

*The Wit and Wisdom*

**TOM  
HANKS**

Peter Jennings



# **The Wit and Wisdom of Tom Hanks**

**Tom Hanks**

*For Eros*

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# Tom Hanks

Thomas Jeffrey "Tom" Hank (born July 9, 1956) is an American actor and filmmaker. He is known for his roles in *Big* (1988), *Philadelphia* (1993), *Forrest Gump* (1994), *Apollo 13* (1995), *Saving Private Ryan*, *You've Got Mail* (both 1998), *Cast Away* (2000), *The Da Vinci Code* (2006), *Captain Phillips*, and *Saving Mr. Banks* (both 2013), as well as for his voice work in the animated films *The Polar Express* (2004) and the *Toy Story* series.

**“If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. It's the hard that makes it great.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Life is like a box of chocolates... you never know what you're gonna get.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“There's a difference between solitude and loneliness. I can understand the concept of being a monk for a while.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“I don't know. People always think that there has got to be a dark side to everyone, a closet with skeletons, demons under the bed. People think all kinds of things about one another. They feel compelled to make up fears and false assumptions about it”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“From now on we live in a world where man has walked on the Moon.  
It's not a miracle; we just decided to go.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“[referring to Apple Computer]  
He got me invested in some kinda fruit company.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“My work is magnified by the fact that the streets of heaven are too crowded with angels / we know their names, they number a thousand for each red ribbon we wear here tonight.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“If you have to have a job in this world, a high-priced movie star is a pretty good gig.” — Tom Hanks**

**“The year I was born, 1956, was the peak year for babies being born, and there are more people essentially our age than anybody else. We could crush these new generations if we decided too.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“My favorite traditional Christmas movie that I like to watch is All Quiet on the Western Front. It's just not December without that movie in my house.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“My name's Forrest Gump. People call me Forrest Gump.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“There was nothing to react to except wind and trees [in Cast Away]. It was like making a silent movie.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I gotta Pee”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I must say that I do wrestle with the amount of money I make, but at the end of the day what am I gonna say? I took less money so Rupert Murdoch could have more?”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“May you live as long as you want and not want as long as you live.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“E-mail is far more convenient than the telephone, as far as I'm concerned. I would throw my phone away if I could get away with it.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Are you crying? There's no crying!! There's no crying in baseball!!”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Once humankind has been some place and found it entrancing, they always go back, ... I think in the history of the human race, the moon has been the first place we've gone to and said, 'OK, we don't need to go back there again.'”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“It's always a combination of physics and poetry that I find inspiring.  
It's hard to wrap your head around things like the Hubble scope.”**

