

Willem Dafoe

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Character, Actors, Different, Giving, Interesting, Stories,
Want, Sometimes, Directors, Important, Ideas, Real, Theatre, Crazy,
Opportunity, Challenges, Trying, Looks*

I was born William. My father was William. I came from a big family, I hated being called Billy. Willem's a nickname; it's a Dutch name, very common in the Netherlands.

~Willem Dafoe

The worst thing is to get involved with people who aren't passionate about what they're doing.

~Willem Dafoe

The English Patient' is about the coming together of a French-Canadian nurse, an English patient, a Sikh in a turban and me, Caravaggio, and each of us is seeking a resolution to our own problems.

~Willem Dafoe

Great theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to.

~Willem Dafoe

Sometimes I think women are lucky because they can develop in ways men can't. The old-boy network may be oppressive to women, but it actually stunts men in terms of personal growth.

~Willem Dafoe

I never act. I simply bring out the real animal that's in me.

~Willem Dafoe

The mask can be a limitation, but you just deal with it. You do get superhuman strength and pumpkin bombs and all this other stuff to express yourself with.'

~Willem Dafoe

You have to lose yourself to find yourself.

~Willem Dafoe

Action breeds inspiration more than inspiration breeds action.

~Willem Dafoe

I guess they often cast me as the bad guy, because I'm not, er, conventional looking. I look sort of violent. I'm the odd one out, the outsider.

~Willem Dafoe

Film is fragmented and gets into lots of other people's hands. There are a lot of pleasures that theatre gives me. You get to perform uninterrupted.

~Willem Dafoe

You can be intuitive when you've got a more expansive role. You can get into the poetry of telling the story rather than just pushing buttons.

~Willem Dafoe

Weirdness is not my game. I'm just a square boy from Wisconsin.

~Willem Dafoe

Basically, when I hear the words 'family drama' I run in the opposite direction.

~Willem Dafoe

A lot of critics are lazy. They don't want to look closely and analyze something for what it is. They take a quick first impression and then rush to compare it to something they've seen before.

~Willem Dafoe

When I was a kid I was very interested in the idea of the will, finding out what you're capable of. I liked those kind of challenges.

~Willem Dafoe

I don't have a preference between theatre and film; I like to do both. But

I will say that there's something about theatre that is more nourishing and sustaining than film ever can be.

~Willem Dafoe

Performing is about developing empathy, which leads us to a broader view of the world and encourages us to develop compassion; so we can comfort each other and not be so brutal with each other.

~Willem Dafoe

As you get older, you suffer fools less easily. That's why there's all those cranky character actors. I'm an exception. I'm a sweetheart.

~Willem Dafoe

When you have something to work with, then you fly with it.

~Willem Dafoe

There's a real wisdom to not saying a thing.

~Willem Dafoe

Turn off the sound in a movie, and if you can tell what's going on, the movie should work.

~Willem Dafoe

I want to work with people who are good at what they do, and people who are passionate.

~Willem Dafoe

Any actor who tells you that he makes choices, absolutely, is wrong. You find work and work finds you.

~Willem Dafoe

I do want to be in mainstream movies that are going to be seen. I suppose it satisfies the showbiz side of me.

~Willem Dafoe

All the time, as an actor, you want to be asking what's next and where things are going. If you're not asking those questions, you're not growing.

~Willem Dafoe

I'm a task-oriented actor. A pretender. And I try to invent my process anew each time I make a new project. So I frown on any method.

~Willem Dafoe

The best thing an actor can be is ready. Be flexible, be ready.

~Willem Dafoe

I have some sort of affinity for compulsive behavior. The most interesting stories come up from the people on the outside.

~Willem Dafoe

I set myself challenges every time I work. Ideally I approach everything as though it's the first time - with a beginner's mind and an amateur's love.

~Willem Dafoe

I'm learning in my old age that the only thing you can do to keep your sanity is to stay in the moment.

~Willem Dafoe

I think on some level, you do your best things when you're a little off-balance, a little scared. You've got to work from mystery, from wonder, from not knowing.

~Willem Dafoe

I don't think people want to see me as a regular guy. Besides, I'm a regular guy in real life. I guess I just want to be reckless in my work.

~Willem Dafoe

I've never had any close male friends. The most important relationships in my life have always been with women.

~Willem Dafoe

I'm no different to anyone else; I want people to like me. I just don't particularly want them to understand me.

~Willem Dafoe

The truth is, if you're around long enough, you have a story about everyone. But it's best to keep your mouth shut sometimes.

