

Paul Schrader

Quotes

Thinking, Writing, People, Art, Book, Generations, Black And White, Artist, Emotional, God, Character, Awake, Columbia, Doe, Normal, Dirty, Unhappy, Pay, Animal, Believe

The secret of the creative life is to feel at ease with your own embarrassment.

~Paul Schrader

Screenplays are not works of art. They are invitations to others to collaborate on a work of art.

~Paul Schrader

Let's just shoot in black and white. Don't explain why. Have no reason for it. Just do it because it's interesting.

~Paul Schrader

If you write interesting roles, you get interesting people to play them. If you write roles that are full of nuance and contradiction and have interesting dialog, actors are drawn to that.

~Paul Schrader

One of the things that I do like about filmmaking is that you find out how to solve new problems.

~Paul Schrader

Once you have a situation that is fresh, then you sort of believe in it and it becomes normal. So you do end up with protagonists that haven't been in other movies before.

~Paul Schrader

I teach a course in screenwriting at Columbia, but I've never taken a course and I've never read a book about it!

~Paul Schrader

Don't ever let the viewer settle in and get ahead of you.

~Paul Schrader

Ultimately, it's an illusion that you can understand yourself.

~Paul Schrader

Those artists who say that somehow therapy or analysis will thwart their creativity are completely misinformed. It's absolutely the opposite: it opens closed doors.

~Paul Schrader

I want to be happy; why do I do things that make me unhappy?

~Paul Schrader

You think it's a blessing to know what God wants? I'll tell you what he wants. He wants to push me over! Can't he see what's inside of me? All my sins.

~Paul Schrader

The only economic paradigm that movies have ever known is capitalism. There were no church sponsors or state patronage. The idea was that if you'd pay to see it, we'll make it for you.

~Paul Schrader

You can't take contradiction away. Part of the fun of it is that the contradiction never really quite goes away.

~Paul Schrader

All the animals come out at night.

~Paul Schrader

There's no escape. I'm God's only man.

~Paul Schrader

The clock is impotent; mechanical time does not affect those living in an eternal present.

~Paul Schrader

Anything that doesn't bore me I think is doable because it's keeping me awake.

~Paul Schrader

I don't think it's very useful to open wide the door for young artists; the ones who break down the door are more interesting.

~Paul Schrader

I get bored very easily. I find most movies boring. I go to movies and ask, "How do they stay awake making this?"

~Paul Schrader

That's just my disposition - to create a situation where you have to come up with something.

~Paul Schrader

Nobody has shot a strip club in black and white in a long time.

~Paul Schrader

I was raised as a Calvinist, which is doctrine-driven. And though there are many things wrong with Calvinism, you are at least encouraged to argue about things.

~Paul Schrader

'Taxi Driver' wasn't autobiographical in terms of the actual events, but I did draw on my own mental state.

~Paul Schrader

I was looking for people who didn't have any preconceptions about films, what I call the "post-rules" generation.

~Paul Schrader

Now I see it clearly. My whole life has pointed in one direction. I see that now. There never has been any choice for me.

~Paul Schrader

As screenwriters, we struggle with our own success. We have wallpapered our world and now we can't get anyone to notice the picture we just hung.

~Paul Schrader

Words are a completely different form of expression. The word P-E-N-I-S is an entirely different form of communication than a photograph of the same thing. H

~Paul Schrader

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