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**“There is something basic about protecting land by taking it off the market. People should be able to enjoy where they live while at the same time protect the plants and animals around them.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“My kid could get a bad X-ray and I could get a call from the doctor saying I have something growing in my bum and that would change my perspective on everything instantaneously, on what is and what is not important.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“As a boy I'd often spend my days biking on riverbeds and arroyos and come home exhausted. I realize now how much I took for granted having the natural world so close at hand. It wasn't until I moved away, first to New York and then to Los Angeles, that I realized how much I missed the outdoors.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I would not want to live in a country that would have me as a leader in any sort of political bent.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Prior to Saving Private Ryan I never worked with men. I was always working with some babe, and it was always about falling in love, and it just got turned around. I'm not looking for any particular kind of story. I wait until it comes across my desk.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I do the work that I think is absolutely fascinating. There's not nearly as much distraction for me now as there used to be.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I will entertain anything; it doesn't matter. You know, it's not obviously about the price, it's not about who, it's kind of about when and what. It's material, that's all.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I love what I do for a living, it's the greatest job in the world, but you have to survive an awful lot of attention that you don't truly deserve and you have to live up to your professional responsibilities and I'm always trying to balance that with what is really important.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“If you can feel like a good man in your 40s, you can feel like a better man in your 50s, a Superman in your 60s, and maybe a Spider-Man in your 70s.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“You guys should do a story on the tuxedo wars that go on if you're nominated,”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“as realistic as possible.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“It may not be important for a while, ... But in 10 years, we may yearn for a common purpose like going to the moon. And we need to do the footwork now.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I have just two questions: What will be the mission? And can I go?”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“And it is meant to make people think, 'How in the world did we do that? And isn't it a marvelous thing that we did,'”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Well, ... the question would be why?”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“We don't have a host and it's hard to vote yourself off the island when you're the only one on it.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“Movie-making is telling a story with the best technology at your disposal.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Time demands that more than the fallen be remembered in this place of national honor. Let us remember not just those that lost their lives in the war but all Americans who were alive, conscientious and who chose to serve as best they could in the years from 1941 to 1945.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“[For instance, he co-wrote the screenplay for the 1972 French film] The Tall Blond Man With One Black Shoe, ... The Man With One Red Shoe.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I remember the first time he saw 'Saving Private Ryan,' ... That was special to him because of his name.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I recognize you for your service and I thank you for the freedom, the gift of liberty that you gave me and my children.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“This is the future we dreamed of when I was a kid, ... the footprints in the lunar dust that will never, ever go away.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“It is a new technology that is revolutionary.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“He redefined comedy by defining the moment of our ascendancy as a generation. As did Charlie Chaplin , as did the Marx Brothers, as did Laurel and Hardy define their own times, Steve Martin defined ours.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“I never expected to get a podium at our first race back. I hadn't seen the bike before practice on Thursday, and it has taken all weekend to get back in the groove. But thanks to Adolf and the team for helping Phil and I get back into the championship, and we're now looking forward to Assen.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I'll be damned if I can turn this flash off, Howard.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“The idea is for people to control their own material from start to finish and get in front of audience that wants to see it.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“It's funny like a movie like 'Forrest Gump,' which is, you know, a feature film about a mentally retarded man, ... When you think about it, a lot of the humor came from laughing at Forrest. But you know that the movie was made with a good heart, and you really care about him. And the moviemaker cares about him.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Instead of hugging everyone within a 10-row radius, you might have to settle for a few fast high-fives as you sprint down the aisle.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“There's millions of survivors out there; make it one million and one.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“That film was a revelation for me.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Listen, I've made movies where I've carried guys through the jungle, ... and I'm more tired now at the end of this day than at the end of those days.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“The shading and the light and its starting to look crisp and clean it looks surreal and real, it had a really neat 3-D quality to it without that fuzzy eyeball stuff.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“From the Earth to the Moon.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“There are whole floors of people in studios that worry about such things, as though there is power that can be wielded over such matters,”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“[It's not like the brass ring has been completely out of reach. Besides the buzz that surrounded] Radiation Vibe, ... That Thing You Do!”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Who knows what I would have ended up doing with my time if it wasn't for Mr. Farnsworth.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“[After leading the crowd in a kazoo chorus of] There's No Business Like Show Business, ... most of our tax dollars aren't going to educate our kids like in other countries.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“The Polar Express.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“Growing up in northern California has had a big influence on my love and respect for the outdoors. When I lived in Oakland, we would think nothing of driving to Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz one day and then driving to the foothills of the Sierras the next day.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“That's what's nice about directing a film and having it done: There's nothing more I can do about it. It's done. That's it. All I can do is let it go and hope that people are kind to it.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“There is a huge amount of stuff I'm simply not available for. If they want to make a movie in a certain amount of time and I just can't, I don't even want to see that stuff because if it's really great, I'd be bummed out. So actually I think I say no to a lot less stuff than I used to simply because I don't see it.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“What we're doing with Band of Brothers is trying to put it into human terms, so it is not just a flickering, black and white myth on a screen, it is a resonant story. I want the audience to recognize themselves in these men. They're not just mythic heroes.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Help, and you will make a huge impact in the life of the street, the town, the country and our planet. If only one out of four of each one hundred of you choose to help on any given day, in any given cause, incredible things will happen in the world you live in."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"As a boy I'd often spend my days biking on riverbeds and arroyos and come home exhausted. I realize now how much I took for granted having the natural world so close at hand. It wasn't until I moved away, first to New York and then to Los Angeles, that I realized how much I missed the outdoors."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"There is something basic about protecting land by taking it off the market. People should be able to enjoy where they live while at the same time protect the plants and animals around them."**

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**"My kid could get a bad X-ray and I could get a call from the doctor saying I have something growing in my bum and that would change my perspective on everything instantaneously, on what is and what is not important."**

