

48 QUOTATIONS



Samuel Goldwyn

(1879-1974)

Samuel Goldwyn was one of the founders of Hollywood—the Goldwyn of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. As a boy named Samuel Goldfish he left Poland and emigrated to America in 1898. He established himself as a producer in Los Angeles in 1913 and continued making movies for the next 35 years. During the Second World War, he tried unsuccessfully to help a nephew escape from the Warsaw Ghetto and the Holocaust. Goldwyn hired some of the best screenwriters and directors of the era and produced adaptations of literature including *Arrowsmith*, *Dodsworth*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *The Little Foxes*. He also produced *The Best Years of Our Lives* and the musicals *Guys and Dolls* and *Porgy and Bess*. The self-educated Goldwyn bumped heads with articulate employees such as Dorothy Parker and became known for his comical malapropisms and illogical statements--called “Goldwynisms”:

God makes stars. I just produce them.

We're overpaying him, but he's worth it.

A bachelor's life is no life for a single man.

If I look confused it is because I am thinking.

I had a monumental idea this morning, but I didn't like it.

I would be sticking my head in a moose.

I'm willing to admit that I may not always be right, but I am never wrong.

I hate a man who always says "yes" to me. When I say "no" I like a man who also says "no."

I don't want any yes-men around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their job.

I was always an independent, even when I had partners.

Include me out.

For your information, I would like to ask a question.

If you can't give me your word of honor, will you give me your promise?

I'll give you a definite maybe.

I don't think anyone should write their autobiography until after they're dead.

If I could drop dead right now, I'd be the happiest man alive.

If Roosevelt were alive today, he'd turn over in his grave.

Any man who goes to a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.

Give me a smart idiot over a stupid genius any day.

Don't pay any attention to the critics--don't even ignore them.

You've got to take the bitter with the sour.

Television has raised writing to a new low.

Color television! Bah, I won't believe it until I see it in black and white.

It's absolutely impossible, but it has possibilities.

A wide screen just makes a bad film twice as bad.

Why should people go out and pay money to see bad films when they can stay at home and see bad television for nothing?

Here I am paying big money to you writers and what for? All you do is change the words.

I read part of it all the way through.

We want a story that starts out with an earthquake and works its way up to a climax.

The scene is dull. Tell him to put more life into his dying.

Our comedies are not to be laughed at.

This music won't do. There's not enough sarcasm in it.

Please write music like Wagner, only louder.

Modern dancing is old fashioned.

Too caustic? To hell with the costs, we'll make the picture anyway.

Spare no expense to save money on this one.

Let's have some new cliches.

Give me a couple of years, and I'll make that actress an overnight success.

I never put on a pair of shoes until I've worn them at least five years.

If people don't want to go to the picture, nobody can stop them.

It's more than magnificent--it's mediocre.

Go see it and see for yourself why you shouldn't go see it.

Every director bites the hand that lays the golden egg.

Don't worry about the war. It's all over but the shooting.

The last hundred pages are too blood and thirsty.

A hospital is no place to be sick.

The reason so many people turned up at his funeral is that they wanted to make sure he was dead.

I never liked you, and I always will.

