

Harold Ramis

Quotes

People, Thinking, Comedy, Laughing, Writing, Giving, Character, Trying, Years, Actors, Country, Play, Feelings, Fun, Ideas, Names, Believe, Luxury, Growing Up, Jobs

Nothing reinforces a professional relationship more than enjoying success with someone.

~Harold Ramis

I had a lot of fun working with John Candy. We had a pretty good rapport.

~Harold Ramis

No matter what I have to say, I'm still trying to say it in comedic form.

~Harold Ramis

My characters aren't losers. They're rebels. They win by their refusal to play by everyone else's rules.

~Harold Ramis

Acting is all about big hair and funny props... All the great actors knew it. Olivier knew it, Brando knew it.

~Harold Ramis

If Chevy Chase had not been an actor, he might have been a very popular guy in advertising or whatever field he would have gone into, because of his charisma.

~Harold Ramis

I always claim that the writer has done 90 percent of the director's work.

~Harold Ramis

I collect spores, molds, and fungus.

~Harold Ramis

I was the little guy who knew how to tie a necktie. It came from having absentee parents. They were tremendously loving and caring people who, by circumstance, had to go to work.

~Harold Ramis

Never hit anyone in anger, unless you're absolutely sure you can get away with it.

~Harold Ramis

Find the most talented person in the room and if it's not you, go stand next to him. Hang out with him. try to be helpful.

~Harold Ramis

Billy Crystal knows how to make people laugh. He's got 30 years on stage... there's no telling him what's funny.

~Harold Ramis

You don't have to know much, just a little bit more than everybody else.

~Harold Ramis

I believe things happen that can't be explained, but so many people seem intent on explaining them. Everyone has an answer for them. Either aliens or things from the spirit world.

~Harold Ramis

Comedy is essentially made by young men, or older men with some form of arrested development, for young men or immature older men.

~Harold Ramis

I never work just to work. It's some combination of laziness and self-respect.

~Harold Ramis

I'd like to think I'd never do a gratuitous fart joke.

~Harold Ramis

You can't not have feelings about country clubs, whichever side you're on.

~Harold Ramis

Just expressing contempt for your leaders doesn't really accomplish anything.

~Harold Ramis

Life doesn't care about your vision. You just gotta roll with it.

~Harold Ramis

How one handles success or failure is determined by their early childhood.

~Harold Ramis

The cutting room is where you discover the optimal length of the movie.

~Harold Ramis

We are all several different people. There are different aspects of our nature that are competing.

~Harold Ramis

That's one of the great things about DVD: In addition to reaching people who didn't catch the movie in theaters, you get to have this interaction of sorts.

~Harold Ramis

My job is to come up with something that you like and you agree with that you would play wholeheartedly. If we disagree, I may not be doing my job correctly.

~Harold Ramis

I used to be married to a woman who pursued every spiritual trend with

tremendous passion and dragged me along. I don't believe in anything. I'd seen mediums and readers.

~Harold Ramis

I'm not a believer in the pratfall. I don't think it's funny just to have someone fall down.

~Harold Ramis

I feel a big obligation to the audience, almost in a moral sense, to say something useful. If I'm going to spend a year of my life on these things, I want something that I feel that strongly about.

~Harold Ramis

There's a personal story of my own that I will write at some point, and it's a film that I will happily make. It could very well be the next thing I do, unless someone shows me something great.

~Harold Ramis

Multiplicity was a movie that tested really well. People seeing the movie really liked it, but then the studio couldn't market it. We opened on a weekend with nine other films.

~Harold Ramis

The first comedy screenplay that I wrote was Animal House and I always thought I could and should be a director but no one was about to give me that opportunity on Animal House.

~Harold Ramis

I've been directing for 25 years almost, and I've only directed nine films in that time because I like to be careful.

~Harold Ramis

I'd rather do comedies that strike at some bigger ideas.

~Harold Ramis

Parents tell us things to protect us, or they educate us from their own misinformation or misconceptions.

~Harold Ramis

I'm terrified beyond the capacity for rational thought.

~Harold Ramis

As much as I liked acting for its playfulness and the reward of hearing big laughs wash over you on a stage, I always felt I should do something that I could control.

~Harold Ramis

I have no trouble selling outâ€”I'm a benevolent hack, in a certain wayâ€”but I want to pander for something I believe in.

~Harold Ramis

Whatever bliss we think we're going to find, we may find it in brief flashes, fleeting moments that come and go. There's an impossibility to nailing down any good feeling.

~Harold Ramis

I realized that my righteous indignation was a form of entertainment for me. I loved getting pissed off at injustice. I didn't do anything about it, I just liked the feeling of being pissed off.

~Harold Ramis

Whenever a critic mentions the salary of an actor, I'm thinking, He's not talking about the movie.

