

# Doug Liman

## Quotes

*Character, Actors, People, Tvs, Real, Heart, Way, Want, Pieces, Independent,  
The End Of The Day, Smart, Identity, Choices, Thinking, Stories, Successful,  
Home, Men, Casting*

That's why 'The Bourne Identity' has that sort of shaky style, because for the most part, Matt Damon and I were sneaking around Paris and shooting where we didn't have permits.

~Doug Liman

In movies, you can basically buy the audience into the theater. If you spend enough money on visual effects, even if you are lacking in story and character, you might still pull it off.

~Doug Liman

At the end of the day, it's still a show about guys who ride extremely fast motorcycles for a living.

~Doug Liman

I can't impress people with the pedigree of obscure French filmmakers that got me into film. It was Robert Zemeckis and Steven Spielberg. I really thought I wanted to make dumb action movies.

~Doug Liman

The movie I end up with is the movie I aspired to make.

~Doug Liman

I realize I am contradictory: I have an independent filmmaker's sensibility and a Hollywood director's short-attention span.

~Doug Liman

I think when the United States of America put a man on the moon in 1969, that was one of the greatest accomplishments mankind has ever done.

~Doug Liman

At the end of the day, I like the spy genre, as opposed to the action movie genre, because spies are smart. The successful spies are the smarter spies.

~Doug Liman

It turns out that it's easier to do politics in a movie. People really don't want it in their TV.

~Doug Liman

I started my career wanting to make a 'James Bond' movie, and I couldn't get hired! I made 'The Bourne Identity,' and ultimately the impact of that film was that it changed the 'James Bond' franchise.

~Doug Liman

It's better to find a stunt person who can act. It's easier to do that than to find an actor who can do a stunt.

~Doug Liman

TV has no choice, but to rely on character, and everybody knows that. I love working in it. It's such a big canvas where, if you're successful, you go on for years.

~Doug Liman

TV is a safe place to develop real characters.

~Doug Liman

I'm a character-driven director, and I tend to fall in love with the characters in my movies and TV shows.

~Doug Liman

Sometimes rules are there to save your life.

~Doug Liman

When you can come across a piece of material that's totally original and fun and completely satisfying, you jump on it.

~Doug Liman

If I'm not in love with the script, there's nothing. It doesn't matter what you give me. It has to start with the script.

~Doug Liman

It's much easier to do a fight sequence between two people, if one of the two people in the fight is a stunt person, or you're going to risk somebody getting hurt.

~Doug Liman

Nothing I've done is like anything else I've done before.

~Doug Liman

It's almost a work-shopping process to create the characters with the actors.

~Doug Liman

My own personal process with movies is to develop the characters with the actors and, when I've done that properly, you can't imagine anyone else, but that actor, playing that part.

~Doug Liman

For big Hollywood movies, I'm on the more character-driven side of the equation. So, TV is a natural place for me to be because you've got no choice, but to be character-driven.

~Doug Liman

I pride myself on doing character-driven movies and, when my movies have worked, it's been because of the right casting and the right character, and it just clicks.

~Doug Liman

You can find truly original pieces of writing, but they're original because you go, "Who would have even have thought of that?," or, "Why would anyone ever want to go see that?"

~Doug Liman

I make movies for me and posterity. I'm more scared of history than I am of the studio.

~Doug Liman

It's no secret that my process is a little bit loose and can be a little bit infuriating to a studio if they don't know what they're signing up for.

~Doug Liman

If you do something that's really original, you discover why everybody else does it the other way, usually. There's a reason cliches exist, 'cause they work.

~Doug Liman

When I'm working on a film, I think about how it will play with a tiny audience of friends whose opinions I respect, basically a 40-block radius from my apartment in Manhattan.

~Doug Liman

There are actors who just bring an enormous amount of empathy. They just have that "it" that makes you want to follow them and root for them.

~Doug Liman

What I really found was that the one similarity between *Covert Affairs* and *Fair Game* is a deep love and admiration and fascination with the home life of a spy.

~Doug Liman

The thing about TV is it's a meritocracy. I love that aspect of it - and I've had shows that have gone on the air and been canceled. I've seen the good and the bad of it.

~Doug Liman

Obviously, anyone who has seen Mr. and Mrs. Smith knows that husband and wife married spies is something that I find particularly interesting.

~Doug Liman

When I was shooting 'The Bourne Identity,' I had a mantra: 'How come you never see James Bond pay a phone bill?' It sounds trite, but it became the foundation of that franchise.

~Doug Liman

I probably shouldn't treat interviews as therapy sessions, but I don't keep a diary, so these end up being my way of keeping track of where I'm at and letting it all out.

~Doug Liman

In the real world, if you're in a car chase, you're going to hit a million things and your car is going to end up a total wreck by the end.

~Doug Liman

To be a lone filmmaker thousands of miles from home with nobody believing in me, that seems romantic.

~Doug Liman

I'm very interested in politics, and I feel TV is a more political medium than film.

~Doug Liman

I go into a movie sort of saying what it's not going to be.

~Doug Liman

Casting is everything. I put a huge amount of work into casting, and consistently across my career, I am most proud of my bold choices I made in casting.

~Doug Liman

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