

Ava DuVernay

Quotes

Thinking, People, Film, Black, Want, Art, Color, Jobs, Ideas, Writing, Age, Mean, Important, Opportunity, Voice, Stories, Long, Way, Done, Together

If your dream only includes you, it's too small.

~Ava DuVernay

Be passionate and move forward with gusto every single hour of every single day until you reach your goal.

~Ava DuVernay

Figure out what you need to do to be the heroine of your own story.

~Ava DuVernay

Don't wait for permission to do something creative.

~Ava DuVernay

If you're doing something outside of dominant culture there's not an easy place for you. You will have to do it yourself.

~Ava DuVernay

When you're in your lane, there's no traffic.

~Ava DuVernay

We have to find new ways to work without permission, new ways to turn corners and go through doors that are closed off to us to create our own audiences and our own material independently.

~Ava DuVernay

I've passed along some advice that Oprah [Winfrey] gave to me: When something bad is happening, it's not happening to you; it's happening for you.

~Ava DuVernay

Stop asking, start doing.

~Ava DuVernay

If your work is solid, it really doesn't matter what people you know

because good work starts to rise to the top.

~Ava DuVernay

Because my mom always told me that I could. From a very early age, I felt comfortable leading.

~Ava DuVernay

The traditional ways to make a film, the traditional ways to share a film, have all collapsed. There are no gatekeepers, per se, any more, and anything can be done. Truly, I feel that.

~Ava DuVernay

I make films about Black women and it doesn't mean that you can't see them as a Black man, doesn't mean that he can't see them as a white man or she can't see them as a white woman.

~Ava DuVernay

I really admire Werner Herzog and Spike Lee. They're amazing documentarians. If you took away all the narratives, they'd just be amazing documentarians.

~Ava DuVernay

If you have the ability to do something, you should do it.

~Ava DuVernay

We're a new world and it's not pretty. It's going to be for the brave to figure out how to survive in this.

~Ava DuVernay

Hollywood needs more women directors, and Mama Ava needs a carafe and a half of that sweet vino divino.

~Ava DuVernay

I didn't go to film school. I got my education on the set as a niche

publicist in the film industry.

~Ava DuVernay

When I'm marketing a film, whether its mine or someone else's, I work with a great deal of strategy and elbow grease until the job is done.

~Ava DuVernay

Some black filmmakers will say, "I don't want to be considered a black filmmaker, I'm a filmmaker." I don't think that. I'm a black woman filmmaker.

~Ava DuVernay

Netflix represents, as well as all the streaming services, something that I've been talking about being so important to inclusive voices around films.

~Ava DuVernay

At the end of the day, I had to remain dedicated to historical accuracy.

~Ava DuVernay

I know that there are a lot of great women that have gone before me, so it's important to acknowledge them.

~Ava DuVernay

I'm not to say that my male counterparts do, but certainly, it feels very special to me because I know that so few women have had the opportunity to do what I'm doing, so I'm thrilled by it every day.

~Ava DuVernay

For far too long, independent voices have been relegated to places where these ideas are not seen on a mass level.

~Ava DuVernay

When I look in the mirror, I see a woman who is happy.

~Ava DuVernay

In documentaries, there's a truth that unfolds unnaturally, and you get to chronicle it. In narratives, you have to create the situations so that the truth will come out.

~Ava DuVernay

Those [old] days are gone... accept the reality and do it.

~Ava DuVernay

I'm a huge Dirty Dancing fan. I feel like I should be reading [William] Shakespeare, but I'm watching Baby not be in a corner.

~Ava DuVernay

Most of us think prison is a place where bad people go - which is what I thought for a long time - until you really start to look inside the system and you see, this is not right.

~Ava DuVernay

I don't want to say that in a place that's negative about what the fear is. I just want to be a realist.

~Ava DuVernay

Filmmakers need to realize that their job isn't done when they lock picture. We must see our films through.

~Ava DuVernay

I think I am a little jealous of women who have great girlfriends as adults.

