

# Buddy Rich Quotes

*Thinking, Play, Music, Ifs, Practice, Sound, Creativity, Years, Band, Drummer,  
Swings, Symphony, Opportunity, Two, Bores, My Own, Influence, Individual,  
Night, Stink*

You only get better by playing.

~Buddy Rich

And, you know, I think the original recording of Ravel's Bolero, probably whoever played percussion on that, will never have it played better than that.

~Buddy Rich

But, when you have to resort to turntables, trick lights, flashing lights, fire and all that, you're actually saying, I need this because what I do is not all that together.

~Buddy Rich

Average band with a great drummer sounds great, great band with an average drummer sounds average.

~Buddy Rich

A great musician is just a thief who doesn't get caught

~Buddy Rich

Every drummer that had a name, had a name because of his individual playing. He didn't sound like anybody else, So everybody that I ever listened to, in some form, influenced my taste.

~Buddy Rich

I consider every drummer that ever played before me an influence, in every way.

~Buddy Rich

I think it's a fallacy that the harder you practice the better you get.

~Buddy Rich

But I think that any young drummer starting out today should get himself a great teacher and learn all there is to know about the

instrument that he wants to play.

~Buddy Rich

If he's a true symphony artist, he knows better than that because he knows that the only truly creative musician is the jazz musician.

~Buddy Rich

I think at one time every drummer wanted to play like Krupa or wanted to win a Gene Krupa drum contest. This is the big inspiration for drummers and naturally it has to be the same way for me.

~Buddy Rich

There are only two types of music. good and bad.

~Buddy Rich

I can think of a lot better things to do with my hands than to cut them up on the rim of a drum.

~Buddy Rich

But primarily, the drummer's supposed to sit back there and swing the band.

~Buddy Rich

There were so many individual styles thirty or forty years ago.

~Buddy Rich

If you have any requests. keep them to yourselves. we don't play requests!

~Buddy Rich

I never believed in a set routine. It should depend on how you feel, because you play what you feel.

~Buddy Rich

As far as music school goes, I walked through Berkeley one time.

~Buddy Rich

No, I don't like recording. It's a bore.

~Buddy Rich

And, well of course, Count Basie, and I think all of the black bands of the late thirties and early forties, bands with real players. They had an influence on everybody, not just drummers.

~Buddy Rich

If you think you stink, you probably do.

~Buddy Rich

Almost everything I've done, I've done through my own creativity.

~Buddy Rich

If you can play, you can play anything. I don't like classifications.

~Buddy Rich

You either swing a band or don't swing a band and that's what's lacking today.. There aren't any guys who get back there and play with any kind of guts.

~Buddy Rich

I can't sit down long enough to absorb any kind of learning.

~Buddy Rich

Well, I never really practiced because I never had the opportunity to practice.

~Buddy Rich

So, practice, particularly after you've attained a job, any kind of job, like playing with a four piece band, that's... an opportunity to develop.

~Buddy Rich

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