

Charlie Kaufman

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Trying, Ideas, Way, World, Character, Stories, Actors,
Mean, Kind, Moments, Mind, Real, Personality, Adaptation, Want, Different,
Lonely*

You are what you love. Not what loves you.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think of myself as a guy who tries to write screenplays and now has tried to direct one. Anything more than that is meaningless and it gets in the way of being a real human being.

~Charlie Kaufman

The only honest and generous thing for me to do is to give people myself. That's all I've got as an artist, so I want to do that in an unflinching way.

~Charlie Kaufman

I do like escapism. I like going to the movies on a Friday night and seeing something fun.

~Charlie Kaufman

The passionate ones, the ones who go after what they want, may not get what they want, but they remain vital, in touch with themselves, and when they lie on their deathbeds, they have few regrets.

~Charlie Kaufman

Why do I fall in love with every woman I see that shows me the least bit of attention?

~Charlie Kaufman

You and I share the same DNA. Is there anything more lonely than that?

~Charlie Kaufman

Everything I've written is personal - it's the only way I know how to write.

~Charlie Kaufman

Clementine: This is it, Joel. It's going to be gone soon. Joel: I know.
Clementine: What do we do? Joel: Enjoy it.

~Charlie Kaufman

There are nearly thirteen million people in the world. None of those people is an extra. They're all the leads of their own stories. They have to be given their due.

~Charlie Kaufman

Do not simplify. Do not worry about failure. Failure is a badge of honour. It means you risked failure.

~Charlie Kaufman

I have a tendency to hire people who tend to be unattractive to the studios. Maybe this is a bad idea.

~Charlie Kaufman

The end is built into the beginning.

~Charlie Kaufman

I'm in my mind a lot. I live there.

~Charlie Kaufman

Everything is more complicated than you think. You only see a tenth of what is true.

~Charlie Kaufman

We're all subjective beings and trapped in our own realities and our own biographical stories and physical bodies and our histories - and that's the only way we can experience the world.

~Charlie Kaufman

I don't think screenwriting is therapeutic. It's actually really, really hard for me. It's not an enjoyable process.

~Charlie Kaufman

I actually think I'm probably more interested in structure than most people who write screenplays, because I think about it.

~Charlie Kaufman

Meet me in Montauk.

~Charlie Kaufman

Writing is a journey into the unknown.

~Charlie Kaufman

I'm not into extreme sports or something. I just live a quiet life.

~Charlie Kaufman

Constantly talking isn't necessarily communicating.

~Charlie Kaufman

I feel like I want to keep moving toward idiosyncrasy. Personal, personal, personal.

~Charlie Kaufman

Sand is overrated. It's just tiny little rocks.

~Charlie Kaufman

She was nice. Nice is good.

~Charlie Kaufman

I'm interested in trying to explore what I think is the truth at a given time in my life, and part of the process of being honest is - in my mind - talking about the idea that you're watching a movie.

~Charlie Kaufman

I tend to not only read reviews, but also every little stupid thing online.

It's a very bad idea, and there's a lot of angry people in the world. And it's weird to absorb all that weirdness.

~Charlie Kaufman

I do a lot of things intuitively. I'm not often consciously aware of what I'm doing. It's like in a dream: There's something going on that's powerful but you don't know exactly why.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think dreams are metaphors. Everything you do in writing is metaphorical. So it seems like the same arena to me.

~Charlie Kaufman

Scary is time passing and sickness and dying and regret and isolation and loneliness and relationship problems - as opposed to a guy in a hockey mask, which didn't seem that scary.

~Charlie Kaufman

I choose to write characters from the inside because I feel like that's the way I'm gonna get the most honest version of them.

~Charlie Kaufman

I was trying to figure out what a memory feels like.

~Charlie Kaufman

There are so many people who are making movies now who can't get any kind of distribution, so the market seems like it's flooded.

~Charlie Kaufman

So when I write characters and situations and relationships, I try to sort of utilize what I know about the world, limited as it is, and what I hear from my friends and see with my relatives.

~Charlie Kaufman

The difference between a movie and a play is that the production you end up with is the production. If a movie that I spent time on turns out to be crap, it's never going to be made again.

~Charlie Kaufman

I like titles that are a little difficult, because it's kind of counterintuitive.

~Charlie Kaufman

In a lot of movies, especially big studio ones, they're not constructed in any other way than to get people to like them and then tell their friends. It's a product.

~Charlie Kaufman

My time on the set is the least of my involvement. Most of my time is in pre-production and post-production.

~Charlie Kaufman

I do throw out a lot of ideas, and I forget completely about them.

~Charlie Kaufman

I try to make things interesting and thought-provoking.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think generally I'm kind of interested in subjective experience, what goes on inside someone's head, that being all they really know of the world.

