

Do you work with the same producers?

I've worked with only people I've liked, but they have changed for different reasons. There's some I may work with again. It depends on the projects; whoever's appropriate for the material I have at hand.

Regarding your first feature, Fear, Anxiety, and Depression, I've read, I'm not sure if this is true, that it was kind of a horrific experience for you?

Yeah, it's a painful experience. It's not even the title that I wanted, so I prefer not to dwell on it.

After that, what helped you get the fire again to go into Welcome to the Dollhouse?

I actually wrote the script for *Welcome to the Dollhouse* before I even finished that movie, to really just to redeem myself from the horror of it all. But then I just needed a lot of time and space to be away from this business. Which I didn't think at the time I'd even return to. Ultimately, I suppose I didn't want that movie to have the last word.

What are your inspirations, outside of filmmaking, what inspires you?

Everything you live and breathe, it is all material. Even as we speak now, it is all material. To the writer, the filmmaker, the artist, what have you, is to access the moment so that nothing is lost upon you, that you can know how to identify and transform moments into something that can take on larger meaning. Really, everything, it's all material.

Who are some of your favorite writers?

You're talking movie writers, you're talking novelists?

Actually both, I was thinking novelist-wise, but whatever you like.

There are so many great writers who are living today, from Phillip Roth to Michel Houellebecq to... I enjoy David Sedaris. There are just so many really.

Outside of filmmaking, what other ways do you express your creativity?

[laughing] Well, there's so many ways. I always think, just by virtue of being a filmmaker doesn't make you necessarily such a creative person. In this business in fact, as many people know, the most creative profession is the accounting one. It's really what you bring to it, it's what you bring to everything that you do.

If you weren't a filmmaker, what do you think your profession would be?

I don't know. There are all sorts of things that interest me. Film is not the center of the universe. I've always thought of working in India or some place like that. I applied to the Peace Corps many years ago, but I was rejected, so nothing happened. That sort of thing has always appealed to me. I have no skills and that's one of my difficulties. I don't have anything to offer anyone.

[laughing] *I think there's a world out there that would beg to differ.*

Certainly, if I go to another country and I'm trying to help a village, what can I do? I can help them speak English, I suppose, but I'm not sure that's much of a priority. ☆

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