

Noah Baumbach Quotes

*People, Thinking, Writing, Way, Character, Mean, New York, Kids, Film, Feels,
Kind, Actors, Ideas, Dad, Knows, Years, Real, Stuff, Interesting, Manhattan*

Defining yourself by your taste is easier than defining yourself by any genuine stance on something.

~Noah Baumbach

As a kid, I thought of myself as a funny person who secretly wanted to be serious, but now I think maybe I'm a serious person who secretly wants to be funny.

~Noah Baumbach

We expect forty-year-olds to have grown up at some point, and to be engaged and adult and take responsibility, and doing nothing would seem to go against that.

~Noah Baumbach

When you find yourself on the Internet when you're supposed to be writing, you've already lost. It's even beyond procrastination when you end up on the Internet.

~Noah Baumbach

A film set becomes its own family anyway, and all family dynamics come out during a shoot. The trick is hiring people who know how to handle that.

~Noah Baumbach

Peter Bogdanovich is a good friend.

~Noah Baumbach

I feel a real connection to Brooklyn, certainly, because I spent 20 years of my life there, but I don't think of myself as a Brooklyn artist any more than I think of myself as a male artist.

~Noah Baumbach

I'm always looking for overlooked post-Dylan singer-songwriter records from the '70s.

~Noah Baumbach

There are the people who overthink making mix CDs and playlists, and how that works generationally is all really interesting to me.

~Noah Baumbach

Will Ferrell's made a lot of brilliant movies.

~Noah Baumbach

There's something really vulnerable about playing something that you like for someone. You don't know what their reaction will be.

~Noah Baumbach

It's near impossible to make a movie in black and white in the system.

~Noah Baumbach

Other people have worked with big studios and maintained control over their movies. I see no reason why it wouldn't work for me.

~Noah Baumbach

It's nice being friends over a period of time with people whose music you like so much, or other filmmakers, seeing people change, go through trials

~Noah Baumbach

When you're around your family, and you have that history and that shared language, you say things you'd be embarrassed to hear quoted back to you later.

~Noah Baumbach

I like having associations with locations beyond their meaning for the specific movie.

~Noah Baumbach

It's kind of a crazy art form, movies, in that you have to get it right the day you do it, generally.

~Noah Baumbach

If you don't feel good about something, you don't shake it off easily.

~Noah Baumbach

[Shwing] the really naked stuff I've dealt with in my own life, my own therapy and relationships - for me it just feels like a film I'm really proud of.

~Noah Baumbach

I live in Manhattan now, because, in a way, it was my fantasy.

~Noah Baumbach

I guess I'm interested in people who are very sophisticated in intellectual ways, while being completely off the mark in emotional ones, with huge blind spots in terms of their own behavior.

~Noah Baumbach

I do think it's a very good way to describe what a great actor does. You're both acknowledging the authority of the director and the necessity of the actor to push back and find their own voice.

~Noah Baumbach

Adaptations are fun for me because they connect to the idea of filmmaking I had when I was a kid. I would see a movie and think: 'I'm gonna make that movie.'

~Noah Baumbach

I think I was going through a lot of change at 27, but I didn't know it was happening until it was over.

~Noah Baumbach

I like shooting in New York because I have such a connection to the city. I have so many memories there.

~Noah Baumbach

I love black-and-white movies that are about contemporary subjects.

~Noah Baumbach

How you start the movie is critical. And how often you feel that there's no reason for how it's starting.

~Noah Baumbach

I didn't train in directing; I talk to actors the way I talk to anybody.

~Noah Baumbach

Anyone who's putting money into your movie would always rather you cast well-known people.

~Noah Baumbach

A lot of black-and-white films generally have a color version that will be used for TV.

~Noah Baumbach

I grew up in the heat of '70s postmodern fiction and post-Godard films, and there was this idea that what mattered was the theory or meta in art.

~Noah Baumbach

I've had great experiences or joyful experiences making a movie that people found very disturbing.

~Noah Baumbach

We all have these notions of cool that come about at different points in our lives, and it's interesting in how it evolves or doesn't evolve in different people.

~Noah Baumbach

Wes Anderson grew up in Houston, and he and I talk about Manhattan in similar ways, as a kind of fantasy world.

~Noah Baumbach

I read all the time. Sometimes I get asked if I've thought about writing a novel.

~Noah Baumbach

I get a lot of responses to my movies. Some people say, 'Oh, I thought it was really funny - I hope that's okay!' And my answer always is 'Yes. It's totally okay.'