**— Tom Hanks**



**"I don't know. People always think that there has got to be a dark side to everyone, a closet with skeletons, demons under the bed. People think all kinds of things about one another. They feel compelled to make up fears and false assumptions about their closest friends. Truth is, I'll never know all there is to know about you just as you will never know all there is to know about me. Humans are by nature too complicated to be understood fully. So, we can choose either to approach our fellow human beings with suspicion or to approach them with an open mind, a dash of optimism and a great deal of candour."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Once humankind has been some place and found it entrancing, they always go back, ... I think in the history of the human race, the moon has been the first place we've gone to and said, 'OK, we don't need to go back there again.'"**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I would not want to live in a country that would have me as a leader in any sort of political bent."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"The year I was born, 1956, was the peak year for babies being born, and there are more people essentially our age than anybody else. We could crush these new generations if we decided to."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"My favorite traditional Christmas movie that I like to watch is All Quiet on the Western Front. It's just not December without that movie in my house."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"My secret to a happy marriage is just being married to the right woman. I got lucky with the wonderful Rita Wilson. I'm the luckiest man alive."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I won the lottery ! My wife Rita Wilson is the greatest thing that ever happened on the planet Earth. You go through life thinking you know the way to do things. And then you meet somebody who says: 'you don't know anything. You have no social graces, you don't really know how to talk to people or listen to people, you need to learn some things'; and she taught me some great stuff. She made me a 100% man, I was only about 68% until I met my wife."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"That woman has loved me skinny, she's loved me fat. She's love me bald, she's loved me hairy. That woman, I know, loves me. So, I'm a lucky man."**

**— Tom Hanks**



**"I'm ludicrously proud of Colin, but I'm not surprised he's acting. When I saw him in his junior high school plays I knew where he was headed. I saw the talent."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"He's better looking than I am, he's taller than I ever was and he's hotter than I am - and he's calmer. I was usually running around looking like (U.S. cartoon character) Gumby on acid."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"If you have to have a job in this world, a high-priced movie star is a pretty good gig."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I once interrupted Chrissie Evert from her shower, because I was delivering a bag to her. I learned that celebrities are people just like you and me and they get mad when you take them out of the shower."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I've made over 20 movies, and 5 of them are good."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I love what I do for a living, it's the greatest job in the world, but you have to survive an awful lot of attention that you don't truly deserve and you have to live up to your professional responsibilities and I'm always trying to balance that with what is really important."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"My work is magnified by the fact that the streets of heaven are too crowded with angels. We know their names, they number a thousand for each red ribbon we wear here tonight."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I must say that I do wrestle with the amount of money I make, but at the end of the day what am I going to say ? I took less money so Rupert Murdoch (an Australian businessman) could have more ?"**

**— Tom Hanks**



**"I will entertain anything; it doesn't matter. You know, it's not obviously about the price, it's not about who, it's kind of about when and what. It's material, that's all."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"You know what ? I love movies. I'm lucky to be in a motion picture industry in any capacity. I like nothing better than seeing a good movie and then talking about it afterwards, if you guys feel that way, well it's the highest praise imaginable."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"That's what's nice about directing a film and having it done: There's nothing more I can do about it. It's done. That's it. All I can do is let it go and hope that people are kind to it."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"What we're doing with Band of Brothers is trying to put it into human terms, so it is not just a flickering, black and white myth on a screen, it is a resonant story. I want the audience to recognize themselves in these men. They're not just mythic heroes."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"You know, I'm just waiting for the moment when I throw up in the back seat of the limo on my way to a premiere."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"We don't have a host and it's hard to vote yourself off the island when you're the only one on it."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"We are like an old married couple when we're working and we always see eye to eye."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"There are actors who are very imposing, I don't think I'm that. There are ones who are threatening, I don't think I'm that. There are some who are mysterious, and I don't think I'm that. Maybe I'm just familiar, maybe I'm just a survivor, but I like to assume that I'm also surprising somewhere along the way."**

