

David Byrne

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Song, Feelings, Art, Writing, World, Artist, Creative, Stuff,
Mean, Littles, Emotional, Use, Believe, Cities, Trying, Records, Attitude, Home*

My favorite time of day is to get up and eat leftovers from dinner, especially spicy food.

~David Byrne

Television sounded really different than the Ramones sounded really different than us sounded really different than Blondie sounded really different than the Sex Pistols

~David Byrne

Sometimes it's a form of love just to talk to somebody that you have nothing in common with and still be fascinated by their presence.

~David Byrne

The imminent demise of the large record companies as gatekeepers of the world's popular music is a good thing, for the most part.

~David Byrne

I couldn't talk to people face to face, so I got on stage and started screaming and squealing and twitching.

~David Byrne

Cycling can be lonely, but in a good way.

~David Byrne

I try to write about small things. Paper, animals, a house... love is kind of big. I have written a love song, though. In this film, I sing it to a lamp.

~David Byrne

Analysis is like a lobotomy. Who wants to have all their edges shaved off?

~David Byrne

Deep down, I know I have this intuition or instinct that a lot of creative people have, that their demons are also what make them create.

~David Byrne

I'm just an advertisement for a version of myself.

~David Byrne

I don't care how impossible it seems.

~David Byrne

People will remember you better if you always wear the same outfit.

~David Byrne

When things get so absurd and so stupid and so ridiculous that you just can't bear it, you cannot help but turn everything into a joke.

~David Byrne

I like a good story and I also like staring at the sea-- do I have to choose between the two?

~David Byrne

People use irony as a defense mechanism.

~David Byrne

All you needed was a couple of instruments and a few chords and you could be on an indie label.

~David Byrne

I knew I wanted to have a doll of myself on the cover. I thought, I wanna see myself as a Ken doll.

~David Byrne

It's not music you would use to get a girl into bed. If anything, you're going to frighten her off.

~David Byrne

As music becomes less of a thing--a cylinder, a cassette, a disc--and more ephemeral, perhaps we will begin to assign an increasing value to live performances again.

~David Byrne

Everything's intentional. It's just filling in the dots.

~David Byrne

When you fall in love, you feel like a missing piece of a puzzle that's been found.

~David Byrne

Schools are for training people how to listen to other people.

~David Byrne

Real beauty knocks you a little bit off kilter.

~David Byrne

We are like the birds. We adapt. We sing.

~David Byrne

With music, you often don't have to translate it. It just affects you, and you don't know why.

~David Byrne

To some extent I happily don't know what I'm doing. I feel that it's an artist's responsibility to trust that.

~David Byrne

There's an old joke that you know you're in heaven if the cooks are Italian and the engineering is German. If it's the other way around you're in hell.

~David Byrne

Body odor is the window to the soul.

~David Byrne

The two biggest self-deceptions of all are that life has a 'meaning' and each of us is unique.

~David Byrne

I wanted to be a secret agent and an astronaut, preferably at the same time.

~David Byrne

Crime is a job. Sex is a job. Growing up is a job. School is a job. Going to parties is a job. Religion is a job. Being creative is a job

~David Byrne

To shake your rump is to be environmentally aware.

~David Byrne

Why not invest in the future of music, instead of building fortresses to preserve its past?

~David Byrne

That's the one for my tombstone... Here lies David Byrne. Why the big suit?

~David Byrne

I love writing. I don't claim to be great at it. Occasionally I get a good sentence off. But I love the activity.

~David Byrne

By the time Talking Heads were starting, my feeling was to throw out everything and start from scratch onstage; strip it down to as close to zero as you can get and then you can make it yours.

~David Byrne

The true face of smoking is disease, death and horror - not the glamour and sophistication the pushers in the tobacco industry try to portray.

~David Byrne

People in Latin America... love America from afar and emulate America in some ways but also hate a lot of things that America does to them.

~David Byrne

You may say to yourself: "Well, how did I get here?"

~David Byrne

I subscribe to the myth that an artist's creativity comes from torment. Once that's fixed, what do you draw on?

~David Byrne

From what I've heard, Paris did a little bit more prep work as far as making bike lanes and all of that stuff. They really did it properly, which New York is getting to little by little.

~David Byrne

I've rarely seen video screens used well in a music concert.

~David Byrne

Yeah, anybody can go in with two turntables and a microphone or a home studio sampler and a little cassette deck or whatever and make records in their bedrooms.

~David Byrne

I found music to be the therapy of choice.

~David Byrne

I don't like begging money from producers.

~David Byrne

For years we have been taught not to like things. Finally somebody said it was OK to like things. This was a great relief. It was getting hard to go around not liking everything.

~David Byrne

You create a community with music, not just at concerts but by talking about it with your friends.

~David Byrne

Suburban houses and tin sheds are often the objects of ridicule.

~David Byrne

The voting booth joint is a great leveler; the whole neighborhood - rich, poor, old, young, decrepit and spunky - they all turn out in one day.

