

# Frederick Wiseman

## Quotes

*Thinking, Editing, Film, Manipulation, Issues, Real, Knows, Example, Mean,  
Different, Way, Choices, Reason, People, Optimistic, Museums, Ideas,  
Narrative, Apartment, Newspapers*

My goal is to make as many films as possible about different aspects of American life.

~Frederick Wiseman

I'm too busy to be nostalgic, which is one of the reasons to keep busy. I'm not a very sentimental person.

~Frederick Wiseman

I'm in no way suggesting that I succeed, but it's inspiring to read somebody who does succeed and from whom, in a general way, you can draw examples and nourishment and sustenance.

~Frederick Wiseman

I don't like to read novels where the novelist tells me what to think about the situation and the characters. I prefer to discover for myself.

~Frederick Wiseman

I'm very careful of not being critical of other people's movies, which work in different styles. I think some of my movies can be interpreted as critical of their subjects.

~Frederick Wiseman

Documentary filmmaking ruins you for real life, because you learn to be extremely attentive.

~Frederick Wiseman

Anybody whose mind is functioning at all can't be content with the way the world works.

~Frederick Wiseman

In moviemaking, you learn to pay attention to detail, because so much is in the detail. And when you're shooting, you try to be very alert to what's going on, even if you're tired.

~Frederick Wiseman

A lot of the issues of rhythm in film are found in the editing because it's very rare that any sequence is the sequence that is shot.

~Frederick Wiseman

Whether you're a newspaper journalist, a lawyer, a doctor. You have to organize your thoughts.

~Frederick Wiseman

I do not think that my films or films by any other filmmaker represent "THE TRUTH." I do not feel the need to categorize my films or anyone else's.

~Frederick Wiseman

It is always a problem to know what an image means.

~Frederick Wiseman

Everything about a movie is manipulation.

~Frederick Wiseman

Making movies is an effort is an attempt to leave a trace of your existence.

~Frederick Wiseman

My job as a film editor is to construct a dramatic narrative because otherwise it's just a chaotic arrangement of sequences.

~Frederick Wiseman

I don't really know what I want, other than good sequences, whatever that means. What I find is always a matter of chance, judgment, and luck.

~Frederick Wiseman

I'm drawn to making movies about contemporary life. The reason I choose institutions is because they provide a limit, a boundary.

~Frederick Wiseman

Even if I know I'm going to go to a church, I don't know what the minister's going to say.

~Frederick Wiseman

I am bad at cultural generalizations but I would venture to say that by a wide margin there is less hypocrisy about sex in France than in America.

~Frederick Wiseman

If I worked in my apartment, I'd never leave my apartment.

~Frederick Wiseman

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