

Steven Soderbergh Quotes

*People, Thinking, Ideas, Believe, Years, Mean, Want, Film, Art, Way, Trying,
Keys, Moving, Long, Fun, Talking, Directors, Kind, Differences, Two*

I think I'm good at amplifying an actor's strengths, and minimizing their weaknesses. And they all have strengths and weaknesses.

~Steven Soderbergh

When a film like Chris Nolan's Memento cannot get picked up, to me independent film is over. It's dead.

~Steven Soderbergh

To me the director's job is to leave it in better shape than you found it, literally.

~Steven Soderbergh

If you're sitting around thinking what other people think about your work, you'll just become paralysed.

~Steven Soderbergh

We [people] are a species that's wired to tell stories. We need stories. It's how we make sense of things. It's how we learn.

~Steven Soderbergh

I want to thank anyone who spends part of their day creating...anybody who spends part of their day sharing their experience with us-I think this world would be unlivable without art and I thank you.

~Steven Soderbergh

You're supposed to expand your mind to fit the art, you're not supposed to chop the art down to fit your mind.

~Steven Soderbergh

What are the stories you want people to tell about you?

~Steven Soderbergh

There are three major social issues that this country is struggling with: education, poverty, and drugs. Two of them we talk about, and one of

them we don't.

~Steven Soderbergh

The ought to be a worldwide cultural taskforce that just stops you when you have ideas like combining The Red Desert with an armored car heist movie.

~Steven Soderbergh

When things go right it's hard to figure out why, but when things go wrong it's really easy.

~Steven Soderbergh

In the land of ideas, you are always renting.

~Steven Soderbergh

We're all standing on the shoulders of what other people have done. But you're supposed to take that and add your own sauce. It can be intimidating, believe me.

~Steven Soderbergh

In nature, if a cell gets too big, it divides. You can't come up with a set of rules that's going to work for 350 million people. You're just not.

~Steven Soderbergh

Never had a cup of coffee in my life. Dr Pepper is my caffeine delivery system of choice.

~Steven Soderbergh

There's a difference between failures and things that are bad.

~Steven Soderbergh

Traffic is about drugs. As detailed a portrait as I can muster about what is happening in the drug world, from top to bottom, from policy to how things move on the street.

~Steven Soderbergh

We all get outraged by things and there are things that make us angry and maybe for a while we get angry enough to actually go do something about it.

~Steven Soderbergh

The brief flashbacks are sun-kissed, summery and optimistic. It's the only place in the movie you will see red, yellow, orange, or any vibrant colors.

~Steven Soderbergh

The key is, if you're not monkeying around with the script, then everything usually goes pretty well.

~Steven Soderbergh

Some filmmakers, you know, have their style and then they kind of go looking for the movie. I'm not like that. I don't have one style that I want to take from movie to movie.

~Steven Soderbergh

There is sadness of when you're watching someone enjoy something that you think is substandard. The ineffable sadness when someone is happy and something is not as good as it should be.

~Steven Soderbergh

A Movie That Costs Only \$1.6 Million Doesn't Have to Be a Cultural Event to Turn a Profit.

~Steven Soderbergh

A movie is something you see, cinema is something that's made.

~Steven Soderbergh

Lying is like alcoholism. You are always recovering.

~Steven Soderbergh

A real explosion is not only much more fun to shoot, it also helps the actors and creates an energy on set and ultimately in the scene.

~Steven Soderbergh

Everything is the director's fault - you can quote me on that. There are no excuses.

~Steven Soderbergh

I make every movie like it's the last one. "If this was the last movie, what decision would I make?" That's how I make my decisions.

~Steven Soderbergh

If you think that because you're Che, when you go into Bolivia, when people find out it's you, that they're going to have the same kind of reaction that the Cubans had to Castro, then you're high.

~Steven Soderbergh

I don't consider myself to be particularly gifted in the way that other filmmakers are gifted.

~Steven Soderbergh

People are sort of numb to watching violence, but sexual activity is still as strong as it ever was in terms of generating response.

~Steven Soderbergh

If you're a painter and you want people to know who you are and recognize your work, you've got to build some long-term value.

~Steven Soderbergh

You should never assume anything coming from a critical standpoint. You should go into everything assuming you're going to get crushed.

