

George Jean Nathan

Quotes

*Men, Theatre, Art, Literature, Love, Doe, Sex, Believe, Criticism, Looks, Actors,
Girl, Funny, Night, Memories, Real, Play, Political, Successful, Success*

Criticism is the windows and chandeliers of art: it illuminates the enveloping darkness in which art might otherwise rest only vaguely discernible, and perhaps altogether unseen.

~George Jean Nathan

Bad officials are the ones elected by good citizens who do not vote.

~George Jean Nathan

Love demands infinitely less than friendship.

~George Jean Nathan

Great art is as irrational as great music. It is mad with its own loveliness.

~George Jean Nathan

A man's wife is his compromise with the illusion of his first sweetheart.

~George Jean Nathan

Love is the emotion that a woman feels always for a poodle dog and sometimes for a man.

~George Jean Nathan

Politics is the diversion of trivial men who, when they succeed at it, become important in the eyes of more trivial men.

~George Jean Nathan

A man reserves his true and deepest love not for the species of woman in whose company he finds himself electrified and enkindled, but for that one in whose company he may feel tenderly drowsy.

~George Jean Nathan

Love is an emotion experienced by the many and enjoyed by the few.

~George Jean Nathan

The test of a real comedian is whether you laugh at him before he opens his mouth.

~George Jean Nathan

The path of sound credence is through the thick forest of skepticism.

~George Jean Nathan

I drink to make other people interesting.

~George Jean Nathan

No man can think clearly when his fists are clenched.

~George Jean Nathan

The most loyal and faithful woman indulges her imagination in a hypothetical liaison whenever she dons a new street frock for the first time.

~George Jean Nathan

I know many married men, I even know a few happily married men, but I don't know one who wouldn't fall down the first open coal hole running after the first pretty girl who gave him a wink.

~George Jean Nathan

It is also said of me that I now and then contradict myself. Yes, I improve wonderfully as time goes on.

~George Jean Nathan

In the theatre, a hero is one who believes that all women are ladies, a villain one who believes that all ladies are women.

~George Jean Nathan

A ham is simply any actor who has not been successful in repressing his natural instincts.

~George Jean Nathan

Patriotism is often an arbitrary veneration of real estate above principles.

~George Jean Nathan

Common sense, in so far as it exists, is all for the bourgeoisie. Nonsense is the privilege of the aristocracy. The worries of the world are for the common people.

~George Jean Nathan

Art is the sex of the imagination.

~George Jean Nathan

An optimist is a fellow who believes a housefly is looking for a way to get out.

~George Jean Nathan

To speak of morals in art is to speak of legislature in sex. Art is the sex of the imagination.

~George Jean Nathan

Great drama is the souvenir of the adventure of a master among the pieces of his own soul.

~George Jean Nathan

It is only the cynicism that is born of success that is penetrating and valid.

~George Jean Nathan

An actor without a playwright is like a hole without a doughnut.

~George Jean Nathan

A life spent in constant labor is a life wasted, save a man be such a fool as to regard a fulsome obituary notice as ample reward.

~George Jean Nathan

Opening Night: The night before the play is ready to open.

~George Jean Nathan

Women, as they grow older, rely more and more on cosmetics. Men, as they grow older, rely more and more on a sense of humor.

~George Jean Nathan

What passes for woman's intuition is more often intrinsically nothing more than man's transparency.

~George Jean Nathan

All that is necessary to raise imbecility into what the mob regards as profundity is to lift it off the floor and put it on a platform.

~George Jean Nathan

Criticism is the art of appraising others at one's own value.

~George Jean Nathan

Beauty makes idiots sad and wise men merry.

~George Jean Nathan

The triumph of sugar over diabetes.

~George Jean Nathan

So long as there is one pretty girl left on the stage, the professional undertakers may hold up their burial of the theater.

~George Jean Nathan

The bachelors admired freedom is often a yoke, for the freer a man is to himself the greater slave he often is to the whims of others.

~George Jean Nathan

Like everybody else, when I don't know what else to do, I seem to go in for catching colds.

~George Jean Nathan

Marriage is based on the theory that when a man discovers a brand of beer exactly to his taste, he should at once throw up his job and go to work in the brewery.

~George Jean Nathan

A ready way to lose your friend is to lend him money. Another equally ready way to lose him is to refuse to lend him money. It is six of one and a half dozen of the other.

~George Jean Nathan

Whenever a man encounters a woman in a mood he doesn't understand, he wants to know if she's tired.

~George Jean Nathan

I have yet to find a man worth his salt in any direction who did not think of himself first and foremost.

~George Jean Nathan

Sex touches the heavens only when it simultaneously touches the gutter and the mud.

~George Jean Nathan

Impersonal criticism? is like an impersonal fist fight or an impersonal marriage, and as successful.

~George Jean Nathan

A man admires a woman not for what she says, but what she listens to.

~George Jean Nathan

The sweetest memory is that which involves something which one should not have done; the bitterest, that which involves something

which one should not have done, and which one did not do.

~George Jean Nathan

Drama - what literature does at night.

~George Jean Nathan

An abstainer is the sort of man you wouldn't want to drink with even if he did.

~George Jean Nathan

Hollywood is ten million dollars worth of intricate and high ingenious machinery functioning elaborately to put skin on baloney.

~George Jean Nathan

The Russian dramatist is one who, walking through a cemetery, does not see the flowers on the graves. The American dramatist . . . Does not see the graves under the flowers.

~George Jean Nathan

It may be said that artist and censor differ in this wise: that the first is a decent mind in an indecent body and that the second is an indecent mind in a decent body.

~George Jean Nathan

A broken heart is a monument to a love that will never die; fulfillment is a monument to a love that is already on its deathbed.

~George Jean Nathan

I drink so the others become interesting.

~George Jean Nathan

The dramatic critic who is without prejudice is on the plane with the general who does not believe in taking human life.

~George Jean Nathan

All one has to do to gather a large crowd in New York is to stand on the curb a few minutes and gaze intently at the sky.

~George Jean Nathan

There is something distinguished about even his failures; they sink not trivially, but with a certain air of majesty, like a great ship, its flags flying, full of holes.

~George Jean Nathan

A man may be said to love most truly that woman in whose company he can feel drowsy in comfort.

~George Jean Nathan

Musicals are to the theater what wines are to a substantial dinner.

~George Jean Nathan

Men go to the theatre to forget; women, to remember.

~George Jean Nathan

Shaw writes plays for the ages, the ages between five and twelve.

~George Jean Nathan

The notion that as a man grows older his illusions leave him is not quite true. What is true is that his early illusions are supplanted by new, and to him, equally convincing illusions.

~George Jean Nathan

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