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Most things don't work out as expected, but what happens instead often turns out to be the good stuff.

~Judi Dench

I don't think anybody can be told how to act. I think you can give advice. But you have to find your own way through it.

~Judi Dench

I think you should take your job seriously, but not yourself - that is the best combination.

~Judi Dench

I just feel incredibly lucky to be employed when there are so many actors and actresses who are not employed. That's why, you know, I sometimes feel desperate, in case I'm not going to be cast again.

~Judi Dench

My husband was actually very keen that I would become a Bond girl. ~Judi Dench

We get up in the morning. We do our best. Nothing else matters. ~Judi Dench

The only real failure is the failure to try.

~Judi Dench

The more I do, the more frightened I get. But that is essential. Otherwise why would I go on doing it?

~Judi Dench

There's nothing good about being my age.

~Judi Dench

I get sillier as I get older, so I don't know what wisdom means. I can

only pass on something that I've been acquainted with and let whomever it is pick the bones out of it

~Judi Dench

Everything, every part that you approach has to be somehow rooted in yourself. You have to somehow root everything so that it's not just words coming out of you.

~Judi Dench

It is not good to cross the bridge before you get to it.

~Judi Dench

Never fall out of love with life

~Judi Dench

I like to push myself beyond the limit every now and again.

~Judi Dench

In the theatre you can change things ever so slightly; it's an organic thing. Whereas in film you only have that chance on the day, and you have no control over it at all.

~Judi Dench

Don't think I am going to let Bob Hoskins take all his clothes off and me not take a look? I just had a quick look up and down, like you would.

~Judi Dench

The need for a global structure of control in the form of a world environment court is now more urgent than ever before.

~Judi Dench

I was in Yorkshire. We were a family of five and I used to be sent sometimes to get the rations for the week and was easily able to carry them back. It was like one egg and a tiny bit of tea.

~Judi Dench

The theater is the thing I love doing most.

~Judi Dench

Anything that we can do to improve the lives of elderly people is welcome so far as I am concerned.

~Judi Dench

It takes courage to recognize the real as opposed to the convenient.

~Judi Dench

I'm always fearful. â€l Fear generates in you a huge energy. You can use it. When I feel that mounting fear, I think, 'Oh, yes, there it is!' It's like petrol.

~Judi Dench

There is no past that we can bring back by longing for it.

~Judi Dench

There are very few things that surprise me.

~Judi Dench

People seem to have this idea that I've always been very ambitious. Nothing could be further from the truth.

~Judi Dench

I've always loved painting, although I never show anyone what I've done. Mainly because I don't do it well. But it's like a form of visual diary for me. A way of fixing things in my mind.

~Judi Dench

I need to learn every day.

~Judi Dench

I felt quite a responsibility when I played Elizabeth I but nobody here remembers her! And then I felt a responsibility when I played Queen Victoria but not many people remember her.

~Judi Dench

Sometimes nudity is gratuitous. We just live in a society where everything goes.

~Judi Dench

Some things you know about, you know what the ingredients are maybe not all of them. But it's up to you to put in the amount. It's up to the director to nag you until you get it right.

~Judi Dench

I'd rather do a part because I want to, not because great things are expected of me.

~Judi Dench

And then it was working with Bob Hoskins, who I had never worked with before - except radio. It was like being given a wonderful meal - full of the things you love most.

~Judi Dench

I have no control over a film. I don't know what will be left on the cutting floor.

~Judi Dench

I have a completely new knee. It's brilliant. I am not feeling my age at all. I feel about 43, a willowy blonde 43 years old with long legs.

~Judi Dench

People think you know beforehand when you win an Oscar - I can assure you you don't.

~Judi Dench

I am so thrilled to be nominated for something I loved working on every single day.

~Judi Dench

Seriously, though, I think I never ceased to be grateful of the fact that I am able to do a job that I really love - I never got over that.

~Judi Dench

Every experience that you experience yourself you use, because that's our craft.

~Judi Dench

Actually, what I miss are people corpsing on stage.

~Judi Dench

I can't read scripts any more because of the trouble with my eyes.

~Judi Dench

I trained as a designer, so I'm always terribly keen about what I'm going to look like.

~Judi Dench

I would hate people to think bossy is all I can do.

~Judi Dench

I don't really want to retire. I intend to go on working as long as I can because I still have a huge amount of energy.

~Judi Dench

It was good to learn so early. They're not going to be kind to you. You have to do it and get on, and then gulp down and get better.

~Judi Dench

The difficulty with any sort of esteem is that more is expected of you.

~Judi Dench

I wanted to be a set designer when I was young.

~Judi Dench

Work certainly does help fill a void.

~Judi Dench

I don't like reading scripts very much. I like it better for someone to just explain to me what it is about this story.

~Judi Dench

I played Iris Murdoch, who had not long died, and I felt the responsibility very heavy on my shoulders.

~Judi Dench

Filming is completely - was totally new to me ... I had a movie career which wasn't supposed to be, so I couldn't be more thrilled. For those who work, parts seem to get more interesting.

~Judi Dench

It is true that there are few plays of Shakespeare that I haven't done.

~Judi Dench

I work out the other bits, too, but I need to know what I look like, very early on. And then it's like a template; I'll fill that person out. If I get that out of the way, then I'm all right.

~Judi Dench

The Lord Chamberlin was censoring scripts when I first came into the theater.

~Judi Dench

This is just the loveliest news. I'm so happy for everybody involved, and

so proud to have been part of the wonderful experience that Philomena has been.

~Judi Dench

I don't think that care homes are all rotten old places that ought to be shut down.

~Judi Dench

I've got what my ma had, macular degeneration, which you get when you get old.

~Judi Dench

In contrast, the control you have in a theatre is very attractive to me. ~Judi Dench

I would like to work with Jack Nicholson, before it's too late.

~Judi Dench

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