

# William H. Macy

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, Actors, Directors, Sex, Character, Want, Real, Violence, Play, Guy, Self, Writing, Cutting, Trying, Acting, Children, Jobs, Care, Independent*

I'm a firm believer that character is highly overrated. Character is a trick that we do with the audience's collusion.

~William H. Macy

I was a dog in a past life. Really. I'll be walking down the street and dogs will do a sort of double take. Like, Hey, I know him.

~William H. Macy

That red carpet has to be felt to be believed.

~William H. Macy

Oh yeah, that's the Holy Grail, Pirates of the Caribbean. Johnny Depp, he's the real deal, isn't he? He doesn't get the girl, and he doesn't care.

~William H. Macy

Shameless is a rough show, and it's not for everyone, but it's also beautiful.

~William H. Macy

It's hard to be depressed around a ukulele. You just pick it up and you're halfway home.

~William H. Macy

I'll tell you this about the Oscars - they're real.

~William H. Macy

There are some older women out there who are just knockouts, real beauties, and they're not getting the roles they should.

~William H. Macy

Everyone hooks up with George Clooney. He's a genuinely cool guy. He's using his powers for good.

~William H. Macy

You should know the lines, be prepared, get sleep, and have the script analyzed so you're ready to rock and roll.

~William H. Macy

I love metaphor the way some people love junk food.

~William H. Macy

It sure is boring to be around people who are in character all the time. I always find it's closer to mental illness than acting excellence.

~William H. Macy

We always want to see people strive and see the human spirit triumph against adversity. That's what it's all about because that's what we're doing. We're trying to triumph in our lives.

~William H. Macy

I'm sure I have a process, but it mostly takes place in my dreams.

~William H. Macy

All that back-story stuff doesn't help. What you get paid for is to stand toe-to-toe with the other actor and get him to do your will.

~William H. Macy

One's complete sentences are attempts, as often as not, to complete an incomplete self with words.

~William H. Macy

The Spirit Awards are great too, they'll say anything because they're not televised. Another great drinking night.

~William H. Macy

Actors are embracing a new aesthetic, which is leaning more toward truthful and simple and direct, as opposed to what we would normally call sitcom acting.

~William H. Macy

We must admit that it is quite common that people do have affairs with their leading ladies and men.

~William H. Macy

I've always felt that, no matter where you go, people are just people.

~William H. Macy

Nobody became an actor because he had a good childhood.

~William H. Macy

Stephen King writes a lot of things that are really charming and quirky, and that are more ironic than horror.

~William H. Macy

Directors work 10 times harder than anyone else. Get paid a quarter.

~William H. Macy

When I watch a film I get swept away. I don't really watch the camera.

~William H. Macy

I got an agent. He said, what do you wanna do, and I said, I want an Oscar nomination. That's your job, that's what I'm paying you for. And I got it.

~William H. Macy

There are statistics out that say 20 year olds, 18 years olds think about sex 90 percent of the time. They only don't think about sex when they're eating, and that's rare.

~William H. Macy

Yeah, I made it. It sneaks up on you. You're some schmuck and you wake up one day and you go, Good God, I'm the cheese.

~William H. Macy

Ninety percent of the preparation we do as actors is just jive. It doesn't do anything.

~William H. Macy

We thought sex was free. Sex is not free. There's a price to be paid emotionally, physically, even legally. Sex isn't a casual thing. It's a huge thing.

~William H. Macy

When I was in New York, I was making a living. We had a summer house and a car that I could put in a garage. That's something for a stage actor.

~William H. Macy

It's a shame...you just don't see young people doing anything outside these days.

~William H. Macy

I think I've been in situations where they looked at me and just see some rich white guy - they don't see me at all.

~William H. Macy

I'm getting bigger roles, and I'm on location more, and I have a wife and family. I'd rather work less, and I've started to implement that. It was either that or my wife would break my heart.

~William H. Macy

Talk about putting your money where your mouth is. It's not right. Someone's gotta say it. They said it. I applaud them.

~William H. Macy

I think acting is getting better and better.

~William H. Macy

I love women. I always have. I'm not pretending that I understand them, but I just love women. I love being in their presence and I love everything about them.

~William H. Macy

I love making movies, I love the differentness of it, I love writing. But I've always liked television. I grew up on television.

~William H. Macy

Our glorification of violence is ripping society apart. I don't want my children exposed to it.

~William H. Macy

What I've discovered is, really, acting is acting is acting. It's all the same. Seventy-five percent of the skills are the same in both media.

~William H. Macy

I feel very secure about the role of the actor in the future. They need us, because stories are about people.

~William H. Macy

At the end of the day, what actors really want to do is act a lot and not wait around in the trailer.

~William H. Macy

We, in America, are so screwed up when it comes to sex. That's all we can see.

~William H. Macy

A good director is very well prepared, and knows exactly how he's going to cut the film, so the shooting is as efficient as possible.

~William H. Macy

Nothing else counts except what you want.

~William H. Macy

Just learn the whole script before you start shooting. That makes shooting a joy. Even if they rewrite, it's easy.

