Berry	Jennifer Garner	Bernie Mac	Sherri Shepherd
Demian Bichir	Brad Garrett	Kyle MacLachlan	Jada Pinkett Smith
Ellen Burstyn	Cuba Gooding, Jr.	Julianna Margulies	John Spencer
Rose Byrne	Tony Hale	Jesse L. Martin	Julia Stiles
Steve Carell	Anne Hathaway	Jack McBrayer	Eric Szmanda
Keisha Castle-Hughes	Dennis Haysbert	S. Epatha Merkerson	Chris Tucker
Tom Cavanagh	Patricia Heaton	Alfred Molina	Sofia Vergara
Steve Coogan	Marg Helgenberger	Cory Monteith	Jessica Walter
Darren Criss	Hal Holbrook	Thandie Newton	Emily Watson
Marcia Cross	Helen Hunt	Sandra Oh	Keith Williams
Jon Cryer	Jeremy Irons	Jim Parsons	Michael Kenneth Williams
KaleyCuoco Sweeting	Shirley Jones	David Hyde Pierce	Vanessa Williams
Tyne Daly	Anil Kapoor	Randy Quaid	Evan Rachel Wood
Kristin Davis	Ben Kingsley	Phylicia Rashad	Alfre Woodard
James Denton	Jane Krakowski	Amber Riley	
Edie Falco	John Krasinski	Freddie Rodriguez	

