

# James Wolcott Quotes

*People, Stars, Kings, Thinking, Art, Reality, War, Party, Writing, Peace,  
Comedy, Voice, Running, Wall, Inspirational, Ambition, Reading, Team, Sex,  
Book*

The lies the government and media tell are amplifications of the lies we tell ourselves. To stop being conned, stop conning yourself.

~James Wolcott

Wisdom is for statues. Humor uncaps our inhibitions, unleashes our energies, seals friendships, patches hurts. Laughing is probably the most alive you can be.

~James Wolcott

Book-jacket design may become a lost art, like album-cover design, without which late-20th-century iconography would have been pauperized.

~James Wolcott

Popular culture no longer craves archangels and new dawns. Pop culture traffics in vampires and deads of night.

~James Wolcott

At 'The Village Voice,' there were all these fevers inside the offices, that would break out into full-scale rumbles between writers.

~James Wolcott

With 'Black Swan,' the ballerina saga flips its tiara and goes on a hallucinatory bender, a scary acid trip where transfiguration and disfiguration meet.

~James Wolcott

Even the most piddling life is of momentous consequence to its owner.

~James Wolcott

It's one thing to fight for what you believe in, another thing to fight for what others believe in.

~James Wolcott

A lost election can have the jolt of a drop through the gallows door, leading to a dark night of the soul in which the future presses down like a cloud that will never lift.

~James Wolcott

Everyone is entitled to his own nostalgia.

~James Wolcott

Mitt Romney - he had a Rock Hudson thing going, shoeblack hair and a well-hung resume, but even for a shameless, position-shifting phony he seemed a trifle insincere.

~James Wolcott

Used to be, conservatives revered the Average American, that Norman Rockwell oil painting of diner food, humble faith, honest toil, and Capraesque virtue.

~James Wolcott

Broadway purists may deplore the influx of movie-spinoff musicals in recent years, wishing someone would turn off the popcorn machine and let more imaginative brainstorms blow through.

~James Wolcott

Telling writers to shut up is a sure way to keep them talking.

~James Wolcott

I think ambition is a desire for recognition. People want to be special. I think ambition can take in a whole package of things, power or sexual excitement.

~James Wolcott

My high-school papers, my college-application essays, read like Norman Mailer packed in a crunchy-peanut-butter sandwich.

~James Wolcott

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~James Wolcott

Today a celebrity sex video isn't a stigma that requires penance and smarm removal; it's a branding device, a platform enhancer, a show reel.

~James Wolcott

Like 'Twin Peaks,' '24,' 'Mad Men,' and 'The Sopranos' before it, 'Downton Abbey' enriches the iconography and collective lore of pop culture. It replenishes the stream.

~James Wolcott

People want somebody to be a daredevil, even if they're not going to be a daredevil themselves.

~James Wolcott

What stars do in their off-hours is a never-ending source of diddling curiosity to the tabloid sensibility.

~James Wolcott

Who elected Larry King America's grief counselor? We, the viewing public, did, by driving up his ratings whenever somebody famous passes.

~James Wolcott

I never accepted why there should be some invisible, wavy cutoff line separating Great Fiction from phosphorescent beauties and dollhouse miniatures, novels that contain a whole world in a snow globe.

~James Wolcott

Particularly fine is the top-heavy comedienne, Loni Anderson, as the receptionist whose movements turn men to stone...she keeps her head

while all the men around her are losing theirs.

~James Wolcott

It's the contemporary woman that movies don't know what to do with, other than bathe her in a bridal glow in romantic comedies where both the romance and the comedy are artificial sweeteners.

~James Wolcott

Robert Pattinson is rebel cool incarnated -- the James Dean of the undead.

~James Wolcott

The unhappy irony is that, while 'Glee' is hitting the heights, school arts funding is being slashed across the country due to the steep recession and declining tax revenues.

~James Wolcott

The advent of DVD/Blu-ray reissues of classic Hollywood and foreign films has been a boon to film buffs, who can now study their favorites in all their glistening detail and restored palettes.

~James Wolcott

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