~William H. Macy

That's pretty much what every scene is about, getting people to see your point of view. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.

~William H. Macy

I love directors who talk action as opposed to emotion.

~William H. Macy

I've written a lot of scripts that someone else directed, and it's absolutely vital that, if I'm gonna act in it, then I have to take off the writer hat and let the director direct.

~William H. Macy

What actors are good at doing is walking into a situation that should make you incredibly self-conscious and frightened and doing it anyway. That's the gig, pretending that you are comfortable.

~William H. Macy

I feel like a lot of the young actors that are just coming up are really good. I think directors are directing better.

~William H. Macy

If I had my choice, I would do the same little independent films, but they would have \$100 million budgets, so I could get paid a fortune and hang out in a huge trailer.

~William H. Macy

You'd much rather act with a pal, someone you know really well. That

way, you can cut all the niceties and go right to insulting each other.

~William H. Macy

It's not good for people to have the safety net too low... People can take care of themselves better than we allow them to.

~William H. Macy

With an inexperienced director, a lot of times the days go on to 14, 15, 16 hours. It goes horrendously overtime. And because of the lack of money, they just keep you there, regardless of the hours.

~William H. Macy

Anyway, I try to be a good guy. I try to tell the truth, but I'm not religious.

~William H. Macy

I have been working out for 30 years, staying in shape in the dream that someday I would get to play a sex scene. Finally I get one, and they cut it.

~William H. Macy

It was my first impulse, but I chose to play the priest as a true believer who was an absolute man of faith that absolutely supports the church.

~William H. Macy

One of the things I did early on in film was over-enunciate and talk too loud.

~William H. Macy

The emotions will take care of themselves. You don't have to prod them along. As a matter of fact, you get in trouble when you prod them along.

~William H. Macy



It's hard on an actor when you have to do a scene 45 times and you know damn well that three of the angles a director is shooting will never make it into the movie.

~William H. Macy

You have to do whatever you can to limit the things that could make you feel insecure.

~William H. Macy

The roughest part is showing up. Once you throw yourself into the scene, it's just great fun to let it all go and not be self-conscious, and stop questioning whether you're sufficient.

~William H. Macy

So many actors spend so much energy trying to remember the lines. It's so foolish. Guys are the worst.

~William H. Macy

To a certain extent. I'm a fan of rehearsal on the day [of the shoot], more than getting together a week beforehand.

~William H. Macy

I have a tendency to say 'yes' to a script or no to a script. Not 'yes' based on a rewrite.

~William H. Macy

The only people who do plays in LA are people who can't get jobs in TV shows.

~William H. Macy

If I like the story and it's well written, and it's a character I want to play and they'll pay me, then I decide to do it.

~William H. Macy

I'm really proud of the writing on Door to Door, and I think that's the Emmy that meant the most - the writing.

~William H. Macy

A favorite cast? Lisa Kudrow, Anthony Hopkins, Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman, and my wife.

~William H. Macy

I think theater is powerful. The best experiences I had in the theater are more powerful than the best experiences I had in movies.

~William H. Macy

It started with the Godfather, this operatic violence. I don't know.

~William H. Macy

We all want to be 20 again and have that first sense of love.

~William H. Macy

A good actor's director, first of all, is prepared, so there's not an exorbitant amount of wasted footage.

~William H. Macy

You can skim those stage directions and go right to the dialogue. You can almost read the movie in the same amount of time it will take you to see the movie.

~William H. Macy

Writers love to write those idiotic, long stage directions, and some of them worse than others. They have nothing to do with the movie. They're just jerking around.

~William H. Macy

Somebody's gotta stand up and say pubic hair is good, murder is bad. Sex is good, violence is bad.

~William H. Macy

I introduced myself to Scorsese and I said, "If you need someone to do craft services, I'm there."

~William H. Macy

Here are the good things about independent films: They do the more interesting, chancy scripts. They're run by love.

~William H. Macy

Perhaps there is such a thing as obscene sex, but I know that violence is always obscene. So I don't get it, that you can disembowel a woman but you can't see her tits. Who made that up? That's sick!

~William H. Macy

I'm not religious. It's an issue, 'cause I've got two little kids, and I feel you can't grow up without knowledge of religion.

~William H. Macy

I don't watch rushes. My whole thing is to try to stay in the moment with the other actor, and to let it all hang. I'm not sure I'm right on that, though.

~William H. Macy

Ultimately, a more experienced director realizes that you've got to stop sometime and just move on. They're braver about that.

~William H. Macy

Directing is a huge amount of work with very little payoff, and a quarter of the money, and nine times more time spent.

~William H. Macy

I loved Batman, don't get me wrong, but that kind of mindless violence is not good for young children.

~William H. Macy

Making a mistake means overshooting a scene, shooting too many takes, for instance. Long after you've got it, you just keep shooting.

~William H. Macy

When a director makes a mistake, people suffer. People suffer horribly sometimes.

~William H. Macy

I do want to do TV, but I'm looking to be a creator, writer, and producer, and perhaps I could be a recurring character. Do 10 shows a year, something like that.

~William H. Macy

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