~Steven Soderbergh

Making a film that's supposed to be fun to watch is really hard - that's the weird irony of it.

~Steven Soderbergh

I look at other filmmakers and see skills in them that I wish I had but I know that I don't. I feel like I have to work really hard to keep myself afloat, doing what I do. But I find it pleasurable.

~Steven Soderbergh

In *Full Frontal* and *K Street*, I learned to take advantage of the mobility that digital provides.

~Steven Soderbergh

I just produced *Criminal*, this remake of *Nine Queens*, and one of the things that appealed to me about *Nine Queens* is that it was a performance piece, and that's the most fun.

~Steven Soderbergh

A lot of people go to the movies wanting the movie to be about feelings, and it's really not about that. Or rather it's about feelings in the abstract.

~Steven Soderbergh

I come from a generation that was surrounded by popular music, but I don't know if anybody's ever going to move the ball forward as far and as fast as the Beatles did.

~Steven Soderbergh

That's why my attitude, even on my larger-scale movies, is to make them cheap. The less these things cost, the better for everybody.

~Steven Soderbergh

Once I had a potentially heart attack-inducing eight double espressos in one day. I think my assistant secretly swaps my coffees for decaf as

she doesn't want me to die of caffeine overdose.

~Steven Soderbergh

Another thing that really excites me: I'd like to do multiple versions of the same film.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm probably more character-driven than plot-driven. It's rare for me to attach myself to an idea for a story.

~Steven Soderbergh

You can't get good at anything unless you do it day in and day out, over and over.

~Steven Soderbergh

All human interaction, you can break it down to incentives. All relationships, at some level, are transactional. They're fascinated with incentives.

~Steven Soderbergh

It takes one asshole to ruin the whole thing. That's it. One. The problem with the world is one asshole comes up with a really bad idea and now we're all taking our shoes off at the airport.

~Steven Soderbergh

There's a big difference between a movie about relationships and a movie in which people talk about relationships. It seems like a lot of people have confused the two.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm sure some people will say, 'Why do this?' And my response is, 'Why wouldn't you?' The film business in general is using a model that is outdated and, worse than that, inefficient.

~Steven Soderbergh

You're being mean to someone who's helping you. What is that?
Everyone knows who the assholes are, and I avoid them.

~Steven Soderbergh

People like Chris Nolan are shooting isolated sequences in IMAX.
Those cameras are the size of a Volkswagen.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm always a little unnerved when I see a show that's set in the past that implies in any way that things were nicer then.

~Steven Soderbergh

The key is, how do you feel with the one asshole? They cannot be talked to. That's why they are assholes.

~Steven Soderbergh

I don't have any kind of ideology that precludes me from moving in one direction or another. I just want creative autonomy and I want at least an opportunity that it's going to be seen.

~Steven Soderbergh

I think about art a lot only in two contexts. One is narrative... The other thing that I'm interested in, which is tangential, but not unrelated... All art to me is about problem solving.

~Steven Soderbergh

I had more fun making Traffic than either of the Ocean's films.

~Steven Soderbergh

It's a weird thing to say, but it would appear to me axiomatic that if you understood fully what I was doing and appreciated it, you would like it.

~Steven Soderbergh

My father, who was the one who really got me hooked on movies, liked

all kinds of films, and I saw all kinds of films at a very young age.

~Steven Soderbergh

If you're going to make a movie for ten thousand you can talk everybody into doing it for free. You could make a really good-looking movie right for ten grand, if you have an idea.

~Steven Soderbergh

I always have a plan, but then I'm always ready to throw the plan out, and everyone's ready to make a radical left turn if necessary.

~Steven Soderbergh

I suppose I could try to be some avant-garde artist if I wanted to, but that doesn't interest me as much.

~Steven Soderbergh

I stopped reading reviews about my own movies. I read stuff about other people's movies.

~Steven Soderbergh

I can make a movie about Lee Harvey Oswald and make you feel what he feels and make you understand why he believes what he believes. That doesn't mean I think you should go out and shoot JFK.

~Steven Soderbergh

I tend to be drawn more to people than pure story ideas.

~Steven Soderbergh

Never done an explosion, but I have had explosive diarrhea, and that was very, very real. Good thing I have my trailer.

~Steven Soderbergh

Castro, without question, is one of the smartest politicians that's ever walked.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm obviously really opinionated, but as a producer, you don't necessarily want the person you're working with to try to impress you - you want them to just be themselves.

