

# Errol Morris

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Years, Believe, Mean, World, Real, Drama, Way, New York, Stories, Talking, Writing, Ideas, Two, Different, Crazy, Knows, Film, Facts*

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it without a sense of ironic futility.

~Errol Morris

I like to point out that people very often confuse the idea that truth is subjective with the fact that truth is perishable.

~Errol Morris

People like nonfiction presented to them in a certain way, so that they don't have to think about whether it's true or not. They like it to have that imprimatur of respectability, of genuineness.

~Errol Morris

They say seeing is believing, but the opposite is true. Believing is seeing.

~Errol Morris

I'm really interested in self-deception. Really interested in how people live in bubble universes. How people can fail to see the seemingly obvious.

~Errol Morris

Everything is a reenactment. We are reenacting the world in the mind. The world is not inside there. It does not reside in the gray matter of the brain.

~Errol Morris

The proper route to an understanding of the world is an examination of our errors about it.

~Errol Morris

My stuff always starts with interviews. I start interviewing people, and then slowly but surely, a movie insinuates itself.

~Errol Morris

I think calling someone a character is a compliment.

~Errol Morris

What is it that angers us?... We have been tricked. In essence, we have been lied to. The problem is not that the photograph has been manipulated, but that we have been manipulated by the photograph.

~Errol Morris

What's interesting is that Citizen Kane was meant as an anti-fascist/anti-capitalist melodrama and for Donald Trump it becomes just another kind of misogynistic claim that misses the point.

~Errol Morris

We falsely interpret the world around us. We ignore evidence that doesn't support our prior beliefs and we convince ourselves we know things we don't. We think we know things we don't know.

~Errol Morris

The imprimatur of truthfulness does not guarantee truthfulness. People should know better. But they don't.

~Errol Morris

Those who cannot condemn the past repeat it in order to remember it.

~Errol Morris

I think we get into all kinds of difficulty by saying photographs should be taken in a certain way which guarantees their veracity. I think that's a slippery slope to hell.

~Errol Morris

Appearing on the front page of the New York Times even given the state of papers today is still something that's seen by a lot of people.

~Errol Morris

Maybe today I would call Fred Leuchter and there would be two or three other documentary filmmakers interested in his story simply because of the exposure.

~Errol Morris

There is something about the photographs that is endlessly disturbing. The fact that we like to think of them as torture actually hides what is really deeply offensive about them.

~Errol Morris

Right now, we live in bad times in this country, and the fact that there are filmmakers addressing political and social issues is to me a good thing.

~Errol Morris

The way I go about making a movie... even the ones that are interview-driven, I go into them not knowing what's going to happen, and feeling my way through.

~Errol Morris

We live in a very litigious society. I've never sued anybody. I certainly can imagine a situation where I might sue, but it seems more or less in bad taste.

~Errol Morris

Maybe [killers] is one of my real passions. Why deny it?

~Errol Morris

Long, long before I became a filmmaker I was talking to killers. Filmmaking was an after thought.

~Errol Morris

I've had people turn me down. Not all that many, but certainly it happens.

~Errol Morris

It's so much easier to make a movie about someone who is so likeable that you just want to get out of the way.

~Errol Morris

I'm one simple way I think I've succeeded was capturing Elsa [Dorfman]. There's something about Elsa, her personality, and her work that I believe is there.

~Errol Morris

I've always loved [Elsa Dorfman] work. I've loved her and her work is so much an expression of her. One of the reasons to make the film is to expose Elsa, hopefully, to a wider audience.

~Errol Morris

There are artists who are very well known and many of us feel they should be less well known, while there are others who aren't well known and many feel deserve more attention.

~Errol Morris

There is such a thing as truth, but we have a vested interest in not seeing it, in avoiding it.

~Errol Morris

I never intended to be a documentary filmmaker. I think I became a documentary filmmaker because I had trouble writing, and I had trouble finishing things.

~Errol Morris

Mike Wallace's interviews may make great television, but they don't produce great evidence.

~Errol Morris

In fact, part of the Netflix series is drama. Beyond re-enactments. Why not invent something new?

~Errol Morris

I'm asked unendingly to become involved in series involving true crime and as it so happens the Netflix series that I'm working on is about a true crime.

~Errol Morris

It's a kind of honour when I see how many people are imitating the style of how I make films.

~Errol Morris

It's pretty clear that fame isn't inextricably connected with merit .

~Errol Morris

I like to think that one of things I've done with non-fiction since the very beginning is to find new ways of telling true stories.

~Errol Morris

There are many dramas that I would like to make: dramas based on real stories. It's approaching things from the other side.

~Errol Morris

I don't think that anybody really makes films quite like mine. That's maybe true of any filmmaker.

