

# Eugene Ionesco

## Quotes

*Dream, Writing, People, Thinking, Men, Mean, Death, Art, Reality, Trying,  
Philosophical, World, Fall, Theatre, Children, Memories, Expression, Doe,  
Childhood, Answers*

Banality is a symptom of non-communication. Men hide behind their clichés.

~Eugene Ionesco

It is not the answer that enlightens, but the question.

~Eugene Ionesco

Like all revolutions, the surrealist revolution was a reversion, a restitution, an expression of vital and indispensable spiritual needs.

~Eugene Ionesco

If one does not understand the usefulness of the useless and the uselessness of the useful, one cannot understand art.

~Eugene Ionesco

Theatre is simply what cannot be expressed by any other means; a complexity of words, movements, gestures that convey a vision of the world inexpressible in any other way.

~Eugene Ionesco

Ideologies separate us. Dreams and anguish bring us together.

~Eugene Ionesco

All cats die. Socrates is dead. Therefore Socrates is a cat.

~Eugene Ionesco

A writer never has a vacation. For a writer, life consists of either writing or thinking about writing.

~Eugene Ionesco

It's only when I say that everything is incomprehensible that I come as close as possible to understanding the only thing it is given to us to understand.

~Eugene Ionesco

The Arts are man's most useless ... and essential ... activity.

~Eugene Ionesco

There are more dead people than living. And their numbers are increasing. The living are getting rarer.

~Eugene Ionesco

There is no religion in which everyday life is not considered a prison; there is no philosophy or ideology that does not think that we live in alienation.

~Eugene Ionesco

To become conscious of what is horrifying and to laugh at it is to become master of that which is horrifying

~Eugene Ionesco

Why do people always expect authors to answer questions? I am an author because I want to ask questions. If I had answers, I'd be a politician.

~Eugene Ionesco

Many people have delusions of grandeur but you're deluded by triviality.

~Eugene Ionesco

God is dead. Marx is dead. And I don't feel so well myself.

~Eugene Ionesco

It isn't what people think that is important, but the reason they think what they think.

~Eugene Ionesco

Oh words, what crimes are committed in your name? ~Jack or The Submission

~Eugene Ionesco

People who don't read are brutes. It is better to write than to make war, isn't it?

~Eugene Ionesco

The end of childhood is when things cease to astonish us. When the world seems familiar, when one has got used to existence, one has become an adult.

~Eugene Ionesco

You can only predict things after they have happened.

~Eugene Ionesco

Only the ephemeral is of lasting value.

~Eugene Ionesco

That's how we stay young these days: murder and suicide.

~Eugene Ionesco

A work of art is above all an adventure of the mind.

~Eugene Ionesco

I started writing for the theatre because I hated it.

~Eugene Ionesco

Beauty is a precious trace that eternity causes to appear to us and that it takes away from us. A manifestation of eternity, and a sign of death as well.

~Eugene Ionesco

You've always made the mistake of being yourself.

~Eugene Ionesco

We are all looking for something of extraordinary importance whose nature we have forgotten; I am writing the memoirs of a man who has lost his memory.

~Eugene Ionesco

Boredom flourishes too, when you feel safe. It's a symptom of security.

~Eugene Ionesco

Explanation separates us from astonishment, which is the only gateway to the incomprehensible.

~Eugene Ionesco

The brightest light, the light of Italy, the purest sky of Scandinavia in the month of June is only a half-light when one compares it to the light of childhood. Even the nights were blue.

~Eugene Ionesco

Childhood is over the moment things are no longer astonishing.

~Eugene Ionesco

The critic should describe, and not prescribe.

~Eugene Ionesco

We have not the time to take our time.

~Eugene Ionesco

Everything that has been will be, everything that will be is, everything that will be has been.

~Eugene Ionesco

Language should almost break up or explode in its fruitless effort to contain so many meanings.

~Eugene Ionesco

Shakespeare was the great one before us. His place was between God and despair.

~Eugene Ionesco

We haven't the time to take out time.

~Eugene Ionesco

A nose that can see is worth two that sniff.

~Eugene Ionesco

I just can't get used to life.

~Eugene Ionesco

I still forget, sometimes, that I am no longer 12 years old.

~Eugene Ionesco

Describe a circle, stroke its back and it turns vicious.

~Eugene Ionesco

Mediocrity is more dangerous in a critic than in a writer.

~Eugene Ionesco

Every message of despair is the statement of a situation from which everybody must freely try to find a way out.

~Eugene Ionesco

A really conscientious doctor ought to die with his patient. The captain goes down with his ship.

~Eugene Ionesco

I've always been suspicious of collective truths.

~Eugene Ionesco

People always try to find base motives behind every good action. We

are afraid of pure goodness and of pure evil.

~Eugene Ionesco

Nothing makes me more pessimistic than the obligation not to be pessimistic.

~Eugene Ionesco

Drama lies in extreme exaggeration of the feelings, an exaggeration that dislocates flat everyday reality.

~Eugene Ionesco

I long for solitude and yet I cannot stand it.

~Eugene Ionesco

If I write a new play, my point of view may be profoundly modified. I may be obliged to contradict myself and I may no longer know whether I still think what I think.

~Eugene Ionesco

It's when I am fully conscious that I ask questions.

~Eugene Ionesco

We are made to be immortal, and yet we die. It's horrible, it can't be taken seriously

~Eugene Ionesco

To me the world seems grotesque, absurd, ridiculous, painful.

~Eugene Ionesco

Why was I born, if it wasn't forever?

~Eugene Ionesco

When I was born, I was almost fourteen years old. That's why I was able to understand more easily than most what it was all about.

~Eugene Ionesco

A civil servant doesn't make jokes.

~Eugene Ionesco

Good men make good rhinoceroses, unfortunately.

~Eugene Ionesco

I am told, in a dream you can only get the answer to all your questions through a dream. So in my dream, I fall asleep, and I dream, in my dream, that I'm having that absolute, revealing dream.

~Eugene Ionesco

Logic is a very beautiful thing. As long as it is not abused.

~Eugene Ionesco

The more I try to explain myself, the less I understand myself.

~Eugene Ionesco

Of course, not everything is unsayable in words, only the living truth.

~Eugene Ionesco

A man with a soul is not like every other man.

~Eugene Ionesco

The poet cannot invent new words every time, of course. He uses the words of the tribe. But the handling of the word, the accent, a new articulation, renew them.

~Eugene Ionesco

I'll never waste my dreams by falling asleep. Never again.

~Eugene Ionesco

I am not capitulating.



~Eugene Ionesco

Dreams are reality at its most profound, and what you invent is truth because invention, by its nature, can't be a lie.

~Eugene Ionesco

To tear ourselves away from the everyday, from habit, from mental laziness which hides from us the strangeness of reality, we must receive something like a real bludgeon blow.

~Eugene Ionesco

The human comedy does not attract me enough. I am not entirely of this world. I am from elsewhere, and it is worth finding this elsewhere beyond the walls...but where is it?

~Eugene Ionesco

It's not a certain society that seems ridiculous to me, it's mankind.

~Eugene Ionesco

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