

Jeremy Irons: Gay Marriage Could Lead to Fathers Marrying Sons

British actor Jeremy Irons has sparked outrage by suggesting **gay marriage** in Britain could lead to fathers marrying their sons in a bid to avoid inheritance tax.

The *Lolita* star made the strange comments in an interview with the *Huffington Post* in which he claimed a law allowing same-sex couples to officially marry could create a loophole to bypass the U.K.'s heavy death duties.

He told the publication, "Could a father not marry his son? ... It's not incest between men (because) incest (law) is there to protect us from inbreeding, but men don't breed," adding, "I don't have a strong feeling either way. Living with another animal, whether it be a husband or a dog, is great. It's lovely to have someone to love."

However, Irons' comments have angered some gay-rights campaigners. A spokesman for Britain's Stonewall organization has branded the actor's remarks "bizarre" and referenced his role as a corrupt pope in TV show *The Borgias*, saying, "Few people will agree with Jeremy Irons' bizarre 'concerns' about equal marriage. Sadly his comments do seem to indicate he's taken his role as a pope in *The Borgias* a little too seriously."

Openly gay Scottish actor Alan Cumming, who entered into a civil partnership with his husband in London in 2007 and then remarried him in New York last year, also took aim at Irons over the comments, writing in a post on Twitter, "I hate when people say they don't have strong feelings about something then proceed to spew offensive and ignorant ones. Jeremy Irons."