~Errol Morris

Film is lies at twenty-four frames a second.

~Errol Morris

Think of my movies as heightening our awareness, not confusing the difference between truth and fiction, but heightening our awareness of how confused we can become about what is real.

~Errol Morris

I used to say that interviewing others was perhaps the way I could stop talking and start listening. It's a kind of enforced silence.

~Errol Morris

Truth and falsity is something that concerns language, it's a property of language.

~Errol Morris

The smarter people I know declined to watch the most recent debate [with Donald Trump].

~Errol Morris

You know, anything more negative, anything more disparaging, anything more adversarial than what [Donald Trump] does already. The mystery is how he's gotten as far as he's gotten.

~Errol Morris

I asked [Donald Trump] if he had any advice for Charles Foster Kane and he said, "Yeah, get yourself a different woman."

~Errol Morris

Not suing others does not mean that others won't sue you. If people are desperate enough to think that they can gain some kind of financial advantage, they'll sue.

~Errol Morris

I actually felt diminished by watching [Donald Trump's]. If this is what discourse has become in America, who even wants to know about it? It's just too demoralizing and unsettling.

~Errol Morris

The perfect war is started for obscure reasons, is hopelessly

murderous, and accomplishes nothing.

~Errol Morris

I used to work as a private detective years and years ago.

~Errol Morris

I've been horribly depressed (lately), which, as you know, can be terribly time-consuming. I mean, if you're going to do it right, that is.

~Errol Morris

I envy certain writers, because there are writers who do go into a kind of different zone, where the writing isn't controlled anymore.

~Errol Morris

I don't believe that you can talk about a photograph being true or false. I don't think such a claim has any meaning.

~Errol Morris

There is only one direction. (Down.) There is only one color. (Black.)  
And there is only one number (Zero.)

~Errol Morris

Language can be used to so many diverse ends. It can be used to clarify and, of course, it can be used to obfuscate, confuse, evade.

~Errol Morris

Maybe existence is ultimately a lonely thing.

~Errol Morris

You can't tell by looking at a film-clip whether it is a drama or a documentary without knowing how it was produced.

~Errol Morris

Certain kinds of intimacy emerge on a phone call that might never



occur if you were sitting right next to the other person.

~Errol Morris

But there's a big difference between, say, reporting on a story and simply making up a story.

~Errol Morris

A movie is like a tip of an iceberg, in a way, because so little of what you do in connection with making a movie actually gets into the movie. Almost everything gets left behind.

~Errol Morris

The first Polaroid ever took of someone in my family was my son when he was about four years old.

~Errol Morris

There's this crazy thinking that style guarantees truth. You go out with a hand-held camera, use available light, and somehow the truth emerges.

~Errol Morris

I've always wondered where explanations end and excuses begin.

~Errol Morris

A lot of the themes of my movies, the actual stories, come from tabloid stories.

~Errol Morris

The very idea of photography is as Oliver Wendell Holmes said in the 19th century, "it's a mirror with a memory."

~Errol Morris

The claim that everybody sees the world differently is not a claim that there's no reality. It's a different kind of claim.

~Errol Morris

Writing is a form of talking, although writing is such an odd thing in and of itself. People go about it in such different ways.

~Errol Morris

I've never seen myself as a documentary filmmaker. I see myself as a filmmaker, period, and I am interested in drama as well as in documentary.

~Errol Morris

The fact that the world is utterly insane makes it tolerable.

~Errol Morris

One of the strengths of my interviews is that I really, honest to God, have no idea what people are going to say.

~Errol Morris

What's great about documentary genre, it seems to me, is that it can be experimental filmmaking. You have a license to do a lot of diverse things under the umbrella of "documentary."

~Errol Morris

Photographs attract false beliefs the way flypaper attracts flies.

~Errol Morris

Nothing is so obvious that it's obvious.

~Errol Morris

I am profoundly skeptical about our abilities to predict the future in general, and human behavior in particular.

~Errol Morris

Ecstatic absurdity: it's the confrontation with meaninglessness.

~Errol Morris

People can burn archives; people can destroy evidence, but to say that history is perishable, that historical evidence is perishable, is different than saying that history is subjective.

~Errol Morris

My films are as much concerned with truth as anything in vÃ©ritÃ©. Maybe more so.

~Errol Morris

I like to think that every movie emerges from the conversations.

~Errol Morris

You can't really trust anybody who doesn't talk a lot, because how would you know what they're thinking?

~Errol Morris

Philip Glass once told me, "They can always copy what you've done, but they can't copy what you're going to do."

~Errol Morris

The pursuit of truth, properly considered, shouldn't stop short of insanity.

~Errol Morris

It's really hard to know why certain artists become famous and others don't.

~Errol Morris

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