

# Paul Thomas Anderson Quotes

*Film, Writing, Thinking, Book, Jobs, School, Guy, People, Want, Done, Father,  
Firsts, Baby, Actors, Geek, Good Movie, Pride, Lasts, Fun, Long*

My older sister was at the cusp of new wave, and I had older brothers from my father's first marriage who were rock 'n' roll guys, so I was exposed to a lot of popular culture.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

Screenwriting is like ironing. You move forward a little bit and go back and smooth things out.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I'll rebel against powers and principalities, all the time. Always, I will.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

Acting is the hardest job in the entire world. By far. Harder than ditch digging.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

It's a gamble you take, the risk of alienating an audience. But there's a theory - sometimes it's better to confuse them for five minutes than let them get ahead of you for 10 seconds.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

My dad was this sort of avant-garde guy who did all kinds of weird things. He was a true original and anybody who met him never forgot him.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I am always looking for that nuance, that moment of truth, and you can't really do that fast.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

My writing has a lot to do with who I am, and what my life is like, and my relationships to people.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

You write who you are. But you also cheat, and you write what you want to be. It's embarrassing to be the guy who made the movie, knowing you're not exactly who you want to be.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

Film school is a complete con, because the information is there if you want it.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

There's a lot for screenwriters to steal from songwriters, in terms of getting to the point.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I'm completely aware of the fact that I'm a control freak.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

Well I'd really love to work with Robert De Niro, because he's still the most talented actor out there.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

Clinton used to like to get out of the White House a lot. He would take night trips to McDonald's, and stuff like that. I think he wanted to get out of the house.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

If you figure a way to live without serving a master, any master, then let the rest of us know, will you? For you'd be the first person in the history of the world.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I always had a dream about trying to make a movie that had no dialogue in it, that was just music and pictures. I still haven't done it yet, but I tried to get close in the beginning.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

But I'd be lying if I didn't say that every time you go to make a film, you're desperate to either do it better than you did it last time or to not repeat yourself.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I've never been a fan of whimsical or confusing storytelling.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

Of course, I'm no dummy.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I have a feeling, one of those gut feelings, that I'll make pretty good movies the rest of my life.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

To make a film, the final big collaborator that you have is the composer.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I write from my stomach.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I don't think it's a director's job to peek behind the curtain too much.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I don't think the competition's so rough, within the majority of movies made in Hollywood.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

Crazy is so hard to play, there's nothing you can really tell an actor.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

No matter how many times you do it, you don't get used to the sadness - for me at least - of coming to the end of a film.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

How do I respond to criticism? Critically. I listen to all criticism critically.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

We're all children of Kubrick, aren't we? Is there anything you can do that he hasn't done?

~Paul Thomas Anderson

The films that I love are very straightforward stories, like really old-fashioned stuff.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

As I have got older and become a father, there's less and less time for films.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

So with 'There Will Be Blood,' I didn't even really feel like I was adapting a book. I was just desperate to find stuff to write.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I don't miss scenes at all the way that I used to miss them when I was younger making a film. It's actually quite fun to get rid of them now.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I didn't have any desire I might have had 10 years ago to shoot every single word that I wrote.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I don't want to be the angry guy.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

You know, I'm really not that competent at describing things musically.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I had the standard movie geek childhood, because for as long as I can remember, all I wanted to do was make movies.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

I'm not really a Sundance baby, but they helped me so much I feel I have to acknowledge it.

~Paul Thomas Anderson

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