

## Actors' Stories are a SAG Awards<sup>®</sup> Tradition

When the first Screen Actors Guild Awards<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> statuette. During her remarks she shared 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 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!"

## **Over the Years**

This glimpse into an actor's life was so well received that it began a tradition of introducing each Screen Actors Guild Awards telecast with a distinguished actor relating a brief anecdote and sharing thoughts about what the art and craft mean on a personal level.

For the first eight years of the SAG Awards, just one actor performed that customary opening. For the 9th Annual SAG Awards, however, producer Gloria Fujita O'Brien suggested a twist. She observed it would be more representative of the acting profession as a whole if several actors, drawn from all ages and backgrounds, told shorter versions of their individual journeys. To add more fun and to emphasize the universal truths of being an actor, the producers decided to keep the identities of those storytellers secret until they popped up on camera.

## **An August Lineage**

Ever since then, the SAG Awards have begun with several of these short tales, typically signing off with his or her name and the evocative line, "I Am an Actor™." So far, audiences have been delighted by 107 of these unique yet quintessential Actors' Stories. Videos of a random sampling can be seen at <u>sagawards.org</u>.

The following is a complete alphabetical list of these special storytellers:

Uzo Aduba	Millie Bobby Brown	Jon Cryer
Alan Alda	Sterling K. Brown	Kaley Cuoco
Mahershala Ali	Ellen Burstyn	Tyne Daly
Jennifer Aniston	Rose Byrne	Kristin Davis
Will Arnett	Steve Carell	James Denton
Alec Baldwin	Keisha Castle-Hughes	Robert Duvall
Kathy Bates	Tom Cavanagh	Edie Falco
Kristen Bell	Anna Chlumsky	Sally Field
Halle Berry	Steve Coogan	Jenna Fischer
Demián Bichir	Darren Criss	Zach Galifianakis
Jeff Bridges	Marcia Cross	(continued on next page)

Victor Garber Jeff Garlin Jennifer Garner Brad Garrett Whoopi Goldberg Cuba Gooding Jr. **Tony Hale** Anne Hathaway **Dennis Haysbert** Patricia Heaton Marg Helgenberger Hal Holbrook Dennis Hopper Helen Hunt David Hyde Pierce Jeremy Irons Allison Janney **Shirley Jones** Anil Kapoor Michael Keaton Ellie Kemper Sir Ben Kingsley Jane Krakowski John Krasinski Ashton Kutcher

Jesse L. Martin Angela Lansbury Queen Latifah Melissa Leo Juliette Lewis John Lithgow Eva Longoria Rob Lowe Bernie Mac Kyle MacLachlan Rami Malek Julianna Margulies Jesse L. Martin Jack McBrayer Sir Ian McKellen S. Epatha Merkerson Alfred Molina Cory Monteith **Kunal Nayyar** Thandie Newton Sandra Oh Jim Parsons David Hyde Pierce Jada Pinkett Smith Randy Quaid

Phylicia Rashad Debbie Reynolds Amber Riley Freddie Rodriguez **Rico Rodriguez** Rebecca Romijn **Tracee Ellis Ross Doug Savant** William Shatner Sherri Shepherd John Spencer Julia Stiles Eric Szmanda Jeffrey Tambor Chris Tucker Sofia Vergara Jessica Walter Kerry Washington **Emily Watson** Keith Williams Michael Kenneth Williams Vanessa Williams Evan Rachel Wood Alfre Woodard James Woods

## Screen Actors Guild Awards®, LLC

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