

# Jane Campion Quotes

*Thinking, People, Piano, Directors, Television, Stories, Growing Up, Art, Mean,  
Ideas, Real, Women, Interesting, Journey, School, Actors, Feminist, Kind,  
Writing, Character*

I would love to see more women directors because they represent half of the population and gave birth to the whole world. Without them the rest [of the world] are not getting to know the whole story.

~Jane Campion

There are some things that are real, that you can see, that you can observe, like the moon, and grass and things. But for ideas to become real, they have to be played on your senses.

~Jane Campion

For me, being a director is about watching, not about telling people what to do. Or maybe it's like being a mirror; if they didn't have me to look at, they wouldn't be able to put the make-up on.

~Jane Campion

I think if it's interesting, it's interesting, and if it's not, it's not working.

~Jane Campion

I'm someone who loves to play. I make films so I can have fun with the characters.

~Jane Campion

It's harder being a woman director because on the whole women don't have husbands or boyfriends who are willing to be wives

~Jane Campion

Only when you are relaxed can you see what's going on.

~Jane Campion

Performers are so vulnerable. They're frightened of humiliation, sure their work will be crap. I try to make an environment where it's warm, where it's OK to fail - a kind of home, I suppose.

~Jane Campion

The studio system is kind of an old boys system and it's difficult for them to trust women to be capable

~Jane Campion

When you first fall in love it's so thrilling, you can't wait to throw yourself away and make this new wonderful twosome.

~Jane Campion

To deny women directors, as I suspect is happening in the States, is to deny the feminine vision.

~Jane Campion

Women today are dealing with both their independence and also the fact that their lives are built around finding and satisfying the romantic models we grew up with.

~Jane Campion

I think I made good movies.

~Jane Campion

I think the whole tension about romanticism is the way it builds and builds, and the moment it's consummated, the tension's over.

~Jane Campion

If you start with a good idea, you can encapsulate it in a phrase and explain it. I like high-concept films. Everyone can get hold of it. I don't think there's any harm in that at all.

~Jane Campion

There is a different kind of vulnerability when a woman is directing

~Jane Campion

I love it when actors come to you with a problem and you have to listen. You'd like them to just get on with it, but it often means that there's a

problem with the script.

~Jane Campion

I can't imagine people telling me what to do - I just can't imagine it.

~Jane Campion

I have to admit that I had a lot of problems with poetry.

~Jane Campion

If you read Keats's poems, they're often full of doubts and anxieties. They can be quite tough.

~Jane Campion

It's a luxury to be able to tell a long form story. I love novels, and I love to have a long relationship with characters.

~Jane Campion

The Piano ended up on television. Everything ends up there anyway.

~Jane Campion

And, I mean, I think poetry does need to be met to some extent, especially, I guess, 19th century poetry, and for me, it's just been so worth the effort. It's like I'm planting a garden in my head.

~Jane Campion

In some ways Holy Smoke is about people's journey to the heart.

~Jane Campion

Between 18 and 26 I acted professionally, on the stage and a little bit on television. Acting is okay, but it's quite pressurized. Then I went to England - I wanted to reinvent myself.

~Jane Campion

As for how criticism of Keats' poetry relates to criticism of my own work,

I'll leave that for others to decide.

~Jane Campion

I think this is interesting, us human creatures are capable of love, and it's a very powerful emotion. It also can go awfully wrong.

~Jane Campion

So many actors are not open in front of the camera - they have a persona.

~Jane Campion

When I read Andrew Motion's biography, I wept. It's something about the purity of the story and how fresh it was because of the love letters Keats wrote.

~Jane Campion

I fell in love again (laughs).

~Jane Campion

I've had a lot of different responses to my films. I got a lot of support from 'The Piano,' the obvious one, but it feels like an ocean, with a lot going on - the goal is to keep alive.

~Jane Campion

I think feature film can be quite conservative, because you have to now get audiences to come out, and it's quite a hard thing to do. Of course, television can be conservative too.

~Jane Campion

I had this spooky psychological thing about 'The Piano' before it began, which was how everybody was going to go nuts on the set. Because a film tends to set up the way people are going to behave.

~Jane Campion

Actual violence has no attraction for me at all.

~Jane Campion

But I think it's quite clear in my work that my orientation isn't political or doesn't come out of modern politics.

~Jane Campion

You know, sex is actually not so original as the way people love or the stories behind each relationship, which is what you remember. Sex is sex in the end.

~Jane Campion

What I have learned from my work up to now, is to try to be open, but also protect myself by not letting the good and the evil get too much importance.

~Jane Campion

Tragedy makes you grow up.

~Jane Campion

I'm a much better filmmaker than painter. But studying it did make me visually acute and taught me lessons like being economic: Say something once and you don't have to say it again.

~Jane Campion

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