

Bertolt Brecht

Quotes

*Men, People, War, Art, Literature, Knows, Fall, Life, Lying, Reality, Doe, Writing,
Firsts, Running, Thinking, Fighting, Government, Theatre, World, Mean*

Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it.

~Bertolt Brecht

He who fights, can lose. He who doesn't fight, has already lost.

~Bertolt Brecht

Don't expect the theatre to satisfy the habits of its audience, but to change them.

~Bertolt Brecht

Everyone chases after happiness, not noticing that happiness is right at their heels.

~Bertolt Brecht

Bank robbery is an initiative of amateurs. True professionals establish a bank.

~Bertolt Brecht

Who does Not Know the Truth, is simply a Fool... Yet who Knows the Truth and Calls it a Lie, is a Criminal.

~Bertolt Brecht

Love is also like a coconut which is good while it is fresh, but you have to spit it out when the juice is gone, what's left tastes bitter.

~Bertolt Brecht

It is not enough to demand insight and informative images of reality from the theater. Our theater must stimulate a desire for understanding, a delight in changing reality.

~Bertolt Brecht

Don't be afraid of death so much as an inadequate life.

~Bertolt Brecht

Would it not be simpler If the Government dissolved the people and elected another?

~Bertolt Brecht

In the dark times Will there also be singing? Yes, there will also be singing. About the dark times.

~Bertolt Brecht

Love is the wish to give, not to receive.

~Bertolt Brecht

Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.

~Bertolt Brecht

Unhappy the land that is in need of heroes.

~Bertolt Brecht

To live means to finesse the processes to which one is subjugated.

~Bertolt Brecht

What is the robbing of a bank compared to the founding of a bank?

~Bertolt Brecht

Boy Meets Girl, So What?

~Bertolt Brecht

Schoenberg is too melodious for me, too sweet.

~Bertolt Brecht

Hungry man, reach for the book: it is a weapon.

~Bertolt Brecht

All artforms are in the service of the greatest of all arts: the art of living.

~Bertolt Brecht

All the gang of those who rule us
Hope our quarrels never stop
Helping them to split and fool us
So they can remain on top.

~Bertolt Brecht

Everyone needs help from everyone.

~Bertolt Brecht

From the cradle to the coffin underwear comes first.

~Bertolt Brecht

Reality changes; in order to represent it, modes of representation must change.

~Bertolt Brecht

Intelligence is not to make no mistakes, but quickly to see how to make them good.

~Bertolt Brecht

Do not fear death so much but rather the inadequate life.

~Bertolt Brecht

War is like love, it always finds a way.

~Bertolt Brecht

People who fight may lose. People who do not fight have already lost.

~Bertolt Brecht

For art to be 'unpolitical' means only to ally itself with the 'ruling' group.

~Bertolt Brecht

The aim of science is not to open the door to infinite wisdom, but to set a limit to infinite error.

~Bertolt Brecht

If you fight you might lose, if you don't you have already lost.

~Bertolt Brecht

One can describe the world of today to the people of today only if one describes it as capable of alteration.

~Bertolt Brecht

Sin is what is new, strong, surprising, strange. The theatre must take an interest in sin if the young are to be able to go there.

~Bertolt Brecht

Though the rich of this earth find no difficulty in creating misery, they can't bear to see it.

~Bertolt Brecht

Don't accept the habitual as a natural thing. In times of disorder, of organized confusion, of de-humanized humanity, nothing should seem natural. Nothing should seem impossible to change.

~Bertolt Brecht

Mixing one's wines may be a mistake, but old and new wisdom mix admirably.

~Bertolt Brecht

To those who does not know the world is on fire, I have nothing to say.

~Bertolt Brecht

If you join the rat race " you're in the race of rats.

~Bertolt Brecht

The law was made for one thing alone, for the exploitation of those who don't understand it, or are prevented by naked misery from obeying it.

~Bertolt Brecht

When crimes begin to pile up they become invisible. When sufferings become unendurable the cries are no longer heard. The cries, too, fall like rain in summer.

~Bertolt Brecht

From the start it has been the theatre's business to entertain people ... it needs no other passport than fun.

~Bertolt Brecht

Unfortunate the country that needs heroes!

~Bertolt Brecht

If you don't have fun, you don't have a show.

~Bertolt Brecht

You don't need to pray to God any more when there are storms in the sky, but you do have to be insured.

~Bertolt Brecht

Terrible is the temptation to be good.

~Bertolt Brecht

Unhappiness doesn't grow on the chest like leprosy. Poverty won't fall off the roof like a loose tile, no; poverty and unhappiness are man's doing.

~Bertolt Brecht

A person is really dead only when nobody thinks of him anymore.

~Bertolt Brecht

I'm in good form, taking no interest in things, neglecting clothes, meals, company, and feeling calm and stable as I write.

