



Tom Hanks "Preaches to the Choir" While Honored at Outfest's Legacy Awards

Tom Hanks gives one hell of a speech. And on Thursday at Outfest's Legacy Awards — held inside downtown L.A. events space Vibiana, formerly known as St. Vibiana's Cathedral — he did just that, but not before delivering fair warning of the holy scroll he was about to drop.

"How appropriate that this event is being held in a church, because I am now going to preach to the choir," he joked, noting the largely gay crowd in attendance, on hand not only to support the organization's LGBT moving images archival service — the UCLA Legacy Project — but to see the actor pick up a Trailblazer Award alongside fellow honoree Lisa Cholodenko, who was honored with a Visionary Award.



The 59-year-old actor — transformed with white hair and a mustache because he's currently in front of cameras for Clint Eastwood's *Sully* — then spoke to some attentive disciples. He was funny when he poked fun at playful-yet-vulgar host Whitney Cummings. He was sincere when he praised the night's sole performer, Linda Perry, who sang "Streets of Philadelphia," calling it "beautiful" but unappreciated "by the people in the back of the room." He was aware when he urged guests to support the cause by donating to the Legacy Project and explaining how everyone in show business understands (or should understand) that by making a movie, you enter into a contract with history.

"As long as you tell a story with a camera, hundreds of years from now someone will screen your work and see what the world was like a century prior. They will see the outrage, the humor, the heartache; they will see the courage of the daring outliers and the trenches of the defenders of the status quo," said Hanks. The *Saving Private Ryan* star was brought to the stage by *Sully* co-star Aaron Eckhart, who called his castmate a consummate professional who treats everyone with respect and kindness and "makes brave choices and that's what sets him apart."

"The history of entertainment melds into an entertaining history. And that is our history," Hanks said.