

Paul Haggis

Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, War, Years, Trying, Character, Jobs, Answers, Audience,
Men, Two, Stories, Political, Believe, Giving, Long, World, Responsibility,
Matter, Actors*

I don't think writers should write about answers. I think writers should write about questions.

~Paul Haggis

As a general rule, I don't plan to travel with my Oscars, but we may have to make an exception.

~Paul Haggis

We think we know what's right. With excessive pride comes blindness.

~Paul Haggis

I don't think it's the job of filmmakers to give anybody answers. I do think, though, that a good film makes you ask questions of yourself as you leave the theatre.

~Paul Haggis

I was in a cult for thirty-four years. Everyone else could see it. I don't know why I couldn't.

~Paul Haggis

We crash into each other just so we can feel something.

~Paul Haggis

We're trying to reinvent Bond. He's 28 - no Q, no gadgets.

~Paul Haggis

I like to write about things about which I have no answers, questions that trouble me. These things trouble me.

~Paul Haggis

You have to be careful of the advice you take.

~Paul Haggis

You hear this story that we're all on the left, but when there's a

demonstration, you count how many actors actually come out. If there's a half dozen, that would be a big day.

~Paul Haggis

If you change the right mind, then that person can perhaps change the world.

~Paul Haggis

Usually the characters are where I start. Then I continually ask myself, 'What's the worst thing that could happen to this character?'

~Paul Haggis

Always write from your gut, no matter what the project is.

~Paul Haggis

What I love about writing is the contradictions we all embody as human beings.

~Paul Haggis

United States could be a great country. It needs to be a great country. It's our responsibility as citizens to make that happen, every single one of us.

~Paul Haggis

You don't do pictures because the audience is ready for them. You do them because there's something gnawing at you, something inside.

~Paul Haggis

I've lived in America for many years. I mean, I love being a Canadian, but I truly identify with America. I love America so much.

~Paul Haggis

The stereotypes we pretend that we reject are ingrained in our DNA.

~Paul Haggis

I like to really respect the audience and let them come through on answers.

~Paul Haggis

Right after we invaded Iraq, I put a sign on my lawn that said "War is not the answer." That sign was either defaced, ripped up, or stolen every week. I had to replace that sign twelve times.

~Paul Haggis

I was trying to talk about where we are right now as a society, and talk about the fear we all live in, and certainly since 9-11, how it's affected us and the world.

~Paul Haggis

I try not to think of actors as I'm writing because I think you do them a disservice by writing for things they've already done.

~Paul Haggis

It turns out that good actors can make anything believable.

~Paul Haggis

I just love actors, and I've always loved actors. I empathize with their job. Everyone thinks it's easy, and it ain't. To be that vulnerable and brave on camera is tough.

~Paul Haggis

It takes me awhile to find something that I'm passionate about. I'm reading a lot and thinking a lot, and torturing myself a lot because I'm feeling really guilty for not writing something today.

~Paul Haggis

I just always try to find an interesting story and tell it well. That's a hard enough thing to do, whether it's a piece of fiction or it's a small piece of reality. I just look for good story.

~Paul Haggis

The wrong one will start saying things like "withdraw with honor." We've heard phrases like that before, and they led to thousands and thousands of deaths. Democrats always want to look tough.

~Paul Haggis

This is our fault. My fault as much as the next man's, because even if I was against the war, I didn't do enough to stop it.

~Paul Haggis

I wanted to do a political film that is as nonpartisan as can be, because I wanted to do a story that was American. I wanted to tell an American tragedy.

~Paul Haggis

When we're threatened, it's very easy to appeal to our basic natures.

~Paul Haggis

You don't make a film because the audience is ready for it. You make a film because you have questions that are in your gut.

~Paul Haggis

I miss my mother very, very much.

~Paul Haggis

We never did just one take. Multiple takes. Many. I did a bunch. Sometimes I do one take. Sometimes I did 20.

~Paul Haggis

We give you characters we'd feel very comfortable judging, and then go: 'Oh yeah? Watch this'.

~Paul Haggis

We all have these tendencies in us that could go this way or that. I think that's the real key in writing. To look at a character without judgment.

~Paul Haggis

As soon as you think you know Clint Eastwood, you don't know Clint Eastwood.

~Paul Haggis

I'm a deeply broken person, and broken institutions fascinate me.

~Paul Haggis

A creative person has to believe in the unseen and the untouched.

~Paul Haggis

What happens when these young men and women come home so scarred and so wounded? We are ignoring that fact. We're just shoving them under the carpet.

~Paul Haggis

Unless I'm really uneasy with what I'm writing, I lose interest very quickly.

~Paul Haggis

I optioned the magazine article. That was end of 2003. It was a time when the war was incredibly popular here and everyone was driving around with flags on their car, if you remember not too long ago.

~Paul Haggis

There are very few guys like me. I make a lot of money. I didn't always.

~Paul Haggis

There's something that's so basically corrupt about any system in which a good and fair profit is not enough. There has to be more, every year, every quarter, because your stock price has to rise.

~Paul Haggis

Every 10 years, I know less about love and relationships. The smarter I get, the less I know.

~Paul Haggis

If you're in a relationship and you try to trust somebody who's completely untrustworthy, when trust is the basis of any relationship and everyone else says not to trust, is love transformative.

~Paul Haggis

If you believe in someone enough, and you just don't stop believing in them, no matter what, no matter how much they push you away, and no matter how often they prove they're only there to use you.

~Paul Haggis

When I started to allow the characters to go where they wanted to go, I just had to follow.

~Paul Haggis

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