

John Sayles

Quotes

Writing, People, Character, Stories, Two, Acting, Done, Way, Guy, Needs, America, Trying, Actors, Media, Years, Thinking, Hate, Roger, Book, Weekend

To this day, I get rewrite offers where they say: 'We feel this script needs work with character, dialogue, plot and tone,' and when you ask what's left, they say: 'Well, the typing is very good.'

~John Sayles

Assumptions allow the best in life to pass you by.

~John Sayles

I've always felt like I was on the margins. Once upon a time that's what independent used to mean.

~John Sayles

I like to act. I work for scale. I don't have an acting agent. I'm in the book.

~John Sayles

My argument has always been that this is not an anti-Bush film, it's a pro-democracy film. And if George W. Bush comes out on the wrong side of democracy, that's his problem.

~John Sayles

I figured somebody wrote a story who had a typewriter and I thought that movies were made by the cowboys and that they just said, 'Okay, you fall off the horse this time.'

~John Sayles

Well, acting is cheap; I knew all these actors who weren't in the Screen Actors Guild yet, and it happened that they were all just about thirty years old.

~John Sayles

I always feel that there are no final victories and no final defeats. But it's true that America is in a hole right now. There are a lot of dead fish in the water.

~John Sayles

For me the writing, when I'm going to direct it myself, is really just the first draft, and I don't change it very much; I only change it on average about two lines per movie.

~John Sayles

The hardest thing about movies is doing take 12, 13, and 14, and finding new ways to do the same lines. So the early takes are actually easier and I think there's more surprises in them.

~John Sayles

I'm never at a loss for new projects.

~John Sayles

I made it about a three-day weekend so people wouldn't have to change their clothes a lot. We didn't have an art department; we didn't have a make-up department.

~John Sayles

In a movie you have all these logistical problems; all these practical problems. But you're also going to have people come who can do things that you can't do, and you get to direct their talents.

~John Sayles

Sometimes people can't afford to work for you, or they're not interested or available, and you hate to have written the whole movie with somebody in mind and not get them.

~John Sayles

I never thought about being a writer as I grew up. A writer wasn't something I wanted to be. An outfielder was something to be. Most of what I know about style I learned from Roberto Clemente.

~John Sayles

America is a very divided country now. Not only are there red states and blue states, there are now red facts and blue facts. The right-wing believe in creationism. The left in evolution.

~John Sayles

I don't have a social agenda. I just don't choose to ignore what's in front of me.

~John Sayles

I don't write [screenplay character] biographies beforehand. I usually go in knowing some sequences: this is where I want to start, this is where I want to end.

~John Sayles

It's a mixed crowd at the dogs - black, white, hispanic - but to Walt they all look like Jackie Gleason. Heavysset guys with big plans and polyester souls.

~John Sayles

I figured, 'When is that ever going to happen again?'. So I basically set out the opposite way movies are made; I set out with a budget first. I said, 'What can I do well for \$40,000?'

~John Sayles

When I was really young I didn't know that there was such a thing as a screenwriter. I wrote stories.

~John Sayles

The media in America has become so cowed and compromised.

~John Sayles

The less money and time you have, the more you have to plan ahead and be careful about your coverage. It's like a gas: it expands or contracts depending on the size of the container.

~John Sayles

Michael Moore, whether you like him or hate him, has done something very important.

~John Sayles

If you write a movie for Roger Corman, it's going to get made. You saw it almost the next day.

~John Sayles

I probably wouldn't have done as many as I did in one year, which I did when I was trying to raise money.

~John Sayles

Related Links:

- Writing Quotes
- People Quotes
- Character Quotes
- Stories Quotes
- Two Quotes
- Acting Quotes
- Done Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Guy Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- America Quotes
- Trying Quotes
- Actors Quotes
- Media Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Hate Quotes
- Roger Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Weekend Quotes