

Abbas Kiarostami

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Cameras, Way, Real, Film, Different, Iran, Character, Looks,
Directors, Years, Men, Culture, Mind, Cinema, Responsibility, Shooting,
Children, Car*

I've often noticed that we are not able to look at what we have in front of us, unless it's inside a frame.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Religion works on some people but not on everyone, because it says, 'Stop thinking and accept what I tell you.' That's not valid for people who want to think and reflect.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Cinema seats make people lazy. They expect to be given all the information. But for me, question marks are the punctuation of life.

~Abbas Kiarostami

A movie is about human beings, about humanity.

~Abbas Kiarostami

In the total darkness, poetry is still there, and it is there for you.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Film is very much a universal and common voice, and we can't limit it to one particular culture.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Good cinema is what we can believe and bad cinema is what we can't believe. What you see and believe in is very much what I'm interested in.

~Abbas Kiarostami

My way of expression is full of complications and mystery because that's my perception of life.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I would be too selfish if I said everyone should see my movies more than once. To say that would mean I'm just marketing my work!

~Abbas Kiarostami

I spend a lot of time doing carpentry. Sometimes there is nothing that gives me the contentment that sawing a piece of wood does.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I think it was [Jean-Luc] Godard who said that life is nothing but a bad copy of film, but then our ambition must be to make better films and better shapes of forms that are given in life.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I have no advice for anyone on how to live.

~Abbas Kiarostami

We are nothing but a link between our culture and what we can actually produce.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Cinema gives you the opportunity to be both a grandparent and a grandchild whereas in life you cannot be both at the same time.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I never reflect or convey that which I have not experienced myself.

~Abbas Kiarostami

In order to be universal, you have to be rooted in your own culture.

~Abbas Kiarostami

It's true that the best way of knowing yourself is to put yourself into different situations.

~Abbas Kiarostami

In my mind, there isn't as much of a distinction between documentary and fiction as there is between a good movie and a bad one.

~Abbas Kiarostami

The day we run out of petrol is the day Iran will be free.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I never really learned photography.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I think being someone in love is so hard to define, so temporary, because retrospectively we often deny the state in which we were in love.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I thought that I had been asked every kind of question possible.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Everybody knows that I am not usually patient enough to actually sit down and watch one of my own films from the beginning to the end - I never do.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I do believe in [Robert] Bresson's method of creation through omission, not through addition.

~Abbas Kiarostami

A work of art doesn't exist outside the perception of the audience.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I didn't just see myself as a film director here [in *Life And Nothing More*], but also as an observer of people who had been condemned to death.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I was mentioning with the digital camera, maybe this new fashion of

filmmaking gives a closer look of what life may be like. But it's still nothing but a copy.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Anything I've not experienced I do not look to for a subject. I have to feel it.

~Abbas Kiarostami

It's not so much a question of whether we've shot it through 35mm or digital video; what is important is whether the audience accepts it as real.

~Abbas Kiarostami

In my opinion the man looks at the relationship in a more bitter fashion and the woman still holds great hopes.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I believe there's only good cinema and bad cinema.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I really enjoy listening to stories. I remember them and keep them in my mind.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I wasn't searching for a common denominator - I started wondering about the challenge of working in other cultures. What I reached was the sudden acknowledgment of the universal aspect of filmmaking.

~Abbas Kiarostami

The experience of life teaches us that being like someone in love is more real, because everything is uncertain.

~Abbas Kiarostami

As soon as people enter a theater they must become moron consumers

who must be fed information.

~Abbas Kiarostami

There were years when Hitchcock was like a master to me, but now I think he's so artificial. I can watch films and say how technically beautiful they are, but I'm not impressed by any technicality.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Close-Up is a very particular film in my oeuvre. It's a film that was made in a very particular way; mainly because I didn't really have the time to think about how to go about making the film.

