

*Cynthia  
Kopyson*

## Headline News: Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts Thanks William Shakespeare at the Academy Awards

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Written by the Associated Press

At the Academy Awards last Friday, both Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts paid respect to English playwright William Shakespeare in their acceptance speeches. Both of the acclaimed actors referred to Shakespeare as "a mentor" and "a source of wisdom" in the world of drama and entertainment. According to Roberts, Shakespeare has inspired her to continue improving her facial expressions and use of body language in conveying the emotions of the character she is playing. Hanks, as a novice actor, had underestimated the importance of volume and voice projection before reading Shakespeare. Yet, after reading Shakespeare's most recognized play Hamlet, Hanks admits that he has learned that placing an emphasis on crucial lines only further helps the audience understand the movie's themes. An analysis of one of the passages from Shakespeare's play, Hamlet, reveals the playwright's understanding of the many fundamental skills that the novice actor must learn in order to advance in the stage world.

"Speak the speech, I pray you . . . trippingly on the tongue"

- ❖ The acting should not appear to be rehearsed, but rather natural

"Nor do not saw the air too much with your hand, thus, but use all gently"

- ❖ Do not over-abuse body and hand gestures, as it may appear fake.

"Beget a temperance that may give it smoothness"

- ❖ Maintain your composure, do not appear nervous the audience
- ❖ The importance of breathing techniques

"Suit the action to the word, the word to the action"

- ❖ Certain lines need more emphasis than others

"Hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature; to show virtue own image"

- ❖ Act in a way that it is a representation of human nature
- ❖ The stage is a classroom, a place for self-actualization and understanding of one's social and cultural context.