~Ava DuVernay

Film school was a privilege I could not afford.

~Ava DuVernay

All the films I do, I write the scripts, I direct.

~Ava DuVernay

I tell the stories that are of interest to me.

~Ava DuVernay

I don't understand the iPhone. I just don't get it. Don't ya'll have to write serious emails throughout the day? How can you possibly manage detailed missives on a phone with no keys?

~Ava DuVernay

I wish I could be the black woman Soderbergh, and put the camera on my shoulder and shoot beautifully while I directed.

~Ava DuVernay

I think for female filmmakers a big issue is making their second and third films. You see the statistics, and the dropoff on the second and third [films], are dire.

~Ava DuVernay

I just don't think there's a lot of support for the woman's voice in cinema, and it becomes really difficult to raise that money and start again every time.

~Ava DuVernay

My parents [are my hero]. They've helped me be who I am.

~Ava DuVernay

I just remember not having access to films as a young person who loved films but living in Compton.

~Ava DuVernay

All these women had directed movies that I loved on the film festival circuit, but couldn't get a job making television. That's how locked down

TV is.

~Ava DuVernay

It was easy for me to show the films to the studio and the network and say, "This is who I'm hiring."

~Ava DuVernay

When you force sleep, it doesn't happen.

~Ava DuVernay

I think there are a lot of people in this industry that have the ability, that have the position, they have the opportunity, they have the privilege to call the shots and could do it too.

~Ava DuVernay

More people have seen 13th on Netflix than have seen all my films put together between the Sundance winners and Selma, and the whole international distribution of film.

~Ava DuVernay

I think there are pieces of the film [Age Of Trump] that are even more emotionally resonant and more vital to talk about than ever.

~Ava DuVernay

I feel mushy these days when I think about art and artists and the work that lies ahead for us. There's good work to be done and there's joy to be found in it, I think.

~Ava DuVernay

I know that sounds a little bit corny, but I've found some solace in that. I hope art can continue to do that for people, I really do.

~Ava DuVernay

The fact that we have people who have headed up oil corporations now

assigned to places in cabinet.

~Ava DuVernay

Historically, you've had really muddy, unforgiving, unintentional images of black people.

~Ava DuVernay

As long as you're in an environment where the worth of the project isn't based on the project but what its predecessors did, it's not truly inclusive.

~Ava DuVernay

You know, often films that are deemed positive, nobody wants to see them.

~Ava DuVernay

I think that women definitely have a special bond as friends that is hard to describe to men, and we don't often see that portrayed narratively.

~Ava DuVernay

I'm making and marketing my films, by any means necessary, and enjoying life while I do so.

~Ava DuVernay

Working full-time as a filmmaker has been a dream come true.

~Ava DuVernay

We're living based on laws and ideas that we, as a society, embraced back in the days of slavery.

~Ava DuVernay

It's very nourishing and collaborative - kind of the true essence of what one would want an artistic collaboration to be [the collaboration with Oprah Winfrey].

~Ava DuVernay

When you say cultural icon, I scrunch my nose.

~Ava DuVernay

It sounds kind of flighty, filmmaker-y, but I believe films are a piece of art. They are meant to be what they're meant to be, and sometimes the artist is informed by the film of what it needs to be.

~Ava DuVernay

We've had these bursts of cool years here or there but that's not change. That's a trend. You only hope that this could be the beginning of true change.

~Ava DuVernay

I always find it fascinating to ask people, why they've chosen to live their life as an artist? Why be an actor, a singer, an author, a filmmaker? I've heard such inspiring answers to that question.

~Ava DuVernay

[Hollywood] is a patriarchy, headed by men and built for men.

~Ava DuVernay

I think when we get to a place that this is not the story, that everyone's story is a part of the story, then we can say this has changed. Until then, these are steps to change if they're consistent.

~Ava DuVernay

I'm a prison abolitionist because the prison system as it is set up is just not working. It's horrible.

~Ava DuVernay

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