~David Byrne

The Heads were the only band on that scene that had a groove.

~David Byrne

I've been in beautiful landscapes where one is tempted to whip out a camera and take a picture. I've learned to resist that.

~David Byrne

I didn't have any agenda or plan when I started writing stuff.

~David Byrne

Frank Lloyd Wright... his things were beautiful but not very functional.

~David Byrne

Cycling is a joy and faster than many other modes of transport, depending on the time of day. It clears the head.

~David Byrne

I like to combine the dramatic emotional warmth of strings with the

grooves and body business of drums and bass.

~David Byrne

I find rebellion packaged by a major corporation a little hard to take seriously.

~David Byrne

You can know or not know how a car runs and still enjoy riding in a car.

~David Byrne

I couldn't take pictures of green rolling hills.

~David Byrne

My take is that the kind of complexity which says we can always generate complexity from simple interactions following for example rules.

~David Byrne

I try never to wear my own clothes, I pretend I'm someone else

~David Byrne

Rich people will travel great distances to look at poor people.

~David Byrne

I can't tell one from the other: I find you or you find me? There was a time before we were born If someone asks, this is where I'll be.

~David Byrne

Obviously, you go through a lot of emotional turmoil in a divorce.

~David Byrne

I'm afraid that reason will triumph and that the world will become a place where anyone who doesn't fit that will become unnecessary

~David Byrne

I wave to the double-decker buses from my bike, but the passengers never wave back. Why? Am I not an attraction?

~David Byrne

I've noticed a lot of younger artists have less fear of doing different sorts of things, whether it's various types of music, or gallery artists moving between video and sculpture and drawing.

~David Byrne

PowerPoint may not be of any use for you in a presentation, but it may liberate you in another way, an artistic way. Who knows.

~David Byrne

The arts don't exist in isolation.

~David Byrne

Yeah, it's pretty hard not to be completely cynical these days.

~David Byrne

Ninety percent of all music is always crap, and when too many people decide they're going to have guitar bands, then ninety percent of them are going to be crap. It's just a given law.

~David Byrne

Sometimes I write stuff that strangely predicts what's going to happen in my life.

~David Byrne

A bike is the world's most used form of transportation

~David Byrne

That's the thing about pictures: they seduce you.

~David Byrne

There are plenty of people who are, I think, completely racist who love hip-hop.

~David Byrne

This ain't no party, this ain't no disco, this ain't no fooling around.

~David Byrne

I'm no Lance Armstrong, but I do use a bike to get from place to place in Manhattan, a little bit of Brooklyn.

~David Byrne

I love getting out of my comfort zone.

~David Byrne

I'm not all about money, but, like most musicians, I am about survival.

~David Byrne

As everything becomes digitized, there's the idea that things that can't be digitized become more valuable.

~David Byrne

The world isn't logical, it's a song.

~David Byrne

Interviewer: If I gave you fifty dollars, right now, what would you do with it? David Byrne: I would get something to eat.

~David Byrne

London's tempo is 122.86 beats per minute.

~David Byrne

I try to devote my afternoons to making music in my home studio, but it's a lot more fun hanging out with musicians and friends, and trying subtly to influence a band than making your own stuff.

~David Byrne

My personal feeling is that human beings have this incredible capacity for denial.

~David Byrne

I don't think I have grand visions that I will never achieve.

~David Byrne

I am an immigrant with a Green Card and, therefore, I am not eligible to vote in a federal election.

~David Byrne

I'm afraid that everything will get homogenized and be the same

~David Byrne

We're on a road to nowhere, come on inside. Takin' that ride to nowhere, we'll take that ride. I'm feelin' okay this mornin', and you know, we're on the road to paradise, here we go, here we go.

~David Byrne

Book learning, or intelligence of one sort, doesn't guarantee you intelligence of another sort. You can behave just as stupidly with a good college education.

~David Byrne

Always be skeptical about simplicity.

~David Byrne

A little touch of chaos and danger makes a city sexy.

~David Byrne

I'd like to be known for more than being the guy in the big suit.

~David Byrne

I always think the everyday is more relevant than anything too grand because we all have to deal with it.

~David Byrne

Most of our lives aren't that exciting, but the drama is still going on in the small details.

~David Byrne

There's still a feeling that uncensored emotions make a good song. They don't. Pure emotion is just somebody screaming at you, or crying. It doesn't communicate anything.

~David Byrne

There's a pervasive feeling that when somebody sings a song and records a song on a record, that it's their true feeling.

~David Byrne

A lot of cities are making a real effort, neighborhood by neighborhood, to make themselves into a place where life can be pretty good.

~David Byrne

People are renovating places and opening ambitious new venues. That's one thing that music does. It gets people out of their houses, and gets them hanging out together.

~David Byrne

The assumption is that your personal life has to be a mess to create, but how much chaos can you allow in before it takes over?

~David Byrne

I'm concerned that my technical skills have advanced to the point where I can get closer to what I'm aiming for, which is not such a good thing.

~David Byrne

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