

Sergio Leone

Quotes

*America, Thinking, Cinema, Ideas, Men, Film, People, Character, Directors,
Want, Country, Looks, Dream, Interesting, Italian, Years, World, Oscars, Once
Upon A Time, Moving*

When I was young, I believed in three things: Marxism, the redemptive power of cinema, and dynamite. Now I just believe in dynamite.

~Sergio Leone

In my childhood, America was like a religion. Then, real-life Americans abruptly entered my life - in jeeps - and upset all my dreams.

~Sergio Leone

My life, my reading, everything about me revolves around the cinema. So for me, cinema is life, and vice-versa.

~Sergio Leone

The important thing is to make a different world, to make a world that is not now. A real world, a genuine world, but one that allows myth to live. The myth is everything.

~Sergio Leone

When you manage to express something with a look and the music instead of saying it with words or having the character speak, I think it's a more complete work.

~Sergio Leone

Where life had no value, death, sometimes, had its price. That is why the bounty killers appeared.

~Sergio Leone

Probably the greatest writer of westerns himself was Homer. His character were never all good or all bad. They're half and half, these characters, as all human beings are.

~Sergio Leone

You see in Once Upon a Time in the West the whole film moves around her [Claudia Cardinale]. If you take her out, there's no more film. She's the central motor of the entire happening.

~Sergio Leone

There are directors, and there are authors. I think I am more of an author than a director.

~Sergio Leone

I can't see America any other way than with a European's eyes. It fascinates me and terrifies me at the same time.

~Sergio Leone

The function of the flashback is Freudian...You have to let them wander like the imagination or like a dream.

~Sergio Leone

It's very difficult to be original.

~Sergio Leone

I was born with this bow tie made of celluloid on my collar.

~Sergio Leone

When I used a woman in my films or wrote a woman into my film, I wanted her to be a central point and a motivating point or a catalyst to function in the film.

~Sergio Leone

It's very easy with the camera to show the positive side of something.

~Sergio Leone

It is hard to do a film that wants to say something because, unfortunately, most everything has been said.

~Sergio Leone

I think that my films are westerns only in their exterior aspects. Within them are some of my truths, which happily, I see, belong to lots of parts

of the world. Not just America.

~Sergio Leone

Sometimes, I even recite the role to the actor if it's not clear. And I beg them not to imitate me, because I'm not a good actor.

~Sergio Leone

All the people I've met, many outside of cinema, knew everything perfectly about one thing or one subject or one area.

~Sergio Leone

I was born in 1929, and in the 50 years from 1930 to 1980, I've been able to live an unbelievably varied century. Before, you could never have seen such intense change in a 50-year span.

~Sergio Leone

Producing films was a distraction for me for which I payed dearly.

~Sergio Leone

When I used Claudia [Cardinale] for example, in Once Upon a Time in the West, she represented the birth of American matriarchy. Because women had enormous weight in America.

~Sergio Leone

I don't enter into particulars with [Ennio Morricone]. I give him the feeling and the suggestions of the characters.

~Sergio Leone

If there is an auteur who influenced me - and there is only one - that is Charlie Chaplin. And he never won an Oscar.

~Sergio Leone

I really do believe that the Jesuit system is better for a country.

~Sergio Leone

I think women have always been considered objects, especially in the genre of westerns.

~Sergio Leone

The American public is a very specialized public.

~Sergio Leone

[The director] has to, I feel, be one step back, not only from cinema, but also from politics and all these issues in order to tell and depict the situation that spreads to people.

~Sergio Leone

I never worry about what they think about me. Because I feel so far away from what my Italian colleagues have done that I almost automatically become an isolated director.

~Sergio Leone

The world is in America. In Italy is only Italy. France is full of France. Germany is full of Germany. In a continent that contains the entire world, contradictions are, of course, constantly arising.

~Sergio Leone

I think that men of my generation - not me in particular - are among the most fortunate men in the universe.

~Sergio Leone

Virginia Woolf was one example. She was called the "Lover of 100 Gangsters."

~Sergio Leone

My films are often characterized by the lack of women present in them, except for this last one [Once Upon a Time in America].

~Sergio Leone

It's difficult to find new solicitations, new expressions. But this is talking about filmmaking. Cinema.

~Sergio Leone

I am searching as Diogenes did with his lantern for all of these wonderful human beings. I haven't found them yet.

~Sergio Leone

I've tried to consider stories that I have read, making them into films, but they would turn out unnatural. If a producer wants that, he should call other people. Not me.

~Sergio Leone

I think even in American schools, they must be studying in a specialized manner.

~Sergio Leone

If a director takes the time to document - to step back to observe - I think it I more honest. Because it has to be the public that makes the conclusions and who, possibly, resolves the situation.

~Sergio Leone

I've shot films in Africa. I've shot in America - English is not my language.

~Sergio Leone

I realized than an author cannot also be a producer.

~Sergio Leone

I think politics should be expressed in this way and not in other ways. And not just politics - sentiments, even certain states of being.

~Sergio Leone

It is clear that the vehicle of the western was a very interesting vehicle

for me to contraband some of my ideas.

~Sergio Leone

I've always had the sensation that people in America are always avant-garde. Very attentive to all the new innovations. But it's very specialized.

~Sergio Leone

I don't want to do a war film per se. Nor do I want to do a political film.

~Sergio Leone

Charlie Chaplin, too, through spectacle, contraband certain ideas, put them through, ideas that even today are not being expressed by great statesmen and politicians.

~Sergio Leone

There was also the myth of the western films. But my films are borrowed not from the story of the West in America but from the story of cinema.

~Sergio Leone

When one goes to see Modern Times, for instance, one understands much more about socialism than listening to the man who was then head of the Socialist movement in Italy.

~Sergio Leone

America is so varied and exciting that after six months, you go back and find it completely changed.

~Sergio Leone

I admit that some of my ideas may have turned out to be pessimistic in nature.

~Sergio Leone

I had never thought of making a western even as I was making it.

~Sergio Leone

I work with intuition. With interpreters. I have my own method. I know exactly what I want from actors. Sometimes, I even recite the role to the actor if it's not clear.

~Sergio Leone

It's natural to me that someone who loved that type of music or that type of spectacle would copy it, to do something, a video. It seems the most natural thing in the world to me.

~Sergio Leone

The first must that any director has is to not force his public.

~Sergio Leone

I'm terrified by young people who are doing what they think is film making. What they're really doing is taking that convulsed, fast rhythm of commercials. It's not film making.

~Sergio Leone

Women had enormous weight in America. And they still have. Because they are truly the padrone [owners, masters] of America.

~Sergio Leone

It [film-making] really just has to do with my own ghosts and phantoms. And I have to say, in the end, it's just my way of seeing things.

~Sergio Leone

I think, to go to the bottom of it all, that the films I have made and my kind of film-making is a hybrid type of film-making - in that it isn't American, it isn't Italian.

~Sergio Leone

I've always believed that true cinema is cinema of the imagination.

~Sergio Leone

I have to be honest about one thing. When I went to America, no one asked me how I was. Everyone always asked me, "How much do you make?"

~Sergio Leone

I always fish out antique ideas, very old ideas.

~Sergio Leone

My mother was an actress. My father was an actor and a director. I am the son of filmmakers.

~Sergio Leone

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