~Bertolt Brecht

I am a playwright. I show What I have seen. In the man markets I have seen how men are traded. That I show, I, the playwright.

~Bertolt Brecht

What's breaking into a bank compared with founding a bank?

~Bertolt Brecht

For once you must try not to shirk the facts: mankind is kept alive by bestial acts.

~Bertolt Brecht

Society cannot share a common communication system so long as it is split into warring factions.

~Bertolt Brecht

The human race tends to remember the abuses to which it has been subjected rather than the endearments. What's left of kisses? Wounds, however, leave scars.

~Bertolt Brecht

Poverty makes you wise but it's a curse.

~Bertolt Brecht

What kind of times are they, when A talk about trees is almost a crime
Because it implies silence about so many horrors?

~Bertolt Brecht

It is easier to rob by setting up a bank than by holding up a bank clerk.

~Bertolt Brecht

You have to attack once the truth is too weak to defend itself.

~Bertolt Brecht

No one can be good for long if goodness is not in demand.

~Bertolt Brecht

Come in, dear wind, and be our guest
You too have neither home nor rest.

~Bertolt Brecht

The world of knowledge takes a crazy turn
When teachers themselves are taught to learn.

~Bertolt Brecht

Science knows only one commandment - contribute to science.

~Bertolt Brecht

Little changes are the enemies of great changes.

~Bertolt Brecht

A man who strains himself on the stage is bound, if he is any good, to strain all the people sitting in the stalls.

~Bertolt Brecht

Alas, we who wanted kindness, could not be kind ourselves.

~Bertolt Brecht

Writers can't write as fast as governments make wars; because to write demands thinking.

~Bertolt Brecht

People remain what they are even if their faces fall apart.

~Bertolt Brecht

Here today we huddle tight
As the darkest heathens might
The snow falls chilly on our skin
The snow is forcing its way in.
Hush, snow, come in with us to dwell:
We were thrown out by Heaven as well.

~Bertolt Brecht

Let nothing be called natural
In an age of bloody confusion,
Ordered disorder, planned caprice,
And dehumanized humanity, lest all things
Be held unalterable!

~Bertolt Brecht

Right is its own defense.

~Bertolt Brecht

Oh why do we not say the important things,
it would be so easy, and we
are damned because we do not.

~Bertolt Brecht

He who is still laughing is he who hasn't heard the terrible news.

~Bertolt Brecht

Grub first, then ethics.

~Bertolt Brecht

What happens to the hole when the cheese is gone?

~Bertolt Brecht

It's never too late for those whose time has come.

~Bertolt Brecht

Go make yourself a plan And be a shining light. Then make yourself a
second plan, For neither will come right.

~Bertolt Brecht

You can make a fresh start with your final breath.

~Bertolt Brecht

Those against politics are in favor of the politics inflicted upon them.

~Bertolt Brecht

What a miserable thing life is: you're in clover; only the clover isn't good enough.

~Bertolt Brecht

Don't tell me peace has broken out.

~Bertolt Brecht

For what's the use of talking with a man who has a disease and thinks about the stars?

~Bertolt Brecht

First the grub, then the morals.

~Bertolt Brecht

Those who have had no share in the good fortunes of the mighty Often have a share in their misfortunes.

~Bertolt Brecht

The fate of man is man.

~Bertolt Brecht

Never believe on faith, see for yourself! What you yourself don't learn you don't know.

~Bertolt Brecht

There are times when you have to choose between being human and having good taste.

~Bertolt Brecht

Life is short and so is money.

~Bertolt Brecht

General, man is very useful. He can fly and he can kill. But he has one defect: He can think.

~Bertolt Brecht

The rain Never falls upwards. When the wound Stops hurting What hurts is The scar.

~Bertolt Brecht

Why be a man when you can be a success?

~Bertolt Brecht

There must always be some who are brighter and some who are stupider, the latter make up for it by being better workers.

~Bertolt Brecht

If art reflects life, it does so with special mirrors.

~Bertolt Brecht

None will improve your lot If you yourself do not.

~Bertolt Brecht

People who understand everything get no stories.

~Bertolt Brecht

Whenever there are great virtues, it's a sure sign something's wrong.

~Bertolt Brecht

In the contradiction lies the hope.

~Bertolt Brecht

I don't trust him. We're friends.

~Bertolt Brecht

General, your tank is a powerful vehicle it smashes down forests and

crushes a hundred men. but it has one defect: it needs a driver.

~Bertolt Brecht

The defeats and victories of the fellows at the top aren't always defeats and victories for the fellows at the bottom.

~Bertolt Brecht

When something seems to be 'the most obvious thing in the world' it means that any attempt to understand the world has been given up.

~Bertolt Brecht

Art is not a mirror. Art is a hammer.

~Bertolt Brecht

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