

Billy Wilder Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Funny, Smell, Mean, Directors, People, Ifs, Movie, Towns,
Hate, Believe, Inspirational, Eggs, Real, Subtlety, Sarcastic, Made, Men,
Happiness*

Hindsight is always twenty-twenty.

~Billy Wilder

Trust your own instinct. Your mistakes might as well be your own, instead of someone else's.

~Billy Wilder

A director must be a policeman, a midwife, a psychoanalyst, a sycophant and a bastard.

~Billy Wilder

My Aunt Minnie would always be punctual and never hold up production, but who would pay to see my Aunt Minnie?

~Billy Wilder

If you're going to tell people the truth, be funny or they'll kill you.

~Billy Wilder

I don't go to church. Kneeling bags my nylons.

~Billy Wilder

An audience is never wrong. An individual member of it may be an imbecile, but a thousand imbeciles together in the dark - that is critical genius.

~Billy Wilder

You have to have a dream so you can get up in the morning.

~Billy Wilder

If there's anything I hate more than not being taken seriously, it's being taken too seriously.

~Billy Wilder

Eighty percent of a picture is writing, the other twenty percent is the

execution, such as having the camera on the right spot and being able to afford to have good actors in all parts.

~Billy Wilder

I have ten commandments. The first nine are, thou shalt not bore. The tenth is, thou shalt have right of final cut.

~Billy Wilder

If you have a problem with the third act, the real problem is in the first act.

~Billy Wilder

The only pictures worth making are the ones that are playing with fire.

~Billy Wilder

If you don't like what you're doing, it's unlikely anyone else will either, so be sure you are happy with your own work first.

~Billy Wilder

The more subtle and elegant you are in hiding your plot points, the better you are as a writer.

~Billy Wilder

You're as good as the best thing you've ever done.

~Billy Wilder

The best director is the one you don't see.

~Billy Wilder

Make subtlety obvious.

~Billy Wilder

Don't be too clever for an audience. Make it obvious. Make the subtleties obvious also.

~Billy Wilder

France is a place where the money falls apart in your hands but you can't tear the toilet paper.

~Billy Wilder

They've tried to manufacture other Marilyn Monroes and they will undoubtedly keep trying. But it won't work. She was an original.

~Billy Wilder

I am big. It's the pictures that got small.

~Billy Wilder

We are on the track of something absolutely mediocre.

~Billy Wilder

Shoot a few scenes out of focus. I want to win the foreign film award.

~Billy Wilder

If something smells bad, why put your nose in it?

~Billy Wilder

Hollywood didn't kill Marilyn Monroe, it's the Marilyn Monroes who are killing Hollywood.

~Billy Wilder

God save me from myself.

~Billy Wilder

A bad play folds and is forgotten, but in pictures we don't bury our dead. When you think it's out of your system, your daughter sees it on television and says, My father is an idiot.

~Billy Wilder

My English is a mixture between Arnold Schwarzenegger and Archbishop Tutu.

~Billy Wilder

[on pop idol Donny Osmond] He has Van Gogh's ear for music.

~Billy Wilder

Now, what is it which makes a scene interesting? If you see a man coming through a doorway, it means nothing. If you see him coming through a window - that is at once interesting.

~Billy Wilder

I met a lot of hard-boiled eggs in my life, but you - you're twenty minutes.

~Billy Wilder

I just always think, 'Do I like it?' And if I like it, maybe other people will come and like it too.

~Billy Wilder

What critics call dirty in our pictures, they call lusty in foreign films.

~Billy Wilder

I just made pictures I would've liked to see.

~Billy Wilder

Money makes even bastards legitimate.

~Billy Wilder

The ultimate trick is to convince, persuade. Every single person out there is an idiot, but collectively they're a genius.

~Billy Wilder

It was a hot afternoon and I can still remember the smell of

honeysuckle all along the street. How can I have known that murder can sometimes smell like honeysuckle?

~Billy Wilder

Happiness is working with Jack Lemmon.

~Billy Wilder

Develop a clean line of action for your leading character

~Billy Wilder

An actor entering through the door, you've got nothing. But if he enters through the window, you've got a situation.

~Billy Wilder

One's too many and a hundred's not enough.

~Billy Wilder

Well, nobody's perfect.

~Billy Wilder

I'd worship the ground you walked on if only you walked in a better neighborhood.

~Billy Wilder

The Austrians are brilliant people. They made the world believe that Hitler was a German and Beethoven an Austrian.

~Billy Wilder

The forest of Compiègne. Look at it. Like a kind grandmother dozing in her rocking chair. Old trees practicing curtsies in the wind because they still think Louis XIV is king.

~Billy Wilder

You know, that stuff about pink elephants, that's the bunk. It's little

animals. Little tiny turkeys in straw hats. Midget monkeys coming through the keyholes.

~Billy Wilder

I'm delighted with it, because it used to be that films were the lowest form of art. Now we've got something to look down on.

~Billy Wilder

I hate that word. It's return--a return to the millions of people who've never forgiven me for deserting the screen.

~Billy Wilder

[about the Hotel Marmont on Sunset Blvd., a piece of Hollywood history] I would rather sleep in a bathroom than in another hotel.

~Billy Wilder

On Ernst Lubitsch: He could do more with a closed door than other directors could do with an open fly.

~Billy Wilder

When Chaplin found a voice to say what was on his mind, he was like a child of eight writing lyrics for Beethoven's Ninth.

~Billy Wilder

I had one life. And what did I do? Wasted it in some palooka preliminaries in Spain, just before Hitler and Chamberlain warm up for the main event.

~Billy Wilder

Marilyn was mean. Terribly mean. The meanest woman I have ever met around this town. I have never met anybody as mean as Marilyn Monroe or as utterly fabulous on the screen.

~Billy Wilder

Ever notice how these European trains always smell of eau de cologne and hard boiled eggs?

~Billy Wilder

I'm not happy. I'm not happy at all.

~Billy Wilder

Jerry: Oh, you don't understand, Osgood! Ehhhh... I'm a man. Osgood: Well, nobody's perfect.

~Billy Wilder

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