~Willem Dafoe

Central to being an actor is pretending, and the adventure of it all. That's why you become a junkie for different kinds of situations.

~Willem Dafoe

Celebrity is okay as long as you know it's not about you.

~Willem Dafoe

Emotionally men and women are different, but only as a result of the physical differences. It all comes back to our bodies.

~Willem Dafoe

It's fair to say that if you have a lot of experience, your power is greater. You have more of an opportunity to roll up your sleeves with younger directors.

~Willem Dafoe

I love doing action and stuff; the problem is usually action movies are not that interesting. Also as I get older I feel like there's less opportunities for me.

~Willem Dafoe

In my experience, sometimes a movie just hits at the wrong time, gets

the wrong press, or gets the wrong representation, and it gets misunderstood.

~Willem Dafoe

It's no fun for an actor to keep repeating what you did before. It's always changing. I'm changing. The target keeps moving. That's the beauty of it.

~Willem Dafoe

Let's hope I never end up on a deserted island, because I could never make a decision on which three CDs to take with me.

~Willem Dafoe

My dad was a surgeon, my mom a nurse, and they were always out working. I had five sisters and a brother. They didn't care what I got up to.

~Willem Dafoe

The director's very important to me, particularly when the director has a recognizable style.

~Willem Dafoe

Truth is, generally I like film festivals; somewhere at some level there's an exchange of ideas.

~Willem Dafoe

It makes me laugh when I hear a guy talking about being in touch with his feminine side. But I gravitate towards women, I identify with them. And I do cry very easily, more and more as I get older.

~Willem Dafoe

Plenty of bad movies are very successful, and plenty of good movies are not. And distribution is so crazy, some films won't even get their day in court.

~Willem Dafoe

I pride myself on being fairly polite on a set so it's kind of a guilty pleasure to poke others on the set.

~Willem Dafoe

With theatre, you have to be ready for anything.

~Willem Dafoe

I was watching 'Wild at Heart,' and I can honestly say I did nothing for that apart from show up!

~Willem Dafoe

When I give over to somebody's vision rather than have an idea of what I need to do, it takes me to places I wouldn't have got to by myself. I'm always attracted to a strong director.

~Willem Dafoe

Each of the actors is quite different, but they're all living in the same world.

~Willem Dafoe

Usually when you meet with a director, just meeting them after you've seen something you're interested in, they say, "Oh I'd love to work together," and sometimes you never hear from them again.

~Willem Dafoe

That's a frustration sometimes, that certain directors that I'd like to work with, they just aren't doing stories that I'm sort of castable in. Not always, but sometimes I have that frustration.

~Willem Dafoe

I'll never be able to really see a film that I'm in.

~Willem Dafoe

I don't worry so much about the audience. I want them very much to be involved and enjoy the movie, but I try to just inhabit the character in a full way, where I can create a personal stake.

~Willem Dafoe

I don't think people are interested in my personal life. I've never had a Hollywood life. I've always been a worker.

~Willem Dafoe

I try to do as many of my own stunts as possible. If you keep on taking yourself out of the role you play, you lose the thread of the character.

~Willem Dafoe

I've been in very few flat-out comedies. But I feel like I've always made comedies.

~Willem Dafoe

Socially, I like the idea of sitting in a theater with a bunch of people.

~Willem Dafoe

Sometimes you make very interesting movies that aren't meant for everybody. But this is a capitalist society, so everything conspires to put value on whether it sells or not.

~Willem Dafoe

It's too easy to trivialize people. The Internet does it all the time.

~Willem Dafoe

It's nice to go back with people that you already trust.

~Willem Dafoe

I aspire to be an instrument of the director. I'm happiest like that. The stronger the director, the more I'm willing to give them.

~Willem Dafoe

Sometimes you feel like you have to do research to make something, other times you know you don't feel it so much.

~Willem Dafoe

Film is an editor's medium. You can create very good raw material and they can make it horrible, or you can do not so well and they can make it beautiful. You don't really know.

~Willem Dafoe

I love Sam Neill. The thing that I always say about him, and I think it's true, is he's so dry. When he's serious, I think he's joking; when he's joking, I think he's serious.

~Willem Dafoe

I don't want people to know anything about me, because that's not important. I'm more interested in the me that takes shape through the characters.

~Willem Dafoe

I am confident only when I am constantly in motion. Between projects, the doubt creeps in.

~Willem Dafoe

Sometimes you're wrong, but if I'm a repeat customer, it means I must have valued the past experiences.

~Willem Dafoe

I love theaters. I love the event of going there and seeing a movie with a lot of people. I like the community coming around the story.

~Willem Dafoe

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