

**SHARING THE JOURNEY**  
A Tribute to Tom Sherak



*“What constitutes a life  
well spent, anyway?  
Love and admiration from  
your fellow men is all  
that any one can ask.”  
—Will Rogers*

For all those who knew  
Tom Sherak, you were a part  
of his journey. Please enjoy some  
of the stories that made  
this man a true Pioneer.  
There will never be another  
Tom Sherak.

I turned down a promotion for family concerns about relocation. Tom responded, “Nothing more important than family!” Damaging to future opportunities for advancement? He answered, “Good news and bad news. The bad news is, you are lower on the promotable list. The good news is, it’s a really short list!”

—Corey Ballaban

Tom was a mentor to me and a good friend for almost three decades. There was always a sparkle in his eye when it was time to release a film, and you knew that it was going to be a grand adventure playing out on a global stage.

—James Cameron

When I faced a serious health  
issue years ago, Tom took me to  
dinner as soon as he heard, only  
to reassure me that everything would  
be fine. When I awoke from surgery  
at UCLA, Tom was at the foot of my  
bed, smiling and wiggling my toes.  
—Danny Chinich

He dedicated his life to the movies,  
helping to share some of our greatest  
stories with the world.  
—Senator Chris Dodd

Happiness doesn't result from what we  
get, it's truly from what we give. Tom  
gave the sun, the moon and the stars.  
He never wanted to hear a thank you.  
"Go get em kid," is what he'd say. I wish  
I could hug him one more time.  
—Meredith Eaton

TDC, the original D-cinema provider,  
offered the FIRST digital cinema  
premiere of STAR WARS, as a result  
of Tom Sherak. We did this, at a cost  
of \$100k, because Tom asked us to  
do it. The irony, Technicolor did it  
without ever getting a dime of Fox's  
business, simply because Tom asked.  
—Dave Elliot

Tom was an inspiration to me and everyone he touched, and the world will forever shine brighter because of his love and influence. He was a man who lead by example.

—David Ellison

Tom, I think about you often and remember all the long talks and good advice. Thank you for being a great friend and colleague.

—Morris Englander

When my daughter's cancer came back Tom got her admitted into UCLA immediately. During her stay, Tom and Melissa came to deliver a gift... a dart gun and target. They told her that when the pain was unbearable, take aim at the pain and shoot the dart. I still have the "pain killer" gun and remember Tom and his family fondly whenever I look at it. I've even used it on occasion when remembering my dear daughter. Tom was quite a guy.  
—Richie Fay

Tom was a true Hollywood original, so many close friends were smitten by his humor, drive, and spirit. Tom was a public servant in the truest sense long before he joined my administration.  
— Mayor Eric Garcetti

Not long after the mayor appointed him the job of film czar, we had him in the hospital at UCLA. He motioned me over to his bed and said, “I want you to make a big sign and take it outside: Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center—Hospital to the Czar.”

—Dr. Gary Gitnick

Papa always came to my hockey games. He would stand right behind me, I’m the goalie, and bang on the glass. I would bang right back! He cheered the loudest. One time, my coach got an email asking the fans to stop screaming so loud. Thank you Papa.

—Jackson Glasser (#4)



I was moving into the Delta Gamma house at UCLA and my dad wanted me to feel comfortable, so he had Patrick Swayze bring me my mail. Cutest mailman ever! And my dad watched with a huge smile on his face. Thanks Dad!

—Melissa Glasser

“I’m going to pick you up and bring you to Dodger Stadium.” Before I knew it, we were behind home plate. Dozens wanted to chat with him, but he was focused. “When I’m with you, I’m with you. These people are today. Our friendship is forever.” I love you buddy.

—Steve Guttenberg

After grueling chemo treatments, there he was at the Fulfillment Fund dinner. Sherak took over from his table during the auction, getting the deep-pocketed executives in the crowd to double their generous bids and making sure no stone was left unturned in persuading Hollywood to give and give back.

—Peter Hammond

The ability to mean so much to so many, while at the same time making each and every person feel like they were uniquely special and important in his world, in this world... well, that was the magic of Tommy. Grateful for the grace of inspired mentorship.

—Dave Hollis

When he wanted to make a point—  
I always got a kick out of this—he  
would say your name twice, “Alan,  
Alan,” and give you that fixed look  
with those bright blue eyes. If we could  
divide the world roughly into givers and  
takers, he was a giver.

—Alan Horn

When we die, our deeds speak for us.  
Tom’s good deeds are so many, they’ll  
sing.

(comparing people to trees) “Some trees  
grow short, some grow really tall. No  
tree, however, reaches heaven. But with  
Tom, I wonder.”

—Rabbi Uri Herscher

He had such capacity for enthusiasm and love. There was no part of life he didn't relish— especially the role of Academy president. He said, "This is the greatest job on earth and one I would pay to do. But don't tell anybody."

—Dawn Hudson

When I was elected president, all his advice was very positive. "The most important thing," he told me, "is have a good time. Have a wonderful time. It's a great position. You should make the most of it. You're not going to believe how much fun it's going to be."

—Cheryl Boone Isaacs

I remember when one of the first negative new articles came out about Relativity. Tom told me that if everything did “go to hell in a handbasket,” he’d come over to join Relativity and bring six people with him to move our company forward. He was always there for me.

—Ryan Kavanaugh

When our son, Dylan, was 1, we were told he “could” have cerebral palsy. The wait at UCLA was six months!! I called Tom, and we saw the top specialist in the field, THE NEXT DAY!! He helped Dylan learn to walk and today he is completely healthy.

