

Gil Scott-Heron Quotes

*People, Thinking, Song, Artist, Way, Expression, Trying, Long, Revolution,
Community, America, Differences, Shows, Mind, School, Running, Hurt,
Position, Home, Angel*

The first revolution is when you change your mind

~Gil Scott-Heron

Man is a complex being: he makes deserts bloom - and lakes die.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something.

~Gil Scott-Heron

America .. the international Jekyll and Hyde ... the land of a thousand disguises, sneaks up on you but rarely surprises

~Gil Scott-Heron

If someone comes to you and asks for help, and you can help them, you're supposed to help them. Why wouldn't you? You have been put in the position somehow to be able to help this person.

~Gil Scott-Heron

The way you get to know yourself is by the expressions on other people's faces, because that's the only thing that you can see, unless you carry a mirror about.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Music has the power to make me feel good like nothing else does. It gives me some peace for a while. Takes me back to who I really am.

~Gil Scott-Heron

The revolution will be no re-run brothers, The revolution will be live.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I don't mind being criticized. I enjoy being criticized personally, not by rumor.

~Gil Scott-Heron

A good poet feels what his community feels. Like if you stub your toe, the rest of your body hurts.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I cannot afford to watch Fox News.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Colour is not the issue in America; class is.

~Gil Scott-Heron

All the dreams you show up in are not your own.

~Gil Scott-Heron

If we meet somebody who has never made a mistake, lets help them start a religion. Until then, were just going to meet other humans and help to make each other better.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I try not to take people who haven't really thought out what they're doing too seriously. I try not to let them get in the way of what I feel I need to do.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Womenfolk raised me and I was full-grown before I knew I came from a broken home

~Gil Scott-Heron

I work hard at it [delivery of lyrics], just like I worked hard at getting my masters degree. It's not just something I sit down and do. You have to learn and keep learning.

~Gil Scott-Heron

The revolution that takes place in your head, nobody will ever see that.

~Gil Scott-Heron

The truth is that in this country you here you're more likely to be harassed, hurt, or killed if you're a minister speaking about progress for Black people than if you are a sure enough revolutionary.

~Gil Scott-Heron

The revolution will not be televised.

~Gil Scott-Heron

A lot of folks are so busy trying to get their groceries together that they don't have time to do research. I have time. Maybe that's the main difference.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I think that the more people who speak out, and say things and take stands on positions that will better our community, the better off each and every other individual artist or otherwise, will be.

~Gil Scott-Heron

As for money - when I have it, it's great. When I don't, I go get some. I've been a dishwasher, a gardener, a cleaner.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I tour more than I need to, more than is good for you. But it's my favorite part of music. I much prefer it to studio work.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I don't see any independent position that I'm in; it's rather inter-dependent.

~Gil Scott-Heron

The way you get to know yourself is by the expression on other people's faces.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I am honestly not sure how capable I am of love. And I'm not sure why.

~Gil Scott-Heron

My songs were always about the tone of voice rather than the words.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Our accomplishments show what kind of people we are.

~Gil Scott-Heron

You never cared enough to be Black

~Gil Scott-Heron

If you aren't having no fun, die, because you're running a worthless program, far as I'm concerned.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Every once in a while, you live long enough to get the respect that people didn't want to give while you were trying to become a senior citizen.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Well the first thing I want to say is mandate, my ass... We've been convinced that 26% of the registered voters is actually a mandate. We're all actors in this I suppose.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Schedule? I have no schedule. There is no hurry. I work when I want to.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Angel dust won't go away. Somefolks who were smoking it were going away.

~Gil Scott-Heron

You should be able to do anything you can afford as an adult.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I learnt early on that your audience take the songs in the way they want to rather than the way you might want them too.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I was one of the first three black students to go to an all-white school in Tennessee.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I don't suspect that in many instances the artists who are dedicated in that fashion to the progress of that community are as well protected by the community as might be necessary.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I think a whole lot of stuff gets by people - I could name half a dozen groups that do songs that are openly supportive of experimentation with drugs, nobody ever said anything to them.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I was a piano player before I was a poet.

~Gil Scott-Heron

Every show that sells out is like a hero's welcome for me.

~Gil Scott-Heron

You can have a poem like "B-Movie" and sum up thirty conversations that people have had on the subject, but I wrote it down, and other people didn't.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I don't think people in power have the potential to do anything like that to me. I feel as though as long as our music is available, folks are going

to hear it.

~Gil Scott-Heron

I was a better writer when I was teaching. I was constantly going over the basics and constantly reminding myself, as I reminded my students, what made a good story, a good poem.

~Gil Scott-Heron

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