

# Agnes de Mille

## Quotes

*Dance, Thinking, Passion, Ballet, Dancing, Artist, Inspirational, Life, Giving,  
Lying, Dancer, Creativity, People, Creative, Ideas, Technique, Believe,  
Hypnosis, Men, Silence*

No trumpets sound when the important decisions of our life are made. Destiny is made known silently.

~Agnes de Mille

To dance is to be out of yourself. Larger, more beautiful, more powerful. This is power, it is glory on earth and it is yours for the taking.

~Agnes de Mille

The truest expression of a people is in its dances and its music. Bodies never lie.

~Agnes de Mille

Then I did the simplest thing in the world. I leaned down... and kissed him. And the world cracked open.

~Agnes de Mille

A good education is usually harmful to a dancer. A good calf is better than a good head.

~Agnes de Mille

Who am I?, the artist asks. And he devotes his whole life to finding out.

~Agnes de Mille

Many other women have kicked higher, balanced longer, or turned faster. These are poor substitutes for passion.

~Agnes de Mille

The choreographic process is exhausting. It happens on one's feet after hours of work, and the energy required is roughly the equivalent of writing a novel and winning a tennis match simultaneously.

~Agnes de Mille

Dancers aren't made of their technique, but their passion.

~Agnes de Mille

Find the passion. It takes great passion and great energy to do anything creative. I would go so far as to say you can't do it without that passion.

~Agnes de Mille

The creative urge is the demon that will not accept anything second rate.

~Agnes de Mille

When I dance I am really meditating rather than performing for an audience. I am completely absorbed by the music and the steps I choose to respond to the music.

~Agnes de Mille

If you want to understand a nation, look at its dances and listen to its folk songs - don't pay any attention to its politicians.

~Agnes de Mille

We can't stand silence, because silence induces thinking. And if we thought, we would have to face ourselves.

~Agnes de Mille

The practice mirror is to be used for the correction of faults, not for a love affair, and the figure you watch should not become your dearest friend.

~Agnes de Mille

The universe lies before you on the floor, in the air, in the mysterious bodies of your dancers, in your mind. From this voyage no one returns poor or weary.

~Agnes de Mille

Theater people are always pining and agonizing because they're afraid that they'll be forgotten. And in America they're quite right. They will be.

~Agnes de Mille

Modern dancers give a sinister portent about our times.

~Agnes de Mille

Living is a form of not being sure, not know what next or how... The artists never entirely knows.

~Agnes de Mille

Toe dancing is a dandy attention getter, second only to screaming.

~Agnes de Mille

Ballet technique never becomes easy, it becomes possible

~Agnes de Mille

To make up a dance, I still need, as I needed then, a pot of tea, walking space, privacy and an idea.

~Agnes de Mille

Dance in the body you have.

~Agnes de Mille

I want one word on my tombstone - dancer.

~Agnes de Mille

No white man uses his feet the way an Indian does. He talks to the earth.

~Agnes de Mille

Dance constitutes a true recapturing of... freedom and childish play.

~Agnes de Mille

There is something fearfully strengthening about cutting free even if the ties bandage the heart itself.

~Agnes de Mille

My heroines are part of me and my heroes are part of what I'd like to know.

~Agnes de Mille

I had had to learn the difference between the bearable fatigue and the unbearable, the fatigue of fear. The first can be cured by a night's sleep; the second kills.

~Agnes de Mille

Friends die one by one, but so, thank God, do enemies.

~Agnes de Mille

One of the good things about my having some recognition is that I can do something for the people I think ought to have more and correct some of the matters fate fails to take care of.

~Agnes de Mille

I studied the way I danced- to the point of dropping.

~Agnes de Mille

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