~Charlie Kaufman

The only way to do something interesting is not care if you fail.

~Charlie Kaufman

If you ever got me, you wouldn't have a clue what to do with me.

~Charlie Kaufman

I spend a lot of time in preproduction working with authors, and a lot of time in postproduction.: editing, music, all that sort of stuff. Casting. On the set there's not a lot for me to do.

~Charlie Kaufman

I don't think the world objectively exists the way we think it exists. There's a constant sort of storytelling process.

~Charlie Kaufman

I often have a theme in mind when I'm starting. I know that I want everything to be in a world of, say, evolution, or guilt.

~Charlie Kaufman

I love working with actors. I love visual things. I always intended to be a writer who directs and a director who writes.

~Charlie Kaufman

I graduated from college in 1980.

~Charlie Kaufman

I don't have a style. I wouldn't say I have a style as a writer, either. I know people have said "This is what he does," but when I'm writing, I don't think about that. I don't think about a style.

~Charlie Kaufman

I do have some theatrical background. I've written plays and seen plays and read plays. But I also read novels. One thing I don't read is screenplays.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think if something resonates, even if it's surreal, it's because it is relatable and I think that that's a core issue for me.

~Charlie Kaufman

I've had to deal, a lot, with my own sense of intimidation at meeting famous people - especially actors, but really any famous people.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think if I've worked anything through with screenwriting it's that I'm not going to be able to work anything through.

~Charlie Kaufman

As a kid, I had a background in theater.

~Charlie Kaufman

I'm trying to tell a story and do it truthfully.

~Charlie Kaufman

There's theater in life, obviously, and there's life in theater.

~Charlie Kaufman

I studied acting at Boston University. I was in the theater department there. Somewhere in there I decided that wasn't what I was going to do and I went to the B.F.A. film program at N.Y.U.

~Charlie Kaufman

Sometimes I don't like the books that I'm reading.

~Charlie Kaufman

I try to present something that is true so I don't further destroy the world with my contribution to it.

~Charlie Kaufman

Directing is a more pragmatic experience, where you have to deal with the restrictions of time and money that force you to make certain decisions you don't have to make when you're writing.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think that people create the world that they live in. Your existence is very subjective, and you tell stories and organize the world outside of you into these stories to help you understand it.

~Charlie Kaufman

There are things that aren't represented in movies that are a big part of everyone's life. This is a movie about health and about the body.

~Charlie Kaufman

I don't write genre stuff in any form. I'm not interested in it. I always try to do the opposite of that.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think I've had pretty good experiences for the most part with the people who have directed my screenplays.

~Charlie Kaufman

I do have, at different times, a certain kind of self-consciousness in the world, an insecurity.

~Charlie Kaufman

I want to create situations that give people something to think about.

~Charlie Kaufman

I really don't have any solutions and I don't like movies that do.

~Charlie Kaufman

I like for people to figure things out for themselves. It's not like I have the right answer, but if I have a visceral reaction to something, I'm sure that other people will, too.

~Charlie Kaufman

I can never watch anything I've been involved in, because I know it, and I know what the making of it was like, and I know what's been cut out

and changed. I just know it.

~Charlie Kaufman

The sad thing about working on a movie is that you can never see the movie.

~Charlie Kaufman

I don't subscribe to anything. I sit there and I try to think about what seems honest to me.

~Charlie Kaufman

I have a lot of health anxiety.

~Charlie Kaufman

Seriously, I don't consider myself a writer. I don't think I have writing talent. But I will continue to do it.

~Charlie Kaufman

You're dealing with the body, and you're dealing with bodily functions. We romanticize everything about people in movies.

~Charlie Kaufman

I want to do my own thing, and I'm trying to get closer to realizing that as a filmmaker.

~Charlie Kaufman

I like actors - I used to be one.

~Charlie Kaufman

I'm interested in art, and I think about the process of making art. It's part of my personality, my experience of the world, so it ends up in the movies. It's where my head is.

~Charlie Kaufman

I have ideas written down some places, but usually I can't find them. I'm not very organized.

~Charlie Kaufman

I wanted to deal with someone's idea of their relationship.

~Charlie Kaufman

I've kind of come to the conclusion that what passes for realism in movies has nothing to do with reality and that my stuff is more realistic than that.

~Charlie Kaufman

I have a background in theater, so I have experience with actors. I like actors - I used to be one.

~Charlie Kaufman

I just try to be honest, because I think that's part of my job description as a writer.

~Charlie Kaufman

I'm not working on anything. I was trying to write something new . . . I guess the goal for me now, at least at this point, is to try to direct again.

~Charlie Kaufman

I don't think I've had a lonely moment in my life.

~Charlie Kaufman

I think everything I do is based on my experience in the world in one way or another.

~Charlie Kaufman

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