

# Ethel Merman

## Quotes

*Business, Mom, People, Years, Audience, Way, Care, Thinking, Four, Long,  
Stage, Piano, Want, Broadway, Has Beens, Book, These Days, Father, Tea,  
Prove*

At a flea market I always head for the junk jewelry table first.

~Ethel Merman

I was lucky enough to have the songs in my first show written by George and Ira Gershwin. Then Cole Porter wrote five shows for me

~Ethel Merman

At one time I smoked, but in 1959 I couldn't think of anything else to give up for Lent so I stopped - and I haven't had a cigarette since.

~Ethel Merman

I've never cooked. I can't do much more in the kitchen than make a cup of tea and some toast.

~Ethel Merman

Any audience that gets a laugh out of me gets it while I'm facing them

~Ethel Merman

There's such a thing as theater discipline. One player doesn't appropriate another's inventions

~Ethel Merman

Broadway has been very good to me. But then, I've been very good to Broadway.

~Ethel Merman

I can never remember being afraid of an audience. If the audience could do better, they'd be up here on stage and I'd be out there watching them.

~Ethel Merman

When you are in deep conflict about something, sometimes the most trivial thing can tip the scales.

~Ethel Merman

I can hold a note as long as the Chase National Bank.

~Ethel Merman

I wouldn't change one thing about my professional life, and I make it a point not to dwell on my mistakes

~Ethel Merman

I've made a wonderful living playing that theatrical character - the professional brassy dame

~Ethel Merman

Be yourself -- it's the one thing you can do better than anyone else.

~Ethel Merman

Always give them the old fire, even when you feel like a squashed cake of ice.

~Ethel Merman

I take a breath when I have to.

~Ethel Merman

I mentioned that I was thinking of getting out of the business after Call Me Madam. I thought maybe I should become a homebody.

~Ethel Merman

I work as often as I want and yet I'm free as a bird

~Ethel Merman

I have been ambitious to be a somebody from the time I was 5 years old

~Ethel Merman

My beloved Mom and Pop always rated tops with each other, and that's the way it will always be

~Ethel Merman

My career at Warner Brothers consisted of one musical short subject. I was running around in a bear skin. Very chic.

~Ethel Merman

I attend surprisingly few shows. The type of theater that is popular today just doesn't appeal to me.

~Ethel Merman

As far as dramas are concerned, it's considered passe for playwrights to turn out anything the average person can understand

~Ethel Merman

I've never suffered stage fright. That fascinates people.

~Ethel Merman

Cole Porter had a worldwide reputation as a sophisticate and hedonist

~Ethel Merman

I was born in my parents' bedroom on January 16. The World Almanac says it was 1909. I say it was 1912. But what difference does it make as long as I feel 33?

~Ethel Merman

Music, in the past few years... anything singable or understandable is square.

~Ethel Merman

I wasn't straining at the bit to become a movie star any more than I had plotted to get out of vaudeville and into Broadway musicals

~Ethel Merman

Legend has it that when God created me, he gave me a big distinctive

voice, a lot of boldness and no heart.

~Ethel Merman

Everything's coming up roses - for me.

~Ethel Merman

I have plenty of invitations to go places, lots to do. If I'm not working, I go to have my hair taken care of and work at needlepoint

~Ethel Merman

My father taught me to read music and play the piano-but not well, even though people have said that I'm a natural musician

~Ethel Merman

There have been people who have tried to take advantage of me. They want to be linked to me just because I'm Ethel Merman.

~Ethel Merman

Eisenhower was my war hero and the President I admire and respect most

~Ethel Merman

I am known to be able to take care of myself when I become angry. I don't mince words.

~Ethel Merman

You'll never prove you're too good for a job by not doing your best.

~Ethel Merman

In my case, things have pretty much been handed to me

~Ethel Merman

I'll admit - I was honored to be on the cover of Time

~Ethel Merman

[Cole Porter] sang like a hinge.

~Ethel Merman

Who's happy these days?

~Ethel Merman

Cole Porter wrote Anything Goes and four more hits for me

~Ethel Merman

I preferred delivering my performance in person. I liked to be in control. You couldn't be in films.

~Ethel Merman

Of my four marriages, the one to Bob Levitt is the only one I don't regret

~Ethel Merman

Once I had the attention, all I had to do was deliver.

~Ethel Merman

If I feel in need of sleep, I just open a book or turn on the television. Both are better than any sleeping pill.

~Ethel Merman

Mom claimed that I could carry a tune at 2 or 3 years of age. Maybe she was a little prejudiced.

~Ethel Merman

The slapdash way producers used to assemble a show seems a little unbelievable when we talk about them now

~Ethel Merman

Mom and Pop were proud of my popularity, but from their point of view, show business was no way to make a living.

~Ethel Merman

I wouldn't trust any man as far as you can throw a piano

~Ethel Merman

When I'm asked how to succeed in show business, I always say I haven't the foggiest

~Ethel Merman

I'll pat myself on the back and admit I have talent. Beyond that, I just happened to be in the right place at the right time

~Ethel Merman

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