

# Debbie Allen

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Cameras, Children, World, Mean, Way, Directors, Needs,  
Moving, Scene, Looks, Pages, Today, Everyday, Reason, Praying, Actors,  
Shooting, America*

Failure: Is it a limitation? Bad timing? It's a lot of things. It's something you can't be afraid of, because you'll stop growing. The next step beyond failure could be your biggest success in life.

~Debbie Allen

In places in the world where we don't speak the same language, or even understand that we pray to the same God, we dance to the same beat, that is the ONE.

~Debbie Allen

But out of limitations comes creativity.

~Debbie Allen

Be true. Be beautiful. Be free. In the midst of segregation and racism Mamma raised us to be independent and free. We saw ourselves as citizens of the world, not of a block.

~Debbie Allen

I'm driven by passion. I mean, I am tired right now. I work to a point of abandon. I am fueled by my understanding of the need for self-expression that exists for young people.

~Debbie Allen

Michael Ralph brilliantly plays the street prophet, a West Indian who foreshadows the Harlem riot.

~Debbie Allen

You have to examine a scene on the page first. Then you get into the basics of acting: Who are you? Who are you talking to? How do you feel about that person?

~Debbie Allen

If you just change one person's life, you feel like you've done something. But if you can change a whole lot of them and get them

looking at themselves differently, it's amazing.

~Debbie Allen

I'm always moving forward.

~Debbie Allen

I design my shots. I walk the rehearsal as the camera and say 'this is where I want to be... I want this look.

~Debbie Allen

I think a good director casts a film so that the actors bring a lot to the table.

~Debbie Allen

It's kind of dangerous to cut in the camera, but that's the only way I know how to direct.

~Debbie Allen

Time management is a big part of the director's job.

~Debbie Allen

Fame is fleeting, honey. Fame is fleeting and it changes.

~Debbie Allen

As one who loves literature, art, music and history, I've been deeply rooted in the Harlem Renaissance for many years.

~Debbie Allen

As far as pacing the shoot is concerned, I know when I've got it. I don't think there's any reason to take ten takes unless you need them.

~Debbie Allen

It goes back to a style of moviemaking I remember seeing as a child, in movies like *The Man With The Golden Arm*, which I think was shot all

on a sound stage.

~Debbie Allen

There are some scenes that work beautifully in a moving, sweeping master, which is how I like to work.

~Debbie Allen

The first thing that goes into shooting a scene is understanding whats on the page.

~Debbie Allen

I didn't need the insurance. I do it again if my DP tells me it didn't look good in the camera or if the actors didn't hit their marks. But if everything was working why do it again?

~Debbie Allen

The radio for these women is like television is for us today, which is really like looking at the radio.

~Debbie Allen

That's the only way I can control my movie. If you shoot everything, then everything is liable to end up in the movie. If you have a vision, you don't have to cover every scene.

~Debbie Allen

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