

# Joshua Oppenheimer Quotes

*Thinking, Reality, Evil, Real, Believe, People, Forgiving, Distance, Lying, Past,  
Cinema, Spectators, Army, Creative, Up To You, Storytelling, Film, Want,  
Fantasy, Rainbow*

The whole tradition of cinema is dominated, really, by films about good guys versus bad guys, good versus evil. But we have very few films about the nature of evil itself.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

The killers have built the society. The whole Indonesia is their platform. They run the country. They run the country.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

I need to trust myself and go where my instincts tell me, and to be as wild and free as possible in my creative decisions.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

Each and every perpetrator was boastful, usually they would invite me to the places where they killed and I would of course accept those invitations because I could document what happened that way.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

I see myself as an explorer more than a storyteller.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

After the Dutch left Indonesia, after the Indonesians got loose in 1945, the freemen were not as widely used, but then they went through a real Renaissance where military dictatorship took over.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

I always have said, you know it's not for me to forgive or to condemn, I'm a filmmaker.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

There's a tradition of reenactment in documentary which is about sort of illustrating what the past might have been like.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

A podium is something you walk up to, you say what you want to say and when you're finished, you leave.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

Performance is always oriented towards a spectator, towards an imagined audience and I was thinking who is their imagined audience?

~Joshua Oppenheimer

I really believe that the past is beyond our grasp and what is essential about the past is something unspeakable.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

Direct cinema is about simulating a reality in which you're not having the overwhelming influence that you really are having.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

In Indonesian, the word isn't translating as "gangster." It's "preman", which comes from the Dutch "prÃ©man", which of course the thing that's "freeman" in English.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

We can distance ourselves from the reality of what we did through storytelling.

~Joshua Oppenheimer

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