~Abbas Kiarostami

My films have been progressing towards a certain kind of minimalism, even though it was never intended. Elements which can be eliminated have been eliminated.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I think life is so difficult to catch, it's so furtive, that a copy, a film, can in no way catch it and represent it.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Directors don't always create, they can also destroy with too many demands.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I think, just as footballers play better at home, maybe film-makers, too, create better at home, even though the rules of football are the same wherever you go.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I think that if you're a digital thinker, you can use a digital camera.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Whether you consider me a master filmmaker or not, I do it with my intuition and my vision, my experience as a storyteller.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Children are very strong and independent characters and can come up with more interesting things than Marlon Brando, and it's sometimes very difficult to direct or order them to do something.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I think I really produce my best work in Iran.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I think Woody Allen is Woody Allen, and no matter where he goes he still makes his Woody Allen films.

~Abbas Kiarostami

If you are a businessman or a politician in Iran, you can get a visa as quickly as you ask for it.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Close-Up has affected later films that I've made.

~Abbas Kiarostami

The one-word cinema wasn't possible for me anymore. I'd hit a wall, a dead end. Therefore I thought I'd turn back.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I do think that we are sometimes, as directors, guilty of portraying or asking our actors to behave in certain ways that are perhaps not very morally acceptable. I'm not the only one.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I don't generally derive my stories from novels. I try to turn into film things I have felt or experienced.

~Abbas Kiarostami

It's very true that non-actors feel more comfortable in front of a digital camera, without the lights and the large crowd around them, and we arrive at much more intimate moments with them.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Unfortunately, cinema critics are very few in America, 400-500 people, but there are more critics of Iran.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I don't like reverse-angle shots - I find them very fake and very untruthful to the viewer.

~Abbas Kiarostami

The Iranian government as a whole has no relationship with my films. They're not particularly interested, perhaps this kind of cinema is not very interesting to them.

~Abbas Kiarostami

In order to be able to cooperate with a child, you have to come down to below their level in order to communicate with them. Actors are also like children.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Therefore, when you see the end result, it's difficult to see who's the director, me or them. Ultimately, everything belongs to the actors - we just manage the situation.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I can only display what I've been nurtured with, which is this worldview which has become my view. If I displayed anything different from it in my work, I wouldn't deserve this heritage.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Using non-actors has its own rules and really requires that you allow them to do their own thing.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I'm still very grateful to digital cameras in general, but I didn't have this feeling with the RED one.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I prefer the countryside to cities. This is also true of my films: I have made more films in rural societies, and villages, than in towns.

~Abbas Kiarostami

If we're not going to take full advantage of digital, then 35mm is a better medium. Especially for shooting dramas - I have no problem with 35mm.

~Abbas Kiarostami

This [the earthquake] was a very big influence on me, and the issue of life and death from then on does recur in my films.

~Abbas Kiarostami

If I do continue to have the opportunity to work in Iran, that's very much what I'd prefer to do.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Having an international voice is not really about whether we speak Persian or any other language.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I don't have very complete scripts for my films. I have a general outline and a character in my mind, and I make no notes until I find the character who's in my mind in reality.

~Abbas Kiarostami

The digital camera has given me total freedom and a different way of filming.

~Abbas Kiarostami

Despite the great advantages of digital video and the great ease of using the medium, still those who use it have first to understand the sensitivities of how to best use the medium.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I am still very surprised that I managed to make that film [Close Up]. When I actually look back on that film, I really feel that I was not the director but instead just a member of the audience.

~Abbas Kiarostami

The film [Close Up] made itself, to a large extent. The characters involved were very real, I wasn't directing the actors so much as being directed by them. So it was a very particular film.

~Abbas Kiarostami

As long as I take the responsibility of the choice, I have to make the choice that is as right as possible.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I really haven't seen The Report in a long time. I don't have a copy, but I'll have to see it again. I think it would be good to put both these men next to each other.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I do believe that a film like Ten could never have been made with a 35mm camera. The first part of the film lasts 17 minutes, and by the end of that part, the kid has totally forgotten the camera.

~Abbas Kiarostami

There are certainties in existence, but love is something much harder to

define than light and dark, life and death. I think saying you are "like" someone in love sounds right.

~Abbas Kiarostami

I only make notes, I don't write dialogues in full. And the notes are very much based on my knowledge of person.

~Abbas Kiarostami

A digital camera does have many advantages and I was a believer that digital video would be a big influence on film-making.

~Abbas Kiarostami

In real life, when someone's partner calls them, they can tell from the first word their partner says what their mood is.

~Abbas Kiarostami

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