

August Wilson Quotes

*Writing, Play, Thinking, Art, Black, Strength, Ideas, Artist, Responsibility, Law,
Character, Bigger, Years, Reality, Giving, Pain, White, Men, Land, Life*

Confront the dark parts of yourself, and work to banish them with illumination and forgiveness. Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing.

~August Wilson

Have a belief in yourself that is bigger than anyone's disbelief.

~August Wilson

All you need in the world is love and laughter. That's all anybody needs. To have love in one hand and laughter in the other.

~August Wilson

All of art is a search for ways of being, of living life more fully.

~August Wilson

Your demons will cause your angels to sing. Use the pain as fuel.

~August Wilson

You get to the point where your demons, which are terrifying, get smaller and smaller and you get bigger and bigger.

~August Wilson

The simpler you say it, the more eloquent it is.

~August Wilson

Freedom is heavy. You got to put your shoulder to freedom. Put your shoulder to it and hope your back holds up.

~August Wilson

Use the pain as fuel, as a reminder of your strength.

~August Wilson

You got to be right with yourself before you can be right with anybody else.

~August Wilson

What do you do with your legacy, and how do you best put it to use?

~August Wilson

I may be personable, but I assure you I am a lion.

~August Wilson

Blacks have traditionally had to operate in a situation where whites have set themselves up as the custodians of the black experience.

~August Wilson

All art is political in the sense that it serves someone's politics.

~August Wilson

I write for myself and my goal is bringing that world and that experience of black Americans to life on the stage and giving it a space there.

~August Wilson

My greatest influence has been the blues. And that's a literary influence, because I think the blues is the best literature that we as black Americans have.

~August Wilson

I'm a black American playwright. I couldn't be anything else. I make my art out of black American culture; they're all cut out of the same cloth. That's who I am; that's who I write about.

~August Wilson

I think that's the core of black aesthetics: the ability to improvise. That is what has enabled our [black people's] survival.

~August Wilson

Life don't owe you nothing.

~August Wilson

I don't write for a particular audience.

~August Wilson

My influences have been what I call my four Bs - the primary one being the blues, then Borges, Baraka, and Bearden.

~August Wilson

I don't write particularly to effect social change. I believe writing can do that, but that's not why I write.

~August Wilson

I don't go by what the law says. The law's liable to say anything. I go by if it's right or not. It doesn't matter what the law says. I take and look at it for myself.

~August Wilson

Style ain't nothing but keeping the same idea from beginning to end. Everybody got it.

~August Wilson

You are responsible for the world that you live in.

~August Wilson

I first got involved in theater in 1968, at the height of a social tumult. I was a poet.

~August Wilson

Death ain't nothing but a fastball on the outside corner.

~August Wilson

There's no idea in the world that is not contained by black life. I could write forever about the black experience in America.

~August Wilson

I ain't never found no place for me to fit. Seem like all I do is start over. It ain't nothing to find no starting place in the world. You just start from where you find yourself.

~August Wilson

Between speeches and awards, you can find something to do every other week. It's hard to write. Your focus gets splintered. Once you put one thing in your calendar, that month is gone.

~August Wilson

Jazz in itself is not struggling. That is, the music itself is not struggling... It's the attitude that's in trouble. My plays insist that we should not forget or toss away our history.

~August Wilson

I cried a river of tears but he was too heavy to float on them. So I dragged him with me these years across an ocean.

~August Wilson

I been with strangers all day and they treated me like family. I come in here to family and you treat me like a stranger.

~August Wilson

I found out life's hard but it ain't impossible.

~August Wilson

Land [is] the only thing God ain't making no more of.

~August Wilson

You got to take the crookeds with the straights. That's what Papa used to say.

~August Wilson

If you want to support a writer, produce the first five plays he writes.

~August Wilson

All you need is the blues. To me, the blues is the book, it's the bible, it's everything.

~August Wilson

I've never seen 'Seinfeld', never seen 'The Cosby Show'; I just don't watch it. I saw half of 'Oprah' one time. I'd rather read.

~August Wilson

I done learned my mistake and learned to do what's right by it. You still trying to get something for nothing. Life don't owe you nothing. You owe it to yourself. - Troy -

~August Wilson

When the sins of our fathers visit us We do not have to play host. We can banish them with forgiveness As God, in his His Largeness and Laws.

~August Wilson

As soon as white folks say a play's good, the theater is jammed with blacks and whites.

~August Wilson

Suffice it to say, I'm not poor.

~August Wilson

For me, the original play becomes an historical document: This is where I was when I wrote it, and I have to move on now to something else.

~August Wilson

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