

**Alan Alda** ; was born **Alphonso Joseph D'Abruzzo** on January 28, 1936. He is an American actor, director, screenwriter, and author. A seven-time [Emmy Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Award) and [Golden Globe Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award) winner, he is widely known for his roles as [Captain Hawkeye Pierce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_M*A*S*H_characters#Hawkeye_Pierce) in the TV series [*M\*A\*S\*H*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M*A*S*H_(TV_series)) (1972–1983), hosting of [*Scientific American Frontiers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_American_Frontiers), and as [Arnold Vinick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnold_Vinick) in [*The West Wing*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_West_Wing) (2004–2006).

I chose this quote because we have been discussing assumptions in Mr. Daly’s class. We have been learning that we often make assumptions about people based on the way they dress or sometimes, based on reputation. I think the author is right in urging us to challenge our assumptions so that we are not tricked into making snap judgements about people. When he writes, “Scrub them off every once in awhile or the light won’t come in”, he is saying that we need to keep an open mind about people to help us see the truth.