

Francis Ford Coppola Quotes

*People, Thinking, Art, Film, Ideas, Writing, Cinema, Movie, Talent, Directors,
Way, Littles, Beautiful, Father, Men, Careers, Numbers, Kids, Trying, Years*

I think cinema, movies, and magic have always been closely associated. The very earliest people who made film were magicians.

~Francis Ford Coppola

When I was about 9, I had polio, and people were very frightened for their children, so you tended to be isolated. I was paralyzed for a while, so I watched television.

~Francis Ford Coppola

An essential element of any art is risk. If you don't take a risk then how are you going to make something really beautiful, that hasn't been seen before?

~Francis Ford Coppola

I used to love going into local hardware stores, to look at little things they made locally. Nowadays it's harder, though you can still do it in Vietnam.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I had an older brother who was very interested in literature, so I had an early exposure to literature, and and theater. My father sometimes would work in musical comedies.

~Francis Ford Coppola

There's nothing creative about living within your means.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Anything you build on a large scale or with intense passion invites chaos.

~Francis Ford Coppola

We were raised in an Italian-American household, although we didn't speak Italian in the house. We were very proud of being Italian, and had Italian music, ate Italian food.

~Francis Ford Coppola

You don't have to specialize - do everything that you love and then, at some time, the future will come together for you in some form.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I liked to work in a shop down in the basement and invent things and build gadgets.

~Francis Ford Coppola

If the movie works, nobody notices the mistakes... If the movie doesn't work, the only thing people notice are mistakes.

~Francis Ford Coppola

You have to really be courageous about your instincts and your ideas. Otherwise you'll just knuckle under, and things that might have been memorable will be lost.

~Francis Ford Coppola

My talent is that I just try and try and try and try again and little by little it comes to something.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Usually, the stuff that's your best idea or work is going to be attacked the most.

~Francis Ford Coppola

It was the man's dream, and his inspiring attempt to make them come true that remain important.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I don't think there's any artist of any value who doesn't doubt what they're doing.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Anyone who's made film and knows about the cinema has a lifelong love affair with the experience. You never stop learning about film.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Although knowledge of structure is helpful, real creativity comes from leaps of faith in which you jump to something illogical. But those leaps form the memorable moments in movies and plays.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Drinking wine is just a part of life, like eating food.

~Francis Ford Coppola

One thing that I'm sure of is the real pleasure of life - it's not being known, it's not having your own jet plane, it's not having a mansion the pleasure is to learn something

~Francis Ford Coppola

It takes no imagination to live within your means.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Movies are the art form most like man's imagination.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I had been a kid that moved so much, I didn't have a lot of friends. Theater really represented that kind of camaraderie.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I associate my motion picture career more with being unhappy and scared, or being under the gun, than with anything pleasant.

~Francis Ford Coppola

A director is the ringmaster of a circus that's inventing itself.

~Francis Ford Coppola

A number of images put together a certain way become something quite above and beyond what any of them are individually.

~Francis Ford Coppola

In a sense, I think a movie is really a little like a question and when you make it, that's when you get the answer.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Wine is so much more than a beverage. It's a romance, a story, a drama-all of those things that are basically putting on a show.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Listen, if there's one sure-fire rule that I have learned in this business, it's that I don't know anything about human nature.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The professional world was much more unpleasant than I thought. I was always wishing I could get back that enthusiasm I had when I was doing shows at college.

~Francis Ford Coppola

There can't be art without risk. It's like saying No Sex, and then expecting there to be children.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The whole reason one wants to do lower budget films is because the lower the budget, the bigger the ideas, the bigger the themes, the more interesting the art.

~Francis Ford Coppola

You ought to love what you're doing because, especially in a movie, over time you really will start to hate it.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The essence of cinema is editing.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I have more of a vivid imagination than I have talent. I cook up ideas. It's just a characteristic.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Sound is your friend because sound is much cheaper than picture, but it has equal effect on the audience - in some ways, perhaps more effect because it does it in a very indirect way.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Art depends on luck and talent.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The essence of cinema is editing. It's the combination of what can be extraordinary images of people during emotional moments, or images in a general sense, put together in a kind of alchemy.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I became quite successful very young, and it was mainly because I was so enthusiastic and I just worked so hard at it.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I never went to a psychologist or psychiatrist in my life. Never. You know, Italians are a little prejudiced against that kind of thing.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Some critics are stimulating in that they make you realise how you could do better, and those are valued.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The photographer and the director are where reality and fantasy meet.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Work on nothing less than epic scale

~Francis Ford Coppola

Time is the lens through which dreams are captured.

~Francis Ford Coppola

They needed someone to write a script of *The Great Gatsby* very quickly for the movie they were making. I took this job so I'd be sure to have some dough to support my family.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The most adventurous thing I've done is learn how to fly a helicopter in the Philippines. One night we landed on a beach and slept on it.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Whom God wishes to destroy, He first makes successful in show business.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I always knew what I thought the theme was, the core, in one word. In *'The Godfather'* it was succession. In *'The Conversation'* it was privacy. In *'Apocalypse'* it was morality.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Death is what makes life an event.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Most directors have one masterpiece by which they are known. Kurosawa has at least eight or nine.

