

Edward Norton Quotes

*People, Thinking, Character, Way, Interesting, Actors, Moving, Film, Country,
Trying, Fun, Spiritual, Two, Writing, Ideas, Creative, Running, Father, Struggle,
Children*

The more you do your homework, the more you're free to be intuitive. But you've got to put the work in.

~Edward Norton

The best films of any kind, narrative or documentary, provoke questions.

~Edward Norton

Life, like poker has an element of risk. It shouldn't be avoided. It should be faced.

~Edward Norton

Sometimes we don't see certain things until we're ready to see them in a certain way.

~Edward Norton

When people come together too young, they try to become one person. As you get older, you realize that you don't want to become one person because then you lose the person you are.

~Edward Norton

Instead of telling the world what you're eating for breakfast, you can use social networking to do something that's meaningful.

~Edward Norton

It's better for people to miss you than to have seen too much of you.

~Edward Norton

The more you can create that magic bubble, that suspension of disbelief, for a while, the better.

~Edward Norton

I like it when the deeper you go with the character, the more you see the layers start to peel away.

~Edward Norton

I never think that a film should answer questions for you. I think it should make you ask a lot of questions.

~Edward Norton

I almost forgot what it's like to be proud of my government.

~Edward Norton

All people are paradoxical. No one is easily reducible, so I like characters who have contradictory impulses or shades of ambiguity. It's fun, and it's fun because it's hard.

~Edward Norton

Basically, I think 21st century conservation is moving toward preserving ecosystems by dealing with the needs of people.

~Edward Norton

At this point in my life I'm not bent on proving anything, really.

~Edward Norton

I don't have anything to prove to anybody, which is a lovely place to be.

~Edward Norton

Sometimes creativity is a compulsion, not an ambition.

~Edward Norton

I don't smoke and I don't want to smoke. I am not a fan of gratuitous smoking in films.

~Edward Norton

Well, I don't feel that I've played so many bad guys, and I'm not really drawn to villains per se. I think a lot of people relate to some of my

characters' inner struggles.

~Edward Norton

Popularity is the slutty little cousin of prestige, my friend.

~Edward Norton

I've observed over and over that people seem to get a much deeper sense of fulfillment out of something they've done as an act of service than out of the things they do for themselves.

~Edward Norton

You can't control everything that comes to you.

~Edward Norton

You always end up getting involved in things because of, you know, the strange things your life brings you into contact with.

~Edward Norton

I tend to relate to a character in terms of the arc: what's interesting is where he starts versus where he ends up.

~Edward Norton

Screenplays aren't written to be read, they're written to be made into movies.

~Edward Norton

I always felt that acting was an escape, like having the secret key to every door and permission to go into any realm and soak it up. I enjoy that free pass.

~Edward Norton

A lot of why I do something is just the novelty of the experience.

~Edward Norton

It's dismaying to see the unilateralism that the government is doing.

~Edward Norton

The Zionist Tulsa Jew who's pugnacious is a reality. I grew up around it. And I think it's really, really funny and surprising and unlikely.

~Edward Norton

Young people know how to use these social networking tools, and they know how to use them effectively.

~Edward Norton

You dream as an actor's director of letting moments breathe through two-shots.

~Edward Norton

It must be good to be in Germany and France, because I have completely forgotten what it is like to be proud of your government.

~Edward Norton

I have this embedded faith in the process through which films of a certain type get discovered on longer timelines.

~Edward Norton

I get heartbroken flying into L.A. It's just this feeling of unspecific loss. Can you imagine what the San Fernando Valley was when it was all wheat fields? Can you imagine what John Steinbeck saw?

~Edward Norton

It's ginned up by the corporate plutocracy as a way of distracting the working-class people that it's screwing. We hamstring our own natural progressivism in this country, and that's really stupid.

~Edward Norton

My greatest hope is that we transcend the most fearful thing, which is

that we are rapidly degrading the ecological systems on this planet that support everything we are doing and all life on it.

~Edward Norton

There are tens of thousands of charities and hundreds of thousands, getting towards millions, of people now using it. And when I flip through it, I'm just blown away by people.

~Edward Norton

In drama, I think, the audience is a willing participant. It's suspending a certain kind of disbelief to try to get something out of a story.

~Edward Norton

Duality is not a story. Duality is just a complexity.

~Edward Norton

My generation is having its midlife crisis in its 20s.

~Edward Norton

I grow tired of intelligence having such a limited manifestation in movies - "intelligence" usually meaning coastal, with a certain level of formal education.

~Edward Norton

The elegance of staying with a moment, without needing to stop and change all the lighting, made [the alternative] seem lazy and indulgent.

~Edward Norton

People say you can't make movies about your politics or the environment. And, generally speaking, I completely divide those sides of my brain.

