

Orson Welles

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Men, Hate, Artist, Two, Hollywood, Mean, Years, Believe,
Writing, Want, World, Art, Directors, Play, Needs, Funny, Film, Life*

We're born alone, we live alone, we die alone. Only through our love and friendship can we create the illusion for the moment that we're not alone.

~Orson Welles

Ask not what you can do for your country. Ask what's for lunch.

~Orson Welles

Create your own visual style... let it be unique for yourself and yet identifiable for others.

~Orson Welles

Race hate isn't human nature; race hate is the abandonment of human nature.

~Orson Welles

Popularity should be no scale for the election of politicians. If it would depend on popularity, Donald Duck and The Muppets would take seats in senate.

~Orson Welles

My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four. Unless there are three other people.

~Orson Welles

The essential is to excite the spectators. If that means playing Hamlet on a flying trapeze or in an aquarium, you do it.

~Orson Welles

If there hadn't been women we'd still be squatting in a cave eating raw meat, because we made civilization in order to impress our girlfriends.

~Orson Welles

If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop

your story.

~Orson Welles

I started at the top and worked my way down.

~Orson Welles

Personally, I don't like a girlfriend to have a husband. If she'll fool her husband, I figure she'll fool me.

~Orson Welles

Nobody who takes on anything big and tough can afford to be modest.

~Orson Welles

Don't give them what you think they want. Give them what they never thought was possible.

~Orson Welles

Nobody gets justice. People only get good luck or bad luck.

~Orson Welles

I don't say we all ought to misbehave, but we ought to look as if we could.

~Orson Welles

When people accept breaking the law as normal, something happens to the whole society.

~Orson Welles

A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet.

~Orson Welles

I prefer people who rock the boat to people who jump out

~Orson Welles

The enemy of art is the absence of limitations.

~Orson Welles

A good artist should be isolated. If he isn't isolated, something is wrong.

~Orson Welles

A writer needs a pen, an artist needs a brush, but a filmmaker needs an army.

~Orson Welles

The laws and the stage, both are a form of exhibitionism.

~Orson Welles

A bad word from a colleague can darken a whole day. We need encouragement a lot more than we admit, even to ourselves.

~Orson Welles

I passionately hate the idea of being with it; I think an artist has always to be out of step with his time.

~Orson Welles

There are only two emotions in a plane: boredom and terror.

~Orson Welles

Fake is as old as the Eden tree.

~Orson Welles

I hate Woody Allen physically, I dislike that kind of man.

~Orson Welles

The most personal thing I've put in [Touch of Evil] is my hatred of the abuse of police power. It's better to see a murderer go free than for a policeman to abuse his power.

~Orson Welles

The cinema has no boundary; it is a ribbon of dream.

~Orson Welles

There are three intolerable things in life - cold coffee, lukewarm champagne, and overexcited women.

~Orson Welles

'The Godfather' was the glorification of a bunch of bums who never existed.

~Orson Welles

Paris is the playwright's delight. New York is the home of directors. London, however, is the actor's city, the only one in the world. In London, actors are given their head.

~Orson Welles

I've always found it very... sanitary to be broke.

~Orson Welles

Human nature is eternal; therefore one who follows his nature keeps his original nature, in the end.

~Orson Welles

Future shock is a sickness which comes from too much change in too short a time. It's the feeling that nothing is permanent anymore.

~Orson Welles

I'm not basically a happy person, but I have all kinds of joy.

~Orson Welles

When you are down and out something always turns up - and it is usually the noses of your friends.

~Orson Welles

People are losing the capacity to listen to words or follow ideas.

~Orson Welles

I have always been more interested in experiment, than in accomplishment.

~Orson Welles

I seem to have no dress sense at all. I'm always being listed in New York among one of the ten worst dressed men of the year. Someone once described me as "looking like an unmade bed." He was right!

~Orson Welles

They teach anything in universities today. You can major in mud pies.

~Orson Welles

The enemy of society is middle class and the enemy of life is middle age.

~Orson Welles

We made civilization in order to impress our girlfriends.

~Orson Welles

If I ever own a restaurant, I will never allow the waiters to ask if the diners like their dishes. Particularly when they're talking.

~Orson Welles

Ignorance sheer ignorance. There is no confidence to equal it. It's only when you know something about a profession that you are timid or careful.

~Orson Welles

Gluttony is not a secret vice.

~Orson Welles

The basic and essential human is the woman.

~Orson Welles

Working is part of life, I don't know how to distinguish between the two... Work is an expression of life.

~Orson Welles

Computers combine things to make new knowledge at such high speed that we cannot absorb it.

~Orson Welles

I'm a provincial. I live very much like a hermit: reading, listening to music, working in the cutting room, writing, commercial work - which doesn't take up that much time.

~Orson Welles

The first thing one must remember about film is that it is a young medium. And it is essential for every responsible artist to cultivate the ground that has been left fallow.

~Orson Welles

I don't think any word can explain a man's life.