~Francis Ford Coppola

When I do a novel, I don't really use the script, I use the book; when I did *Apocalypse Now*, I used *Heart of Darkness*. Novels usually have so much rich material.

~Francis Ford Coppola

George Lucas doesn't have the most physical stamina. He was so unhappy making Star Wars that he just vowed he'd never do it again.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I had a number of very strong personalities in my family. My father was a concert flutist, the solo flute for Toscanini.

~Francis Ford Coppola

That's part of the requirement for me to be an artist is that you're trying to share your personal existence with others and trying to illuminate modern life, trying to understand life.

~Francis Ford Coppola

You're in a profession in which absolutely everybody is telling you their opinion, which is different. That's one of the reasons George Lucas never directed again.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The stuff that I got in trouble for, the casting for The Godfather or the flag scene in Patton, was the stuff that was remembered, and was considered the good work.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I think it's better to be overly ambitious and fail than to be underambitious and succeed in a mundane way. I have been very fortunate. I failed upward in my life!

~Francis Ford Coppola

We had access to too much equipment, too much money, and little by little we went insane.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I was a pretty shy, lonely kid. I blossomed about age 17, when I went to college.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I'm no longer dependent on the movie business to make a living. So if I want to make movies as other old guys would play golf, I can.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I'm very proud of my flops, as much as of my successes.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Most Italians who came to this country are very patriotic. There was this exciting possibility that if you worked real hard, and you loved something, you could become successful.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Sequels are not done for the audience or cinema or the filmmakers. It's for the distributor. The film becomes a brand.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I was raised as a Catholic, but I didn't like the Catholic Church at all. I thought the nuns were mean.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Music is a big factor in helping the illusion of the film come to life. The same way music brings back different periods of our lives.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I like simplicity; I don't need luxury.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I was the kind of kid that had some talents or ability, but it never came out in school.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I think a sequel is a waste of money and time. I think movies should illuminate new stories.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I probably have genius. But no talent.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The things you get fired for when you're young are the same things that you get lifetime achievement awards for when you're old.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The very earliest people who made film were magicians.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I thought I wanted to be a playwright because I was interested in stories and telling stories.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Ten Days That Shook The World, by Eisenstein, I went to see it, and I was so impressed with this film, so impressed with what cinema could do.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Most filmmakers can't afford to try something out that doesn't work.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I always found the film world unpleasant. It's all about the schedule, and never really flew for me.

~Francis Ford Coppola

If you're a person who says yes most of the time, you'll find yourself in the hotel business and the restaurant business.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Stay innocent. I'm 69 years old, and I'm still innocent.

~Francis Ford Coppola

When I was 13, I worked for Western Union. When the telegrams came in, I would glue them on the paper and deliver them on my bicycle.

~Francis Ford Coppola

In kindergarten that used to be my job, to tell them fairytales. I liked Hans Christian Andersen, and the Grimm fairy tales, all the classic fairy tales.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Frank Capra was a prop man, I think. John Ford was a prop man. It was a little bit of a father and son thing, and you kind of worked your way up.

~Francis Ford Coppola

My film is not a movie; it's not about Vietnam. It is Vietnam.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I was terrible at maths, but I could grasp science, and I used to love to read about the lives of the scientists. I wanted to be a scientist or an inventor.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Cinema without risk is like having no sex and expecting to have a baby.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I remember growing up with television, from the time it was just a test pattern, with maybe a little bit of programming once in a while.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I was interested in the idea of succession - showing a father and a son

both in their own time and drawing a contrast

~Francis Ford Coppola

So much of the art of film is to do less. To aspire to do less.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I've been failing for, like, ten or eleven years. When it turns, it'll turn. Right now I'm just trying to squeeze through a very tight financial period, get the movie out, and put my things in order.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I just admire people like Woody Allen, who every year writes an original screenplay. It's astonishing. I always wished that I could do that.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I had a number of teachers who hated me. I didn't do well in school.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Lots of people have criticized my movies, but nobody has ever identified the real problem: I'm a sloppy filmmaker.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Today's winemakers still worry about quality.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I always think upon Lee Strasberg with warmth, and reviewing his wisdom is a pleasure.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Films and hotels have many aspects that are the same. For example, there is always a big vision, an idea.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Roger Corman exploited all of the young people who worked for him,

but he really gave you responsibility and opportunity. So it was kind of a fair deal.

~Francis Ford Coppola

The time a movie is made is unique, not only from the talent that is available but if the public was ready for it.

~Francis Ford Coppola

One of the most important tools that a filmmaker has are his/her notes.

~Francis Ford Coppola

It is a little disappointing to see that your legs are not as strong. But I like the idea of growing old, and the thought of approaching death is not particularly daunting to me.

~Francis Ford Coppola

Collaboration is like the sex of creativity.

~Francis Ford Coppola

By working in the morning, I find a sense of peace; it's isolated peace, but I can definitely be in touch with my feelings, and then I just start.

~Francis Ford Coppola

I still think Ned Beatty should've played Don Corleone.

~Francis Ford Coppola

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