~Edward Norton

I'm not a very methodologically pure actor. Almost every time that I

start, I feel completely at sea. Always at the beginning I feel like a fraud, really, because I'm never sure how to get started.

~Edward Norton

People think because I went to Yale that that implies privilege, and it is a privilege in the sense that it's an incredible opportunity.

~Edward Norton

As we say in the sewer, time and tide wait for no man.

~Edward Norton

Sometimes their oppression of emotion and the weird way it comes out is more interesting than painting it in bold primary colors.

~Edward Norton

I do find myself drawn more to pieces that I feel are wrestling with the way that we're living now, what we're all going through.

~Edward Norton

The incentive for business is not, and cannot, be anything other than the root incentive for all business: they must profit.

~Edward Norton

I'm not particularly precious about the theatrical experience any more.

~Edward Norton

Unpopular speech is absolutely vital to the health of our nation.

~Edward Norton

I've always liked the idea of taking old dramatic ideas and devices and making them feel relevant or contemporary or whatever.

~Edward Norton

I think technology is having a democratising effect on film.

~Edward Norton

The film industry needs to confront the physical footprint of the way films get made.

~Edward Norton

Most of the movies that I've made that I really felt good about and cared about made very little money anyway, so I'm not particularly worried about people downloading and sharing them.

~Edward Norton

As we say in the sewer, if you're not prepared to go all the way, don't put your boots on in the first place.

~Edward Norton

I knew Danny DeVito and he knew me, so he wanted me to try Death to Smoochy. I loved that stuff and had a great time doing it.

~Edward Norton

I don't tend to say it's time for one of this or that genre. Things flow to you in a strange way, and why you bump into a certain kind of thing in one moment is...it's hard to explain.

~Edward Norton

You know when somebody really knows what they're drawing from and you can feel it when you see the movie.

~Edward Norton

Most of what I know about environmental conservation I learned from my father, who has been a leader within the movement for over 30 years.

~Edward Norton

We must realize that nature is absolutely essential for our survival, and

we must act on that premise now.

~Edward Norton

People are worried about the degree to which corporate interest is starting to threaten human interest.

~Edward Norton

I grew up on the golden age of children's TV.

~Edward Norton

People wrestle sometimes making movies, and I think that conflict is a very essential thing. I think a lot of very happy productions have produced a lot of very banal movies.

~Edward Norton

With Edward Norton you'd never say, "This is the one we're going with whether you like it or not." It has to be agreed upon.

~Edward Norton

I never even considered comedy genre as something to embrace or move away from.

~Edward Norton

If I ever have to stop taking the subway, I'm gonna have a heart attack.

~Edward Norton

I'm a Tulsa Jew and I have a religious upbringing.

~Edward Norton

When you have a pipe salesman with a business called Macabee Pipes, I'd say you've got your tongue planted firmly in your cheek.

~Edward Norton

I remember as a kid having the offer of a scholarship, that it was going

to be like going to Mars, and deciding to stay in my public school.

~Edward Norton

I just like working with smart people.

~Edward Norton

I wish I were more musically gifted, more intuitive in playing instruments.

~Edward Norton

Any questions I had about whether a redneck from Oklahoma could become a Brown Classical Philosophy professor ended when I met Tim [Blake Nelson].

~Edward Norton

If you try to make interesting films, you're going to be disappointed most of the time. I choose just not to look at it that way.

~Edward Norton

There's a lot of romanticisation of the intuitive actor and method acting and all kinds of notions about getting inside a character and coming out from there.

~Edward Norton

You can do things in twin scenes now you couldn't before. You can implement actual moving cameras.

~Edward Norton

No, I'm not a very methodologically pure actor.

~Edward Norton

Fame is very corrosive and you have to guard very strictly against it.

~Edward Norton

I tend to have a kind of tunnel vision when I'm looking at an individual piece.

~Edward Norton

Everyone keeps saying the western's dead, but it's not.

~Edward Norton

You know, independent films have been institutionalized, practically. Every studio has got a boutique arthouse label.

~Edward Norton

If I'm trying to put size on for a role, then I don't do much running.

~Edward Norton

I read a lot of scripts and so many are clearly a knockoff of one familiar genre or another.

~Edward Norton

I don't flatter myself - I'm not a scientist, I'm not a conservation expert.

~Edward Norton

Identical twins are endemically alike in many ways.

~Edward Norton

I don't get much out of doing a red carpet.

~Edward Norton

I'm a New Yorker, you know.

~Edward Norton

Suspension of disbelief and that whole question is part of the heart of the 'Leaves of Grass' movie.

~Edward Norton

If two people are at completely different stages in their spiritual life, that can present a real problem.

~Edward Norton

Practiced poorly, tourism can be extremely negative.

~Edward Norton

I don't think you should sit around and wait for people to give you an opportunity to express yourself or do your work, or whatever. Actors have to be producers and writers have to be producers.

~Edward Norton

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