~Orson Welles

In my opinion, there are two things that can absolutely not be carried to the screen: the realistic presentation of the sexual act and praying to God.

~Orson Welles

Crooks aren't the worst people, just the stupidest. The fleas of the world.

~Orson Welles

A man is not from where he is born, but where he chooses to die.

~Orson Welles

I love informality. I hate dressing up. I hate to be conventional - and I hate every kind of snob.

~Orson Welles

I've never understood the cult of Hitchcock. Particularly the late American movies... Egotism and laziness. And they're all lit like television shows.

~Orson Welles

Criticism is the essence of creation.

~Orson Welles

I hate television. I hate it as much as peanuts. But I can't stop eating peanuts.

~Orson Welles

Every true artist must, in his own way, be a magician, a charlatan.

~Orson Welles

The camera is much more than a recording apparatus, it is a medium via which messages reach us from another world.

~Orson Welles

The word genius was whispered into my ear, the first thing I ever heard, while I was still mewling in my crib. So it never occurred to me that I wasn't until middle age.

~Orson Welles

On my tombstone, I want written: 'He never did 'Love Boat!'

~Orson Welles

Criminals are never very amusing. It's because they're failures. Those who make real money aren't counted as criminals. This is a class distinction, not an ethical problem.

~Orson Welles

Hollywood is a gold-plated suburb suitable for golfers, gardeners, assorted middlemen, and contented movies stars. I am none of these things.

~Orson Welles

I do not suppose I shall be remembered for anything. But I don't think about my work in those terms. It is just as vulgar to work for the sake of posterity as to work for the sake of money.

~Orson Welles

My kind of director is an actor-director who writes.

~Orson Welles

Living in the lap of luxury isn't bad except that you never know when luxury is going to stand up.

~Orson Welles

I have an unfortunate personality.

~Orson Welles

I have a great love and respect for religion, great love and respect for atheism. What I hate is agnosticism, people who do not choose.

~Orson Welles

What's happening now is what happened before, and often what's going to happen again sometime or other

~Orson Welles

Only in a police state is the job of a policeman easy.

~Orson Welles

The director is the most overrated artist in the world. He is the only artist who, with no talent whatsoever, can be a success for 50 years without his lack of talent ever being discovered.

~Orson Welles

A long-playing full shot is what always separates the men from the boys. Anybody can make movies with a pair of scissors and a two-inch lens.

~Orson Welles

A director is someone who presides over a series of accidents.

~Orson Welles

I don't believe in learning from other people's pictures. I think you should learn from your own interior vision of things and discover, as I say, innocently, as though there had never been anybody.

~Orson Welles

I don't pray really, because I don't want to bore God.

~Orson Welles

At twenty-one, so many things appear solid, permanent, untenable.

~Orson Welles

The director is simply the audience. His job is to preside over accidents.

~Orson Welles

The classy gangster is a Hollywood invention.

~Orson Welles

I've spent most of my mature life trying to prove that I'm not

irresponsible.

~Orson Welles

The ideal American type is perfectly expressed by the Protestant, individualist, anti-conformist, and this is the type that is in the process of disappearing. In reality there are few left.

~Orson Welles

Film is like a colony and there are very few colonists.

~Orson Welles

Ecstasy is not really part of the scene we can do on celluloid.

~Orson Welles

I don't pray because I don't want to bore God.

~Orson Welles

The only reason for doing a play is to make a statement about it, and by that I don't mean a conceit of the producer.

~Orson Welles

I can think of nothing that an audience won't understand. The only problem is to interest them; once they are interested, they understand anything in the world.

~Orson Welles

Did you ever stop to think why cops are always famous for being dumb? Simple. Because they don't have to be anything else.

~Orson Welles

I feel I have to protect myself against things. So I'm pretty careful to lose most of them.

~Orson Welles

If I don't like somebody's looks, I don't like them.

~Orson Welles

Every actor in his heart believes everything bad that's printed about him.

~Orson Welles

Only very intelligent people don't wish they were in politics, and I'm dumb enough to want to be in there.

~Orson Welles

Hollywood is the only industry, even taking in soup companies, which does not have laboratories for the purpose of experimentation.

~Orson Welles

Now I'm an old Christmas tree, the roots of which have died. They just come along and while the little needles fall off me replace them with medallions.

~Orson Welles

A poet needs a pen, a painter a brush, and a director an army.

~Orson Welles

I have made an art form of the interview. The French are the best interviewers, despite their addiction to the triad, like all Cartesians.

~Orson Welles

I look back on my life and it's 95% running around trying to raise money to make movies and 5% actually making them. It's no way to live.

~Orson Welles

I would just like to mention Robert Houdin who in the eighteenth century invented the vanishing birdcage trick and the theater matinee - may he rot and perish. Good afternoon.

~Orson Welles

I'm one of those fellows so frightened of driving that I go 80 miles an hour - and the more frightened I get, the faster I go.

~Orson Welles

A movie in production is the greatest train set a boy could ever have.

~Orson Welles

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