

Billy Bob Thornton

Quotes

Thinking, People, Years, Mean, Writing, Kids, Character, Stars, Guy, Play, Knows, Directors, Real, Want, Men, Tvs, Independent, Couple, Moving, Careers

Somewhere along the line we stopped believing we could do anything. And if we don't have our dreams, we have nothing.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I don't have a fear of flying; I have a fear of crashing.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I've never heard of anybody smoking a joint and going on a rampage. It makes you lie around on the floor and look at the ceiling. What's wrong with that?

~Billy Bob Thornton

I was the fattest baby in Clark County, Arkansas. They put me in the newspaper. It was like a prize turnip.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Getting the nomination is like gravy. Winning would be like whatever is better than gravy.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I figured I would have to tell someone to kiss my ass before it was all over, and I have -- twice.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I believe in running through the rain and crashing into the person you love and having your lips bleed on each other.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I attribute all my success to ignorance. If you don't ever think about not getting where you want to be, I think it helps you out.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Marketing is the devil.

~Billy Bob Thornton

If you love somebody let them know every day.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Usually when you're playing a character, you think a lot about their backstory.

~Billy Bob Thornton

You want to know the hardest thing about being smart? What? I pretty much always know what's going to happen next; there's no suspense.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm more influenced by novelists than I am by filmmakers.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Every couple I know has side-by-side grave plots, but when we do it we're the biggest weirdos on the block.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I quit flying years ago. I don't want to die with tourists.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I've danced one time in my life. It was the most mortifying experience I ever had.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Anytime you get a chance to play some extreme character, in any direction, it's always a great blessing.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Playing normal-looking characters really intimidates me. I got into acting to play anyone but me.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I never expected to be a movie star. It's not that I didn't want to be, I

didn't think about it. I wanted to be an actor.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm an actor. I'm not a performer. I'm not like a song and dance guy who can take a cane and a hat and do it. I would just you know. That's why I never did commercials.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Just the other day, my assistant was on the line with Calvin Klein. Golly, I usually shop at Sears.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I can't sit through plays and musical theatre. I just want to run up onstage and mess up their hair and turn over the furniture.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm as highly insecure as a human can be.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Life is magical and I guess my thing is I wish that people wanted that magic.

~Billy Bob Thornton

People a lot of times say that you know it must be hard to direct yourself. That's a myth. It's easier to direct yourself. There's no middle man, you know.

~Billy Bob Thornton

These days and times you can't do eclectic records. In the '60s you could, but not anymore.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm kind of sad and happy all the time. Just kind of like feeling, you know, full of life and confident, and at the same time terrified. I'm all of

those things at once.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Tower Records is like a temple to me. I'll stay there for hours. Nobody can shop for records with me. It drives them out of their minds.

~Billy Bob Thornton

LA has its own vibe. It has a charm that a lot of people overlook sometimes.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I think people can live a religious life and yet believe in things maybe outside the box a little bit.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Every character I play is me, always has been.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Basically there are no stars anymore. The audience is the star.

~Billy Bob Thornton

You can't knock a place where you realized your dreams.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Usually when I'm writing, I kind of know what it is before I start writing and I write stream of consciousness style.

~Billy Bob Thornton

You read something and you just feel this makes sense. And sometimes before you even read it you have a feeling that yeah, I'm probably gonna do this one.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I actually am a phobic twitchy sort of nervous guy.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Reality shows are usually created by people doing and saying stupid things.

~Billy Bob Thornton

My mom was a psychic. And there's a movie called *The Gift* that I'd written years ago with Cate Blanchett which is loosely based on my mom.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I can't imagine laying a finger on my kids. I go the other way and probably because my father was so abusive.

~Billy Bob Thornton

After you've done 60-something movies, you're always looking for something different.

~Billy Bob Thornton

It's not that I don't understand it. But people think if you speak with an English accent it somehow makes you smarter.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Man, I was drowning in sadness. And Angelina, she lifted me right up out of there.

~Billy Bob Thornton

When people wear shoes that don't fit them, it says something about their soul. Generally, I think it means they are good people.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm not much of a drinker, so I'm going to eat seven pounds of pork.

~Billy Bob Thornton

If you're going to take care of your kids and pay for your house and do something good for adults, you have to do something on television now.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I think everybody's contemplating TV now, because mid-level and high-budget independent films are not being made now.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm not sure that I'm really relevant as a director anymore. Or as a writer, either, to tell you the truth.

~Billy Bob Thornton

The audience, that's who I care about.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I know it's boring to say this but I always start with the script. I mean if it's well written and it's a character that I haven't necessarily played before.

~Billy Bob Thornton

[The lyrics and melody] usually come a little simultaneously, but I would say the lyrics are first; usually I have the idea for a story in my head, or few lines.

~Billy Bob Thornton

There are rules in movies. I did a movie playing a bad cop who was a heroin addict but they wouldn't let me smoke in a movie.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I've gone through my periods. I've read the Bible completely, all the way through twice. I did it once when I was about 20 and I did it again when I was about 30.

~Billy Bob Thornton

When I was growing up, when I was 11 years old I was listening to The Mothers of Invention. You know, I mean I was a Frank Zappa fan in Arkansas.

