

Vilmos Zsigmond

Quotes

*Thinking, Directors, People, Light, Cameras, Art, Film, Mean, Digital, Way,
Different, Technology, Photography, Should, Real, Reality, America, Actors,
Years, Shadow*

I like to say that lighting is about taking the light away. I often like to use the shadows more than the light.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

For me, movies should be visual. If you want dialogue, you should read a book.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

There is something missing in a lot of digital filmmaking, something I call "poetic reality." That's something you see played out in film noir, where the technique establishes the mood.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

You can't just stick with what you know, you have to evolve.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

As the cinematographer is usually more visual than the director is and full cooperation is really the answer and to make a great film, you need a good director and you need a good cinematographer.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

The best way to know when there's good lighting is when you don't notice it.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

If you do not bother to take the time to compose and to light properly, then you end up with something almost less than reality. You end up without the soul, the heart, the art of the moment.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I'm always looking in the lighting to tell the story in a different way than it actually looks in real life because it's, for me, more contrast sometimes has to mean it's softer than normal.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I hope that film is going to stay as an artform and that people won't forget that there are good movies also to be made.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I think film is about images. Cinema needs good images. I think that if you don't have good images, it's not going to be a good film. I think all films should be really visual.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

There is something more to "reality" than just the tangible. There is also mood, and you cannot skip that.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I think that film is still an artform and it doesn't really matter if you're using a digital camera or a film camera.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I'm always looking for directors who are very strong, they have great ideas, but on the other hand, that need help. It means they rely mostly on my eyes.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I am actually retired - yes, I am retired. But I like to work. So I'm retired until someone calls me up to work.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

Kubrick was one of those directors who actually did practically everything in his movies. He actually directed, photographed, wrote, lit, edited - everything. A few people can be like that.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

What I would suggest to the young people is to not forget this and don't try to get assimilated into today's Hollywood style of movies because I don't think it's going to last long.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

When I first came to America there still was Look Magazine and LIFE Magazine, and the photography in those magazines was amazing to look at. They had the best portraits, and their news photography.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I don't like to be in front of the camera - my place is behind the camera.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I think too many film students in America are losing the artistry and not learning lighting the right way.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I look at a picture like Scarecrow and think, 'Jesus, how could they have let us make that?' I mean, if you used technology that old nowadays, it would look like old Hollywood.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

As an actor, Sean [Penn] is brilliant. And he's really an excellent director, as well. We got along really well.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I love Woody Allen. He's very clever, always thinking, and he's great with actors. He lets actors do what they want to do and occasionally he'll give them a specific kind of direction.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I don't know the American photographers as well, but I admit I love Ansel Adams. His landscapes are so crisp.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

There are, of course, many, many, many good cinematographers and unfortunately they don't work as much as many of those people who do

those crazy, stupid movies.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I love to make movies about young people - young scientists that are inventing things and all the writing they did was very funny and very true.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I like the film camera better because the film is still one hundred times better than any digital image at the moment. So, there are certain movies that you can't really do digitally.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

Spielberg was very young and starting up when we did Sugarland Express and I loved that, but the main thing was that I really loved his talent.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

Even in manipulating the images, I would like to do my dailies in a digital way because you can do so many things in that stage that I cannot do in real photography.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I really like to work with people who know a lot, but they also give me space so I can add something to the movie.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

When I do a still picture, I'm doing it all by myself with no help. I'm designing everything. I am my own art director. I'm doing everything. I'm directing, editing, whatever.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

When you are shooting a movie, you have to collaborate with many, many, many people. First of all, the director with all his own ideas and I

can only just help him with that. I cannot change his idea.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

Each story has a different approach for me and I try to work with lighting that will tell you visually the story better than if it was shot in available light.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I had never met Woody Allen before Melinda and Melinda. My agent knew the producer of the movie and he suggested that we would work well together and then we did. We had a great time on that film.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

If you use hand-held techniques just to make the film stylish I think it's wrong.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

Sometimes the shots serve as homages to other movies and other directors, like Hitchcock.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I don't think there is any advantage to digital unless it's in a case like Slumdog Millionaire, where you have to get a shot and a big bulky film camera is out of the question.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

You used to feed a piece of celluloid into an editor. [Digital] is not expensive and that is an advantage, but I must say that I don't love it.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I should mention Vittorio Storaro, who was Bernardo Bertolucci's cinematographer. You watch those films and they are exceptional.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

There are many, many different kinds of movies and directors and styles. I don't mind that a movie looks like a movie.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

I am not against digital at all.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

Some movies are what I would call murky. Just because it's murky doesn't make it artistic. It makes it hard to see.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

A good [film] director is talented, imaginative, and does his homework.

~Vilmos Zsigmond

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