~Noah Baumbach

Wes Anderson's films, 6-year-olds are crazy about them.

~Noah Baumbach

I'm curious how people build up the codes that they live their life by, and how they come to think that that's the best way for them to function.

~Noah Baumbach

I wouldn't say 'Frances Ha' is autobiographical, but it's definitely very personal.

~Noah Baumbach

I try to procrastinate, if I can, productively, like I'll work on something else as procrastination. Or I take a walk. Because often I find, if you get out, more things come to you.

~Noah Baumbach

I made two movies very young, and then I had trouble getting a movie made, and so - which was both, I think, a plus and a minus. It was a

minus because it made me unhappy.

~Noah Baumbach

You can be aware that something is idiosyncratic, and give it to a character, but keep doing it.

~Noah Baumbach

The real achievement of Woody Allen was that he was making movies that felt very personal, and for a whole group of people, it spoke to them. Then he became an archetype, like Groucho Marx or Chaplin.

~Noah Baumbach

I'm a huge proponent of therapy and analysis, but it's something that, in a nonprofessional way, can be abused.

~Noah Baumbach

I'm good with a grill. I like to make cheeseburgers - I once read in a David Goodis crime novel that you're only supposed to flip a burger once.

~Noah Baumbach

When I was a kid, I would fantasize about my own funeral.

~Noah Baumbach

I've had times in my life when I really haven't been able to figure myself out.

~Noah Baumbach

My dad was a great movie companion. He wouldn't diminish 'The Jerk.' If I liked it, he liked it. He could see it through my eyes.

~Noah Baumbach

I guess I probably took New York for granted. Growing up, playing in the street, going down to the Avenue to the record store and to the

grocery store and stuff like that.

~Noah Baumbach

I kind of live like a writer. I get up and I write. I've done that my whole life.

~Noah Baumbach

I think anxiety is dangerous, but it makes you think it's your friend.

~Noah Baumbach

I watch movies all the time, so it's hard to pick certain specific directors that have inspired me in the aggregate.

~Noah Baumbach

I'm interested in music as an extension of character.

~Noah Baumbach

It's always really special to be at the New York Film Festival, and always a real privilege.

~Noah Baumbach

I don't agree with the idea that my characters are unlikeable.

~Noah Baumbach

I've always liked working with friends or, you know, people I have outside relationships with.

~Noah Baumbach

There's always some generational-guys-hanging-out movie that is made every few years, I think, and some of them are great.

~Noah Baumbach

It's kind of major, learning to drive. I feel like it kicked up other stuff in my life.

~Noah Baumbach

I'm sure I've said some pretty bad pick-up lines.

~Noah Baumbach

I find a lot of writing happens when you're not actually at the computer. So I carry a notebook.

~Noah Baumbach

That's the nice thing about collaborating with someone: Your work becomes a conversation.

~Noah Baumbach

I always viewed life as material for a movie.

~Noah Baumbach

I think I've always been drawn to the notion of talk as cinematic.

~Noah Baumbach

I think all my movies are about transitions to some degree.

~Noah Baumbach

When I start a movie, there will be certain films that I watch again just because the vibe seems right.

~Noah Baumbach

Being funny, in some ways, is about being connected to psychology.

~Noah Baumbach

I'm interested in the way major events don't necessarily announce themselves as major events. They're often little things - the drip, drip of life that changes people or affects people.

~Noah Baumbach

I do like having books on my shelves. I do value that life.

~Noah Baumbach

I used a video camera, and shot on film cameras at school and stuff, but I had a lot more training as a writer. I kind of live like a writer. I get up and I write. I've done that my whole life.

~Noah Baumbach

Manhattan is so tailored. It's driven by appealing to the very wealthy and tourists.

~Noah Baumbach

I try to write 'and it's all very funny' after each scene description so that the reader can imagine the movie in their head.

~Noah Baumbach

I like to have memories of a place. It brings something extra. I'm not even sure what it is. I mean, it's the same part of it as I like using friends in small parts or people I know or my doorman.

~Noah Baumbach

Being articulate, my parents could make anything sound reasonable.

~Noah Baumbach

I was late to the Knicks. My dad was a big fan. But I first started watching baseball; I became a Red Sox fan. My dad was a Mets fan. I wanted to have my own team and league.

~Noah Baumbach

Dance is a profession with an expiration date for many people.

~Noah Baumbach

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