~Billy Bob Thornton

If you're 25 years old dressed up like Superman at a comic book convention, that's great. If you're 78 and you're doing it, something's wrong.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I've watched other directors as an actor and I picked up little things here and there about cameras, [but] I wouldn't consider myself the guy you'd want to hire to do Star Trek.

~Billy Bob Thornton

When I saw that show Lost I learned something. Other than one sort of big dude if you're in an airplane crash only models survive. So you know sit next to somebody pretty, but anyhow.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I always have an idea before we even start the movie because if you hire the wrong person, within a couple of days you're going to know that and you're going to be really panicked.

~Billy Bob Thornton

The movies I've made about the South, they were my experience and it's something that I know.

~Billy Bob Thornton

People want the truth but they only want the truth so they can talk bad about you on the blog or on television. They want you to tell them the truth and it screws everybody.

~Billy Bob Thornton

You can get famous for doing something stupid and empty, but you do something stupid and empty and you're already famous, you lose your career.

~Billy Bob Thornton

The thing about a motion picture is that look of film on a big screen takes you into a magical.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I write songs on guitar and that's about how good of a guitar player I am. I can write songs on it.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I think Americana music is music that is generally more singer/songwriter oriented. It has more to do with the songwriting. The music, it's more like stories set to music.

~Billy Bob Thornton

At my dad's funeral I didn't cry when my dad died. I did it years later when I forgave him, which I've totally forgiven him and I loved my dad.

~Billy Bob Thornton

The great movies that I want to do now are being made for \$2.5-million budgets.

~Billy Bob Thornton

When I was coming up, if you were on a TV show, that meant something was wrong with your career. Now it means something's right with your career.

~Billy Bob Thornton

When you're a kid, somebody's mid-forties, you think they're an old man. Then you grow up and it's like, I was a kid.

~Billy Bob Thornton

We don't shoot in L.A. much anymore. You know, TV and movies, most everything's shot other places.

~Billy Bob Thornton

As most characters are that I play, there's a lot of me in it, anyway.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Sometimes I have songs born out of stories.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Comedy is harder than drama, because with comedy you're expecting a result..you make them laugh. [If] they ain't laughing then you're screwed.

~Billy Bob Thornton

People's attention spans are a little shorter these days. Same thing with food and movies.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I've led a very eclectic life.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Songwriting and screenwriting aren't that different to me.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Now the idea in the movie world is to make things the same. And in the TV world, the idea is to do something different, so... that's why I'm here!

~Billy Bob Thornton

The ones that work out really and ones that become something to the audience, those are the most important people.

~Billy Bob Thornton

You never know what an audience is going to think about something. The ones that the audience doesn't get, I tend to let them go. I don't like to dwell on them too much.

~Billy Bob Thornton

You have to really know what you're saying.

~Billy Bob Thornton

If you look at a character as a mountain over there that you have to climb, then I think you've lost 50 percent of the air.

~Billy Bob Thornton

To tell you the truth, I don't ever talk about characters as separate from myself.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I don't think anybody chooses to be an underdog.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I used to put that I studied with Stella Adler on my resume. I never met Stella Adler. But if you told a casting director you studied with Stella Adler all the sudden they'd let you in the door.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I generally have lyrics first, but you can't help that when you're writing lyrics you start to get a melody in your head. So they come kind of simultaneously.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Independent films now, they want to give you \$2 million to make it, 21 days to shoot it and they want 10 movie stars in it.

~Billy Bob Thornton

People always like stories about the little guy fighting the big guy.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I always wanted to play a lawyer.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I don't know how to type so I handwrite everything.

~Billy Bob Thornton

If you want anybody to have a different voice, you really have to visualize and hear the voices of all these people. Sometimes when I write with specific actors in mind, it helps.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I never wanted to write a book, and people have asked me for years to do it.

~Billy Bob Thornton

When you weigh 135 pounds and you're telling people who are 6'4" and 250 pounds to get out of your way, how do you do that? Well, a lot of that is in the eyes.

~Billy Bob Thornton

A lot of kids, when they go to church, they don't really pay much attention to what they're saying or whatever.

~Billy Bob Thornton

My dad didn't hug me every day and say he loved me and anything like that.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I've lived in California for half of my life. It's weird, everyone thinks of me as this guy who's from the South ... I'm really a Californian.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm really influenced by Southern novelists, not many movie people. More like John Faulkner, William Faulkner, Erskine Caldwell, Flannery O'Connor, John Steinbeck, and people like that.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Sometimes we don't want the bad guy to get caught because otherwise the story is over. You want to at least see it through to the end.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Nothing wrong with computer as things. They can work wonders in communications and business and medicine and everything else.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'll always consider myself a Southerner. A lot of people put California down, but my dreams were realized there.

~Billy Bob Thornton

I'm not really a full-time director, I just like to direct the things that I write because I think I'm going to know it better than someone else.

~Billy Bob Thornton

We didn't have a movie theatre until I was about nine, so I just didn't see them. But, once I got into movies I loved them.

~Billy Bob Thornton

Now, if you want to do realistic, kind of heavier acting stuff, you do it on Amazon or Netflix or whatever or HBO.

~Billy Bob Thornton

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