—Scott Kennedy & Family

Tom was an incredible man who had a zeal for life unlike anyone I've ever known, and has had a profound effect on all of us.

—Hawk Koch

When Fox was working to get the rights to the next trilogy of *Star Wars* movies, Tom actually did a spoof with me that we called “Episode Seven, the Distribution Wars.” He played Luke Skywalker.

—Jon Landau

Tom called and asked me to go to a dinner, for the synagogue. We arrive at the house, walk in and there are 50 people in the room. They all start applauding as Tom introduces me as the new chair of their fundraising committee. That's how Tommy worked, he taught us all how to do it, and we love him for it.

—Erik Lomis

I was working for United Artists Theatres and Tom would help me get a great job with Allied Advertising, but I had to promise one thing: when they made the offer, I had to say “not enough.” I worked there for 17 years because I trusted Tom.

—Irving Lomis

During my college tour of Tufts University, our very cute tour guide was telling us about his fraternity on campus. My dad raised his hand, asked if his fraternity, Lamda Lamda Lamda, had a chapter at the school, and then let out a very loud *Revenge of the Nerds* laugh.  
—Barbra Neinstein

Tom's passion for everything he did made him an inspiration to work with. His boundless enthusiasm for *Star Wars* earned him an honorary Jedi master title. He was unique in the industry and will be missed.  
—George Lucas



In the selfish world of Hollywood, he existed to help others. Whether it was raising money for MS or leading the Academy, he always tried to do the right thing.

—Bill Mechanic

I'd known Tom for 35 years, since he was at Fox. He was a stand-up, decent and special guy. He always did the right thing and treated people the right way.

He will be missed.

—Ron Meyer

Tom was good friends with my boss  
Harvey Applebaum and my co-  
worker Jan Schiffres. When Jan was  
diagnosed with a very radical and fast  
spreading breast cancer, Tom helped  
her to get into the Revlon Breast  
Cancer treatment center at UCLA  
right away.

Tom was very generous.

—Peggy Mims-Sledge

“STUUUUUUUU!! Can you have  
Sandy give me a call?”

(Life lesson: keep your friends and  
loved ones close to you, even if they  
have passed on.)

—Sandy Nahan

Speaking to close friend about my husband's health issues, and he in turn reached out to Tom. I get a call, "Leighton! Why didn't you call ME FIRST!" At that point I knew I could reach out to him for any reason. Much aloha Tom, you are missed.  
—Leighton Roarke

Year after year, I answered Tom's call for Dinner of Champions without knowing much about the disease. Then two of my own children were diagnosed with MS and it was Tom who was answering my call. I am grateful for his friendship and efforts to find a cure for MS.  
—Herman A. Stone

NYC, 1970. I'm head booker for Paramount Pictures when this guy from Brooklyn, name of Tom Sherak, came to me to be trained as a booker/sales trainee. As I got to know Tom I came to realize that in those turbulent, changing times (the early 70s), here was a guy who never smoked, never drank a drop of alcohol, never cursed, loved

his wife Madeleine with all his heart and soul, and simply seemed too good to be true— the beginning of a beautiful 44-year friendship. By the way, the no drink, no smoke, no curse, no cheating, etc., etc., turned out to be not 100% true. He did learn to curse. A genuinely great man, my friend Tom.  
—Bruce Snyder

I have never met anyone so upbeat,  
hopeful and optimistic.

—Rabbi Elliot Strom

“...when you go in there, be nice,  
listen, and be understanding, but  
don’t take shit from anyone.”

Tom’s first words of advice when  
I became the Executive Director  
of Will Rogers and had to close  
the New York office.

—Todd Vradenburg

Tom Sherak took these two  
knuckleheads and helped them  
form a company called Miramax.  
That's how it started: rock n' roll  
movies with Sherak renting us  
theaters, booking us theaters,  
and guiding us.

—Harvey Weinstein

Long before Tom's Hollywood  
successes, we went to Saturday double  
features in Brooklyn, NY. When the  
movies ended, we ran up and down  
the aisles shooting each other until  
the ushers chased us out until the  
next week and repeated our Saturday  
routine. Who knew Tommy would  
become a movie icon!

—Michael R. Werner

I worked for Tom at Fox, knew him for 35 years, my client and friend... I was co-founder of Variety Boys & Girls Club Annual Golf Tournament... when we needed anything... in this case, golf balls, I called Tom... He said, “call Brett Fellman.” I did. He said... “how many?” I said, “50 dozen.” He said, “done.” It was!  
—Sandy Wilk

...remember a speech Tom gave at ShoWest—“It’s about people, no matter how many elements there are to the deal, it comes down to people working with one another.” So, now when the deal seems impossible, I always think back to that speech and find a way.  
—Anonymous

## Phone Calls from Tom

Tom: “Hey, it’s Tom, how are you?”

You: “Fine thanks, and you?”

Tom: “Good, how’s the family?”

You: “They’re doing well.”

Tom: “That’s great. Everything good at work?”

*(One of the few people in the industry who ask that question with sincerity.)*

You: “Sure...” [throw in a few tidbits about the latest.]

Tom: “Good. So let me tell you why I’m calling...”

And that’s when you know—

Tom is helping yet another charitable cause that you will inevitably agree to support, but don’t mind— because it’s for Tom.

Tom: “So can I count on you?

Great, you’re the best!”

Safe to say, we already miss those calls.





**“It really doesn’t cost anything  
to be nice, and the rewards  
can be unimaginable.”**

**—Bear Bryant**