**— Tom Hanks**



**"We set out with 'John Adams' to accomplish really three things. Number one, show a President of the United States and his wife, the First Lady, doing the deed in bed.... We have achieved that goal."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"You know you've reached rock bottom when you're told you have character flaws by a man who hanged his predecessor in a military coup."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"May you live as long as you want and not want as long as you live."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. It's the hard that makes it great."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"All my life I've been waiting for someone, and when I find her she's a fish."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Patricia makes coffee nervous."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. It's the hard that makes it great.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“The desert, when the sun comes up...I couldn't tell where heaven stopped and the Earth began.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“Never give up because you never know what the tide will bring in the next day.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“You learn more from getting your butt kicked than getting it kissed.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I'm glad I didn't have to fight in any war. I'm glad I didn't have to pick up a gun. I'm glad I didn't get killed or kill somebody. I hope my kids enjoy the same lack of manhood.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Believing is seeing and seeing is believing.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“...childish, selfish, immature - that's right, I am. But do you know how much money I make for thinking this way?”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Everybody has something that chews them up and, for me, that thing was always loneliness. The cinema has the power to make you not feel lonely, even when you are.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“If you're funny, if there's something that makes you laugh, then every day's going to be okay.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Hey, I got an idea, let’s go to the movies. I wanna go to the movies, I want to take you all to the movies. Let’s go and experience the art of the cinema. Let’s begin with the Scream Of Fear, and we are going to haunt us for the rest of our lives. And then let’s go see The Great Escape, and spend our summer jumping our bikes, just like Steve McQueen over barb wire. And then let’s catch The Seven Samurai for some reason on PBS, and we’ll feel like we speak Japanese because we can read the subtitles and hear the language at the same time. And then let’s lose sleep the night before we see 2001: A Space Odyssey because we have this idea that it’s going to change forever the way we look at films. And then let’s go see it four times in one year. And let’s see Woodstock three times in one year and let’s see Taxi Driver twice in one week. And let’s see Close Encounters of the Third Kind just so we can freeze there in mid-popcorn. And when the kids are old enough, let’s sit them together on the sofa and screen City Lights and Stage Coach and The Best Years of Our Lives and On The Waterfront and Midnight Cowboy and Five Easy Pieces and The Last Picture Show and Raging Bull and Schindler’s List... so that they can understand how the human condition can be captured by this amalgam of light and sound and literature we call the cinema.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“It was a million tiny things that, when you added them all up, they meant we were supposed to be together... and I knew it.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“A hero is somebody who voluntarily walks into the unknown.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I don't ask for much. I don't ask to be rich, and I don't ask to be famous, and I don't ask to play center field for the New York Yankees. I just want to get married and have a wife and a house, and I want to have a kid, and I want to go see him be a tooth in the school play."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Adorable. Dammit, why can't you look terrible? I've been out walking the streets trying to convince myself I wasn't in love with you, and I come back here and you're barefoot and you're adorable."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"It was a million tiny little things that — when you added them all up — they meant we were supposed to be together, and I knew it. I knew it the very first time I touched her. It was like coming home, only to no home I'd ever known. I was just taking her hand to help her out of a car, and I knew. It was like magic."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Yes, well, I don't know. Sometimes it would stop raining long enough for the stars to come out, and then it was nice. It was like just before the sun goes to bed down on the bayou. There was always a million sparkles on the water, like that mountain lake. It was so clear, Jenny, it looked like there were two skies, one on top of the other. And then in the desert, when the sun comes up, I couldn't tell where heaven stopped and the earth began. It's so beautiful."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I would have asked for your number, and I wouldn't have been able to wait 24 hours before calling you and saying, 'Hey, how about — oh, how about some coffee or, you know, drinks or dinner or a movie . . . for as long as we both shall live?'"**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I'm always going to keep this watch on Memphis time. Kelly time.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**"Don't you think I know that, Frank? Don't you think I am aware there is a woman here? I can smell her, like, like a flower. I can taste her, like sugar on my tongue. When I'm 20 feet away, I can hear the fabric of her dress when she moves in her chair!"**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I'm not a smart man, but I know what love is."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Fear, belief, love — phenomena that determined the course of our lives. These forces begin long before we are born and continue after we perish."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"The holy grail 'neath ancient Roslin waits. The blade and chalice  
guarding o'er her gates. Adorned in masters' loving art, she lies. She  
rests at last beneath the starry skys."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"On the day of my judgment, when I stand before God, and He asks me why did I kill one of his true miracles, what am I gonna say? That is was my job? My job?"**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"We live and we die by the clock, that's all we have."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"James, earn this... earn it."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Houston, we have a problem."**

**— Tom Hanks**



**"I wish I were big."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"I would rather take my chances out there on the ocean than stay here and die."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"This is what we storytellers do. We restore order with imagination."**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Everything's different. Big wheels are turning. You've got to be strong to survive." — Tom Hanks**