~Harold Ramis

I never read Playboy before I started working there and stopped reading it the day I quit.

~Harold Ramis

First and foremost, you have to make the movie for yourself. And that's not to say, to hell with everyone else, but what else have you got to go on but your own taste and judgment?

~Harold Ramis

My only conclusion about structure is that nothing works if you don't have interesting characters and a good story to tell.

~Harold Ramis

Where's the great pay? Where's the travel? Where's the Winnebago, Goddamnit!

~Harold Ramis

We were tremendously encouraged by the testing of Analyze That. Audiences loved it. They were telling us that they liked it as much as the original. We recorded the laughs in the theater.

~Harold Ramis

You can't love somebody into a state of mental health.

~Harold Ramis

Most people live somewhere on the spectrum of anxiety and depression.

~Harold Ramis

I look for the meaning in what's funny, and I look for what's funny about things that are meaningful to me.

~Harold Ramis

I'm sure that the liability for doing a tracheotomy would be tremendous. You make one mistake, and it's over. Most doctors won't even do it.

~Harold Ramis

I loved writing and performing, but the idea of doing it for a living

seemed so remote. But I eventually let it devolve to the point where it was the only thing I could do.

~Harold Ramis

The trick with sequels is, you have to give people what they liked before, yet be innovative enough so they don't feel like they're seeing the same movie.

~Harold Ramis

Some people have a fear of rejecting all the security that comes with family, church and state. They become fundamentalists.

~Harold Ramis

Once you're alienated, you're on your own. That takes you to the world of the existential, where things just kind of float.

~Harold Ramis

For me, most comedy scripts fail in the mechanical playing-out of the setup. They'll pay lip service to a moral lesson or a psychological progression.

~Harold Ramis

I'm thinking of doing a marital comedy for one of the studios, but I want it to be so painful that it'll have a profound effect on married couples who see it together.

~Harold Ramis

I want to explore marriage without the usual Hallmark Card platitudes. Life is difficult, and I like movies that acknowledge that.

~Harold Ramis

I think of myself as a real writer, not just someone who dabbles in it, so I deserve some credit.

~Harold Ramis

I've always had that overweening desire to be liked by the audience.

~Harold Ramis

There's something very edgy about Bill Murray out there improvising.

~Harold Ramis

When someone's an actor and you're an actor, you meet them and you feel like you know them. We're in the same business, and we all speak the same comedy language.

~Harold Ramis

The times change, and to the extent that comedy captures the spirit of the times, it will enjoy success.

~Harold Ramis

At a certain point, you have to convince the actors that you've done the right thing. The way I work, if I can't convince them, I've got to move on. I can't coerce them or browbeat them.

~Harold Ramis

When you're a big enough part of the process that the Writers Guild gives you a lot of credit, that's a good thing. It tells me that I've had a significant impact on the film as a writer.

~Harold Ramis

It's a great luxury for me to be able to write on the films that I direct, and kind of a nice thing to be able to write enough to get credit, which is difficult for a director.

~Harold Ramis

I can't imagine a successful comedy movie without a successful comedy performance at the heart of it.

~Harold Ramis

Most comedy is not very ambitious. You probably can't name more than a handful of comedies that would qualify for Best Picture.

~Harold Ramis

The comic impulse is sometimes a reaction to sadness. You feel like you can make one choice or the other.

~Harold Ramis

I try to measure the amount of truth in a work rather than just looking at the generic distinction between comedy and drama.

~Harold Ramis

I have tons of rescuing fantasies based on the movies I saw when I was growing up. I wanted to be Robin Hood and the Three Musketeers and the Scarlet Pimpernel.

~Harold Ramis

I learned over the years that it's easy to appear smart referencing things that people don't know.

~Harold Ramis

If people offer me decent roles in good films, of course I'll take it. But I just didn't like the actor lifestyle. You end up focusing all your energy on trying to get parts you don't even want.

~Harold Ramis

Stand-up is every man for himself; you learn from hanging out at these clubs and watching other guys, and then trying not to be like them.

~Harold Ramis

It doesn't take any longer to improvise 10 takes than it takes to shoot 10 takes of the same thing. It turns out to be just as responsible from a business point of view as anything else.

~Harold Ramis

You can perceive life as tragic, or you can laugh at the tragedy of it and that turns it into comedy. It doesn't change the circumstances.

~Harold Ramis

I've always thought that comedy was just another dramatic expression.

~Harold Ramis

Most comedies are calculated. They tend to pander. They're not about anything important.

~Harold Ramis

No one will laugh at how great things are for somebody.

~Harold Ramis

I met someone who said they'd figured out my genre: "madcap redemption comedy." I'll buy that.

~Harold Ramis

We all wish we could be in more than one place at the same time. People with families feel guilty all the time-if we spend too much time with our family, we feel we're not working hard enough.

~Harold Ramis

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