~Steven Soderbergh

"A meteor hits planet Earth" - that's a story idea but that doesn't give me any indication of what the character is.

~Steven Soderbergh

[I watch] Fincher, Spielberg, Cameron, McTiernan. Just people who are good at staging action. I like to know where I am. I don't like the kind of cutting where you don't know where you are.

~Steven Soderbergh

I like a lot of different kinds of movies, I like a lot of different kinds of paintings.

~Steven Soderbergh

The art model of problem solving is incredibly efficient because ideology has no place there. There's only the thing and what the thing needs to be.

~Steven Soderbergh

The muscle memory of filtering away all the wrong versions of what you're doing improves the more time you're on a film set. I feel like my problem-solving algorithm got kicked up a notch.

~Steven Soderbergh

Anytime you've got something that can take you into the political realm then you've opened up the conversation a lot.

~Steven Soderbergh

There's a technical reason why I think that frame rate is weird and it has to do with your brain's ability to scan beyond a certain rate. The point is I find it looks weird.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm not going to spend two years of my life on something that I'm not excited about.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm a grinder. I'll beat you because I will not sleep.

~Steven Soderbergh

I have a friend whose theory is that you're from wherever you went to high school. I think that's mostly true.

~Steven Soderbergh

Truth and facts have to trump partisanship. There has to be something that's true regardless of what your angle is on it.

~Steven Soderbergh

There's definitely a way of thinking and a way of being in the South that has its advantages and disadvantages.

~Steven Soderbergh

Usually I'm thinking about the palette. I'm thinking about the color for the most part, then I'll start thinking about composition and movement.

~Steven Soderbergh

I like to know where I am. I don't like the kind of cutting where you don't know where you are.

~Steven Soderbergh

Men tend to define themselves by what they do, and so if you're dealing with a character who's trying to figure that out, or multiple characters,

then there's something there for guys, too.

~Steven Soderbergh

My first three movies, I didn't start editing until we were finished shooting. That's unthinkable to me now.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm still very affected and moved by their music - maybe in a way that's different from someone who grew up around it.

~Steven Soderbergh

I want to form a political party that's based entirely on what music people listen to. To me, it's a much better barometer of what they think and feel than their political stance.

~Steven Soderbergh

Your take on things is what is either going to make you somebody people talk about or no.

~Steven Soderbergh

Nobody's talking about movies the way they're talking about their favorite TV shows.

~Steven Soderbergh

I think there are only two times that I've ever ended up paying somebody their quote. Like what they actually were worth in the marketplace.

~Steven Soderbergh

I'm a big believer that if there's something you really want to do, don't walk away because of the deal.

~Steven Soderbergh

I actually didn't find out about a lot of music until I was older. Some

people have been listening to the Beatles their whole lives; I didn't discover them until I was 18 years old.

~Steven Soderbergh

It's become absolutely horrible the way the people with the money decide they can fart in the kitchen.

~Steven Soderbergh

Reality shows are all the rage on TV at the moment, but that's not reality, it's just another aesthetic form of fiction.

~Steven Soderbergh

Maybe I'll paint, do photography, just something else. I can see that.

~Steven Soderbergh

Jude [Law] is really good at playing an obsessive. He has a very watchable quality when he's on a quest for something.

~Steven Soderbergh

Well, it's 15 years since Sex, Lies And Videotape, and if you hang around long enough you're having the same arguments with just a new set of people every few years and it gets boring.

~Steven Soderbergh

But my sense in talking to people when I travel is that the film business is not that dissimilar from a lot of other businesses.

~Steven Soderbergh

It's a world in which people's motives are questionable and shadowy.

~Steven Soderbergh

I find myself in situations a lot where I have to say to someone, "This can be better," and it's hard to say that.

~Steven Soderbergh

I think the feeling that we're going to work together again usually starts to come up before the first project's even done. The Black Keys and I have already talked about starting on something new.

~Steven Soderbergh

You can't change who you are, so I think that the only thing you can do is just never talk to people about stuff and then hope that maybe does something.

~Steven Soderbergh

When we look at what's going on in the world and we see the immense level of conflict that seems to always be happening - you can always trace it back to competing narratives.

~Steven Soderbergh

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