**“If things were easy to find, they wouldn’t be worth finding.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Our lives and our choices, like quantum trajectories, are understood moment-to-moment. At each point of intersection, each encounter, suggests a new potential direction.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“If you don’t try, you’ll never know. So try.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**"Every man I kill, the farther away from home I feel."**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“If you're funny, if there's something that makes you laugh, then every day's going to be okay.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I must say that I do wrestle with the amount of money I make, but at the end of the day what am I gonna say? I took less money so Rupert Murdoch could have more?”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“If you have to have a job in this world, a high-priced movie star is a pretty good gig.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I'm standing here because of an army of people who over the course of a back-breaking schedule that was set by Bob Zemeckis worked much harder than I did and who had much more at risk if our efforts were not successful.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I'm empowered to stand here thanks to the ensemble of actors, men and women, who I shared the screen with and who in ways they will never understand made me a better actor.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“Man, I feel as though I'm standing on magic legs in a special effects process shot that is too unbelievable to imagine and far too costly to make a reality.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“We live in a society where there is no law in making money in the promulgation of ignorance or, in some cases, stupidity. There are a lot of things you can say never happened. You can go as relatively quasi-harmless as saying no one went to the moon. But you also can say that the Holocaust never happened.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“And there lies my dilemma here tonight. I know that my work in this case is magnified by the fact that the streets of heaven are too crowded with angels. We know their names. They number a thousand for each one of the red ribbons that we wear here tonight. They finally rest in the warm embrace of the gracious creator of us all. A healing embrace that cools their fevers, that clears their skin, and allows their eyes to see the simple, self-evident, common sense truth that is made manifest by the benevolent creator of us all and was written down on paper by wise men, tolerant men, in the city of Philadelphia two hundred years ago. God bless you all. God have mercy on us all. And God bless America.” — Tom Hanks**



**“I would not be standing here if it weren't for two very important men in my life, so... two that I haven't spoken with in awhile, but I had the pleasure of just the other evening. Mr. Rawley Farnsworth, who was my high school drama teacher, who taught me to act well the part, there all the glory lies. And one of my classmates under Mr. Farnsworth, Mr. John Gilkerson. I mention their names because they are two of the finest gay Americans, two wonderful men that I had the good fortune to be associated with, to fall under their inspiration at such a young age. I wish my babies could have the same sort of teacher, the same sort of friends.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“And it is meant to make people think, 'How in the world did we do that  
And isn't it a marvelous thing that we did,'”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“There's millions of survivors out there make it one million and one.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“We don't have a host and it's hard to vote yourself off the island when you're the only one on it.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“And I'm not apolitical - I'm very specific in my politics. But a lot of the time it's nobody's business unless you're over at my house having dinner.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“The nature of the movies is different than it was five years ago, and they're all driven by the possibilities of CGI, which means you can make anything happen on screen that you can possibly desire.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“I'm not interested in doing something edgy with a capital E just so everyone knows, 'Oh, OK, now he's showing us he can do edgy.'”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“It's always a combination of physics and poetry that I find inspiring.  
It's hard to wrap your head around things like the Hubble scope.”**

**— Tom Hanks**



**“The most accurate representation of how I feel is that I'm incredibly lucky to be working in this structure where people get paid millions to read the news on TV. And, yes, it is insane. And there is nothing I can say beyond acknowledging my immense good fortune, and being aware that I'm blessed, and aware that it isn't going to last forever.” — Tom Hanks**

**“At the end of the day it's got to be a good movie, it's got to be a funny movie, and it's got to make people think, 'Hey, I couldn't have spent my time any better.'”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“It may not be important for a while, ... But in 10 years, we may yearn for a common purpose like going to the moon. And we need to do the footwork now.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“There was a period of time in Los Angeles when I wondered if I was just going to lose everything.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“My TV show had been cancelled; nothing else had gone anywhere; some alliances I had made petered out and nothing came of them and I was looking at a long, long year ahead of me in which there was no work on the horizon, the phone wasn't ringing. I had two kids, one of them a brand-new baby, and I didn't know if I would be able to keep my house.”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“There are whole floors of people in studios that worry about such things, as though there is power that can be wielded over such matters,”**

**— Tom Hanks**

**“My favorite traditional Christmas movie that I like to watch is All Quiet on the Western Front. It's just not December without that movie in my house.”**

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