

# Michael Haneke

## Quotes

*Film, People, Thinking, Different, Trying, Children, Art, Giving, Writing,  
Directors, Two, Want, Actors, Ideas, Important, Violence, Lying, Reality, Artist,  
Simple*

Classicism becomes avant-garde when everyone else is doing their utmost to develop new stylistic forms. I think it's healthy to return to classical forms.

~Michael Haneke

I give the spectator the possibility of participating. The audience completes the film by thinking about it; those who watch must not be just consumers ingesting spoon-fed images.

~Michael Haneke

Film is simply the most complex way you can express yourself

~Michael Haneke

I'm not really a happy person. It's a question of temperament. I have a tendency toward melancholy. You can feel quite happily melancholic.

~Michael Haneke

An artist is someone who should raise questions rather than give answers. I have no message.

~Michael Haneke

If I tell the audience what they should think, then I am robbing them of their own imagination and their own capacity of deciding what's important to them.

~Michael Haneke

I don't need a psychiatrist. I can sort out my fears with my work. That's the privilege of all artists, to be able to sort out their unhappiness and their neuroses in order to create something.

~Michael Haneke

I try to get closer to reality, to get close to the contradictions. The cinema world can be a real world rather than a dream world.

~Michael Haneke

Drama lives on conflict. If you're trying to deal with social issues seriously, there's no way of avoiding violence, which is so present in society.

~Michael Haneke

Film is 24 lies per second at the service of truth, or at the service of the attempt to find the truth.

~Michael Haneke

At its best, film should be like a ski jump. It should give the viewer the option of taking flight, while the act of jumping is left up to him.

~Michael Haneke

Usually music is used to hide a film's problems.

~Michael Haneke

To decide to film a movie again shot by shot, you must be masochistic to a certain degree because it is a much greater challenge.

~Michael Haneke

I never suffered from the absence of a father. On the contrary, as a child I was more inclined to see men as a disturbing factor. It made things difficult for me when I started working as a director.

~Michael Haneke

Because I'm the author of my screenplays I know what I'm looking for. It's true that I can be stubborn in demanding that I get what I want, but it's also a question of working with patience and love.

~Michael Haneke

I consider all my films experiments.

~Michael Haneke

That is one of the characteristics of fascism, the idea that the state can

provide all of the answers for everyone.

~Michael Haneke

A feature film is twenty-four lies per second.

~Michael Haneke

It's the duty of art to ask questions, not to provide answers. And if you want a clearer answer, I'll have to pass.

~Michael Haneke

I never use soundtrack; it is always part of the story.

~Michael Haneke

As a European filmmaker, you can not make a genre film seriously. You can only make a parody.

~Michael Haneke

In terms of cinema and filmmaking, there are certainly the unexpected gifts that the actors bestow on you. Film is always a question of compromises with respect to what you originally intended.

~Michael Haneke

What I like are films that take me seriously, that don't treat me as more stupid than I am.

~Michael Haneke

Like every filmmaker, I make my films to reach the widest audience possible.

~Michael Haneke

Of course I am a child of European culture. There are a number of great directors from which I learned, but there is nobody in particular I got inspired from.

~Michael Haneke

It's much harder to write a script that involves two people in a single location than 20 people in 30 different locations.

~Michael Haneke

People have been educated to expect answers, even before the questions come along. It's the TV principle. You offer three possible answers before the questions come to relax and calm the audience.

~Michael Haneke

When ideas lead to ideology, that's a very dangerous thing. Ideology then leads to creating the image of an enemy, and it leads to the murder and massacre.

~Michael Haneke

Classicism becomes avant-garde when everyone else is doing their utmost to develop new stylistic forms. And I think it's healthy to return to classical forms.

~Michael Haneke

If you do an original film and you want to cut a scene out you do it. But when you do a shot by shot remake you don't have that option and every scene has to work again.

~Michael Haneke

Never say no. It always depends on what's possible. I don't care so much where it is; it's what I want to do that matters.

~Michael Haneke

For me, it's always difficult when a historical film claims to depict or represent a reality that none of us can know, that is always different. It's always the case. We never know what happened then.

~Michael Haneke

I consider all my films an experiment, at least in my mind.

~Michael Haneke

If you go with the principle, you should go with the principle. If I really saw the subject very differently than ten years ago, I would have done a different movie.

~Michael Haneke

In German. I'm more sensitized to the details, to the emotions. In English, I wouldn't detect as much nuance.

~Michael Haneke

It's harder to write a story with just two people in a room than with 50 characters.

~Michael Haneke

Of course, we avoid death. To know something is inevitable is one thing. To accept, to truly feel it... that's different.

~Michael Haneke

A strict form such as mine cannot be achieved through improvisation.

~Michael Haneke

As a private person, professionally I am invisible.

~Michael Haneke

I've been accused of 'raping' the audience in my films, and I admit to that freely - all movies assault the viewer in one way or another.

~Michael Haneke

You'll see more violence in any television crime series than you will in my films. Art is there to have a stimulating effect, if it earns its name. You have to be honest, that's the only thing.

~Michael Haneke

You become a film critic because you're interested in film. I don't know whether knowing so much about cinema leads you to make better films, but it certainly can't hurt.

~Michael Haneke

It's a disease of critics that once they've labeled someone, it's very hard to change their perspective. It's laziness.

~Michael Haneke

Pornography, it seems to me, is no different from war films or propaganda films in that it tries to make the visceral, horrific, or transgressive elements of life consumable.

~Michael Haneke

On the set I make jokes I can't get too involved, or it turns into sentimental soup. I try to keep it light.

~Michael Haneke

And if there was one title that could be applied to all my films, it would be 'Civil War' - not civil war in the way we know it, but the daily war that goes on between us all.

~Michael Haneke

I'm far more relaxed with German. I'm a control freak. I like to know exactly who's saying and doing what.

~Michael Haneke

I want to be able to control things and that's very difficult to do if you're not 100% in a particular language. It makes you uncertain and it makes you nervous.

~Michael Haneke

I think that religion is an integral part of human needs, but the question also is how you understand religion.

~Michael Haneke

I like to write for actors I know and with whom I've worked before. You can write to their strengths and weaknesses and write roles that are better suited to them.

~Michael Haneke

I think watching a movie that simply confirms my feelings is a waste of time. That applies not only to movies, but also to books and every form of art.

~Michael Haneke

Even the most elitist director or author who claims that he doesn't care if his works are seen or not, then I have to think that he's either a liar or a hypocrite.

~Michael Haneke

It's more enjoyable to shoot in a studio on a single location with two actors... if they are good.

~Michael Haneke

It became a gamble to myself whether I was able to do the exact same film ["Funny Games"] under very different circumstances.

~Michael Haneke

What we're doing for another person is more important than what we're feeling for them.

~Michael Haneke

It is boring to have all the answers. Only political people have answers.

~Michael Haneke

The dumber people are, the more they feel the need for a broad set of shoulders they can lay their head against.



~Michael Haneke

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