

Alexander Payne

Quotes

Thinking, Film, People, Want, Cinema, Mean, Years, Actors, Writing, Book, Giving, World, Long, Independent, Good Movie, War, Movie, Goal, Talking, Nice

What is filmmaking but groping in the dark?

~Alexander Payne

If you were falling in love and you could go back in time and relive a day and see the banal things you did that you'd forgotten about, you'd weep, looking at that day.

~Alexander Payne

I like actors who, when you see them on screen, you sense a person, not just an actor.

~Alexander Payne

I think a badly crafted, great idea for a new film with a ton of spelling mistakes is just 100 times better than a well-crafted stale script.

~Alexander Payne

There is an audience out there for literate films - slower, more observant, more human films, and they deserve to be made.

~Alexander Payne

The actors are the greatest executors of tone in a film. They're the most important cinematic component.

~Alexander Payne

I'm hoping one day I can make one really good film.

~Alexander Payne

The biggest fear I have is to die with regrets, and of course that will come true.

~Alexander Payne

A pitfall of making a comedy with a studio-and it's also an American cultural thing-is that I get tired of being encouraged to go always for laughs.

~Alexander Payne

I think cynicism lasts. Sentimentality ages, dates quickly.

~Alexander Payne

If you have your movies so that everyone understands everything, I think that's probably not a very good movie.

~Alexander Payne

I don't want all of American cinema to be big cartoons that are just made to be digested by the entire world.

~Alexander Payne

I definitely in filmmaking more and more find writing and directing a means to harvest material for editing. It's all about editing.

~Alexander Payne

You just never know when you're living in a golden age.

~Alexander Payne

In the moment of making films, I want to share my observations of life, not of other films.

~Alexander Payne

Even if we die at 100, we're still dying young. I want at least 700 years. There's a lot of travelling and books to read and movies to see. I'm not going to squeeze it all in in 85 years.

~Alexander Payne

When you're a houseguest and you leave, it's nice to straighten something up or send your hosts a useful gift. And when you leave the planet, it's nice to have made a positive contribution.

~Alexander Payne

As the years go by and I make more films, I am increasingly interested in capturing place as a vivid backdrop for my films.

~Alexander Payne

I mean, look, I love movies, not just the ones I make... In fact, I don't like the movies I make very much.

~Alexander Payne

I never wanted money worries to slow me down or make me take a job I didn't want.

~Alexander Payne

That's how I like to do it with actors, have them really go for it and I'll tell them when it's too much. It's always easier to bring it back then to push it further.

~Alexander Payne

Joe E. Lewis said, 'Money doesn't buy happiness but it calms the nerves.' And that is how I feel about a film being well-received.

~Alexander Payne

I want all of my films to belong to me.

~Alexander Payne

I think that Peter Jennings is the only decent one of the big three.

~Alexander Payne

I think if you watch most of my films with the sound off, you could still tell what's going on.

~Alexander Payne

Acting is a lot easier than people think it is.

~Alexander Payne

I like voice-over in films, and most of my films have been voice-over films.

~Alexander Payne

In real life, I myself am kind of a rambling guy. I like to travel.

~Alexander Payne

In a general sense, to convert any short story, novel, play, or opera into a movie, you have to re-rig it. Even though they're all narratives over time, they're very different forms.

~Alexander Payne

The worst thing for people to say about your movies is, "Yeah, it was pretty good, but it was too damn long."

~Alexander Payne

Somewhat dramatic things happen, and you don't even always notice them â€” that's what life is.

~Alexander Payne

I'm attracted to short screenplays. Nobody really wants a film to be over two hours, or at least I don't.

~Alexander Payne

This is how good movies get made and always have: from the gut instinct of the financiers, not just by committee and research.

~Alexander Payne

I've always approached screenplays and so forth with, "How would it really happen?" Not "What's the movie version?" but "What's the real-life version?" Then I just follow my nose.

~Alexander Payne

The kindest thing a director can do is look with open eyes at everything.

~Alexander Payne

What science-fiction premises do is it gives you a "what-if" prism to look at the contemporary world with a wack on the side of the head.

~Alexander Payne

My flag is always flying. My shingle is always out. I'm always looking for movie ideas. The hardest part of this whole movie-making endeavor is finding ideas. That's the real goal.

~Alexander Payne

But it's just that the whole country is making generally lousy films these days and has been for quite a while. That's the big problem that we all have to think about.

~Alexander Payne

A book suggests a whole world and story that I could have never thought of in a million years.

~Alexander Payne

I still have energy and some degree of youth, which is what a filmmaker needs.

~Alexander Payne

I like action films, not exclusively, but I like Samurai films. I like Westerns. Not so much war pictures, but a few. I like kinetic cinema.

~Alexander Payne

If you're not making epic, archetypal films on some level, I think you're wasting a great potential of cinema.

~Alexander Payne

I like to think of film-making not just as an act of personal self-aggrandisement but rather as an act of public service.

~Alexander Payne

I don't feel despair because I am able to make the films I want to make, and that gives me hope.

~Alexander Payne

I always wanted 'Sideways' to be like a great 1960s Italian film.

~Alexander Payne

Each one of my movies becomes easier to get off the ground.

~Alexander Payne

The best cinema is about ethics.

~Alexander Payne

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