



Southern College of Optometry invites you to

Envisioning Change

Join us for an evening of inspirational storytelling and song as award-winning actor, author and composer Tom Sullivan shares his life experiences. His motivational message inspires audiences to use their talent and energy to improve the lives of others.

Tom's message is suited for all ages, from healthcare providers to patients, their families and all those who are interested in making a difference in the world.

March 30, 2012 7:00 pm
Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church
70 North Bellevue Boulevard
Memphis, TN 38104

The "inconvenience" of being blind has never kept Tom Sullivan from competing in a world where he realized that to be equal, for him, meant that he must be better.

Even as he may have had to change the rules slightly, he has proven that opportunities are limitless. To read more....visit Tom's website....sullivanlive.com

To learn more visit: www.sco.edu

Register to attend: email rsvp@sco.edu **or call** 901-722-3216

The program is supported in part by a grant to InfantSEE from the Allergan Foundation.



"If extraordinary people can do impossible things, isn't it reasonable to assume that ordinary people can do extraordinary things?" – Tom Sullivan

Tom Sullivan is a noted actor, singer, entertainer and author. One of the nation's most requested motivational speakers, Sullivan is known for the message of hope and possibility that he has delivered to more than 1,000 organizations.

Born prematurely in 1947, Sullivan became blind after being given too much oxygen while in an incubator. As a boy, Sullivan and his father invented "Sullivan's Rules," a set of principles that enabled him to meet any challenge. His accomplishments include attending Harvard, teaching himself to play baseball, golf, skiing, bungee jumping, sky diving and other sports, and being inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

After pursuing his dream of being a singer and entertainer, Sullivan gained national recognition as a favorite of Johnny Carson. The "Tonight Show" host invited Sullivan to appear on more than 60 episodes of his long-running late night variety program. In 1976, Sullivan joined an elite group of entertainers who have performed during the Super Bowl when he sang "The Star Spangled Banner" during the game's Bicentennial Celebration. As a special correspondent for ABC's "Good Morning America" for more than five years, he regularly appeared in "you can do it" inspirational reports that included snow skiing with his son and playing golf with Jack Nicklaus.

As an actor, his appearances include guest-starring roles that he helped write and developed to incorporate his blindness, including "Designing Women," "Touched by An Angel," "Highway to Heaven," "Fame," "M.A.S.H.," "Mork and Mindy," and "WKRP in Cincinnati." Nominated twice for Emmy Awards, he has also appeared on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and in a regular role on the soap opera "Search for Tomorrow." He also taught actor Ben Affleck about blindness for his role in the movie "Daredevil," about a blind superhero.

Sullivan is the author of eight best-selling books, including his 1975 autobiography, "If You Could See What I Hear." The book was adapted into a 1982 TV movie starring actor Marc Singer as Sullivan. The film depicted episodes from Sullivan's life, including the time he saved his infant daughter from drowning in the family pool by listening for air bubbles, an instance where his blindness led to a heightening of his other senses. A new feature film about his life story is currently in production.

He has served on the Board of Directors for The Blind Children's Center in Los Angeles, the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, the National Sports Center for the Disabled, and the Braille Institute. His honors include an Apollo Award from the American Optometric Association in 2010, the American Foundation for the Blind's Helen Keller Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Will Rogers Memorial Award.

Southern College of Optometry was established in Memphis, TN, in 1932. SCO is an independent, not-for-profit institution of higher education with nearly 500 students from 40 states. The Eye Center at SCO serves nearly 80,000 patients annually, helping make the college one of the top in the nation for clinical optometric education. SCO's Community Outreach Program reaches more than 12,000 children through vision screenings provided annually to Shelby County, Tennessee students in public, private and charter schools. For more information on SCO, please visit www.sco.edu.