

# Robert Altman

## Quotes

*Thinking, Film, People, Years, Mean, Men, Trying, Pieces, Nice, Giving, Heart,  
Art, Actors, Want, Boys, Foxes, Hollywood, Cutting, Light, Children*

Filmmaking is a chance to live many lifetimes.

~Robert Altman

I never knew what I wanted, except that it was something I hadn't seen before.

~Robert Altman

[The Player is] not a truthful indictment of Hollywood. It's much uglier than I portrayed it, but nobody would've been interested if I'd shown just how sadistic, cruel and self-orientated it is.

~Robert Altman

Your own ego is the only trap that I think you can fall into.

~Robert Altman

I love fishing. You put that line in the water and you don't know what's on the other end. Your imagination is under there.

~Robert Altman

Chance is another name that we give to our mistakes. And all of the best things in my films are mistakes.

~Robert Altman

I don't think screenplay writing is the same as writing - I mean, I think it's blueprinting.

~Robert Altman

If you have a child who is seven feet tall, you don't cut off his head or his legs. You buy him a bigger bed and hope he plays basketball.

~Robert Altman

All of my films deal with the same thing: striving, socially and culturally, to stay alive.

~Robert Altman

What is an ending? There's no such thing. Death is the only ending.

~Robert Altman

I have never made a movie that's attracted a 14-year-old boy.

~Robert Altman

It's all just one film to me. Just different chapters.

~Robert Altman

If George W. Bush is elected president, I'm leaving for France.

~Robert Altman

Men make clothes for the women they'd like to be with or in most cases the women they'd like to be.

~Robert Altman

Most of my films I call arena films. I deal with a confined area -- an arena -- and I try to cover every aspect of it.

~Robert Altman

Jazz has endured because it doesn't have a beginning or an ending. It's a moment.

~Robert Altman

I'll give you the same advice I give my children: Never take advice from anybody.

~Robert Altman

That wasn't an ending. It was just a stopping point.

~Robert Altman

Retirement? You're talking about death, right?

~Robert Altman

The minute you have more than one voice, you have more possibilities opening up. You have all the molecules in all of those bodies and their make up interacting.

~Robert Altman

I've had it-the agencies, the winking, the networks, the ratings. Anyone who thinks TV is an art medium is crazy-it's an advertising medium.

~Robert Altman

Why should I keep doing things that I've done before?

~Robert Altman

Maybe there's a chance to get back to grown-up films. Anything that uses humor and dramatic values to deal with human emotions and gets down to what people are to people.

~Robert Altman

We make too much of the good and too much of the bad.

~Robert Altman

Every ad for every film is exactly the same.

~Robert Altman

I don't know what "Altmanesque" means, though I suppose I'm flattered by it.

~Robert Altman

What is a cult? It just means not enough people to make a minority.

~Robert Altman

Titanic I thought was the most dreadful piece of work I've ever seen in my entire life. Another film that I think is equally bad was American Beauty. So badly acted and directed. But people like that.

~Robert Altman

The Oscar for the films, it'd be nice. But I don't make those kind of films, and I don't think that will ever happen.

~Robert Altman

You will never see 'Altman's Great Film of the Seventies: The Director's Cut' because you have never seen a film of mine that wasn't the director's cut. I have never permitted it.

~Robert Altman

[M\*A\*S\*H] didn't get released by FOX, it escaped.

~Robert Altman

Wisdom and love have nothing to do with each other. Wisdom is staying alive, survival. You're wise if you don't stick your finger in the light plug. Love - you'll stick your finger in anything.

~Robert Altman

I like audiences to crane their necks.

~Robert Altman

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