

# Archie Shepp Quotes

*Rap, Elements, Musical, Culture, People, Ideas, Jazz, Guy, Black, Couple,  
Transformation, Young, Thinking, White, Race, Dancing, Numbers, Kids, Long,  
Music*

You get a show where people are jumping up and dancing, but it's not a critical event in the sense of profound catharsis. Essentially it's celebratory.

~Archie Shepp

A whole generation of young whites have involved themselves with traditional Negro music.

~Archie Shepp

Negro music and culture are intrinsically improvisational, existential. Nothing is sacred. After a decade, a musical idea, no matter how innovative, is threatened.

~Archie Shepp

Music and culture are intrinsically improvisational, existential.

~Archie Shepp

And when I met Cecil Taylor it was a complete transformation of musical identities. All the tenets that I had grown up with were thrown out the window.

~Archie Shepp

Yes, the audience is so important to Negro music, especially the element of call and response.

~Archie Shepp

All the tenets that I had grown up with were thrown out the window.

~Archie Shepp

I find that here in the States, audiences are generally less knowledgeable, from the cognitive point of view, though they are emotionally more receptive.

~Archie Shepp

I can't see any separation between my music and my life. I play pretty much race music: its about what happened to my father, to me, and what can happen to my kids.

~Archie Shepp

In rap music, even though the element of poetry is very strong, so is the element of the drum, the implication of the dance. Without the beat, its commercial value would certainly be more tenuous.

~Archie Shepp

Rap actually took root in the Negro community, and then in the Hispanic community, long before it impacted on the larger American community as a whole.

~Archie Shepp

So, I was just a young guy, maybe with an idea, and Cecil Taylor, himself a rebel, would take a chance on a guy like me. It turned out to be a very symbiotic partnership. I learned a lot from him.

~Archie Shepp

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