

# James Cagney Quotes

*Mean, Eye, Rats, Dirty, Two, Happy Life, Psych, Men, Self, Acting, Never Settle,  
Fun, My Family, Struggle, Order, New York, War, Dad, Country, Sick*

You dirty, double-crossing rat.

~James Cagney

Perhaps people, and kids especially, are spoiled today, because all the kids today have cars, it seems. When I was young you were lucky to have a bike.

~James Cagney

I got a part as a chorus girl in a show called Every Sailor and I had fun doing it. Mother didn't really approve of it, through.

~James Cagney

Absorption in things other than self is the secret of a happy life.

~James Cagney

Find your mark, look the other fellow in the eye, and tell the truth.

~James Cagney

Learn your linesâ€¦ plant your feetâ€¦ look the other actor in the eyeâ€¦ say the wordsâ€¦ mean them.

~James Cagney

Outside of my family, the prime concern of my life has been nature and its order, and how we have been savagely altering that order.

~James Cagney

There's not much to say about acting but this. Never settle back on your heels. Never relax. If you relax, the audience relaxes. And always mean everything you say.

~James Cagney

Once a song and dance man, always a song and dance man. Those few words tell as much about me professionally as there is to tell.

~James Cagney

The Postman Always Rings Twice.

~James Cagney

I never had the slightest difficulty with a fellow actor. Not until One, Two, Three. In that picture, Horst Buchholz tried all sorts of scene-stealing didoes. I came close to knocking him on his ass.

~James Cagney

You don't psych yourself up for these things, you do them... I'm acting for the audience, not for myself, and I do it as directly as I can.

~James Cagney

I never said, 'MMMmmm, you dirty rat!

~James Cagney

My father was totally Irish, and so I went to Ireland once. I found it to be very much like New York, for it was a beautiful country, and both the women and men were good-looking.

~James Cagney

I'm sick of carrying guns and beating up women.

~James Cagney

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