

Say Hello to
your very own book of
Quotes



QuotationsBook

Quotes by Welles, Orson

from QuotationsBook.com

George Orson Welles (May 6, 1915 – October 10, 1985) is considered not only one of the greatest directors of film but also that of the theatre, as well as a fine actor, screenwriter, broadcaster and producer. His first feature film, *Citizen Kane* (1941) and last Hollywood film *Touch of Evil* (1958) are both universally acknowledged as important steps in the history of cinema and widely cited by critics as among the best films ever made, while his various productions with the Mercury Theatre were considered revolutionary in the theatrical world.

When you are down and out something always turns up -- and it is usually the noses of your friends.

- Welles, Orson

Ecstasy is not really part of the scene we can do on celluloid.

- Welles, Orson

The essential is to excite the spectators. If that means playing Hamlet on a flying trapeze or in an aquarium, you do it.

- Welles, Orson

Everybody denies I am a genius --but nobody ever called me one!

- Welles, Orson

The ideal American type is perfectly expressed by the Protestant, individualist, anti-conformist, and this is the type that is in the process of disappearing. In reality there are few left.

- Welles, Orson

Hollywood is the only industry, even taking in soap companies, which does not have laboratories for the purpose of experimentation.

- Welles, Orson

My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four unless there are three other people.

- Welles, Orson

We're born alone, we live alone, we die alone. Only through our love and friendship can we create the illusion for the moment that we're not alone.

- Welles, Orson

The laws and the stage, both are a form of exhibitionism.

- Welles, Orson

In Switzerland they had brotherly love, five hundred years of democracy and peace, and

what did they produce? The cuckoo clock!

- Welles, Orson

I think we're a kind of desperation. We're sort of a maddening luxury. The basic and essential human is the woman, and all that we're doing is trying to brighten up the place. That's why all the birds who belong to our sex have prettier feathers -- because males have got to try and justify their existence.

- Welles, Orson

A film is never really any good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet.

- Welles, Orson

Only very intelligent people don't wish they were in politics, and I'm dumb enough to want to be in there.

- Welles, Orson

I hate it when people pray on the screen. It's not because I hate praying, but whenever I see an actor fold his hands and look up in the spotlight, I'm lost. There's only one other thing in the movies I hate as much, and that's sex. You just can't get in bed or pray to God and convince me on the screen.

- Welles, Orson

Now we sit through Shakespeare in order to recognize the quotations.

- Welles, Orson

Every actor in his heart believes everything bad that's printed about him.

- Welles, Orson

I don't say we all ought to misbehave, but we ought to look as if we could.

- Welles, Orson

I hate television. I hate it as much as peanuts. But I can't stop eating peanuts.

- Welles, Orson

I want to give the audience a hint of a scene. No more than that. Give them too much and they won't contribute anything themselves. Give them just a suggestion and you get them working with you. That's what gives the theater meaning: when it becomes a social act.

- Welles, Orson

If there hadn't been women we'd still be squatting in a cave eating raw meat, because we made civilization in order to impress our girl friends. And they tolerated it and let us go ahead and play with our toys.

- Welles, Orson

I rather think the cinema will die. Look at the energy being exerted to revive it -- yesterday it was color, today three dimensions. I don't give it forty years more. Witness the decline of conversation. Only the Irish have remained incomparable conversationalists, maybe

because technical progress has passed them by.

- Welles, Orson

The director is simply the audience. So the terrible burden of the director is to take the place of that yawning vacuum, to be the audience and to select from what happens during the day which movement shall be a disaster and which a gala night. His job is to preside over accidents.

- Welles, Orson

They teach anything in universities today. You can major in mud pies.

- Welles, Orson



QuotationsBook