

Harry Shearer Quotes

*Thinking, Years, People, Guy, Night, Two, Character, White, Political, Would
Be, Trying, Able, Doe, Men, School, Art, Ease, Comedy, Kids, Radio*

I went to graduate school at Harvard for one year I worked in the state legislature in Sacramento for one year. I taught school in Compton for two years.

~Harry Shearer

If absolute power corrupts absolutely, does absolute powerlessness make you pure?

~Harry Shearer

I was a Political Science major.

~Harry Shearer

I am one of those people who thrive on deadlines. Nothing brings on inspiration more readily than desperation.

~Harry Shearer

To do then now would be retro. To do then then was very now-tro, if you will.

~Harry Shearer

When Nixon died, on my radio show I started doing sketches with three basic conceits: One, there's a place called Heaven. Two, Nixon got in. And three, he's still taping.

~Harry Shearer

The hardest work most of us do is maintaining the appearance of normality.

~Harry Shearer

When it moved to Friday night it disappeared, when they find another show that can do what The Simpsons does, they will be delighted to do cancel The Simpsons.

~Harry Shearer

Well I directed a few feature length things for HBO in the late eighties.

~Harry Shearer

Nobody makes a movie thinking it's still going to be watched and talked about and quoted 20 years later.

~Harry Shearer

You're not just looking for laughs, but you're trying to do the characters first, and then the laughs come afterwards.

~Harry Shearer

Music often happens even faster than comedy in terms of the creation.

~Harry Shearer

If you're going to do something that lasts 90 minutes, you can't really do it with stick figures.

~Harry Shearer

You have to do real acting, not just do a voice.

~Harry Shearer

Privilege has its own way of seeing the world. It's not about the kind of people they are; it's about the situation they're in.

~Harry Shearer

I wasn't playing Nixon's satirical stick figure. I was playing Nixon the man. As an actor, I felt I had to get to the deeply flawed humanity of the guy.

~Harry Shearer

I've got an odd, negative bond with C. Montgomery Burns. He reminds a lot of people of bosses they've worked for. He certainly reminds me of someone I'm working for.

~Harry Shearer

In the year and a half I was on SNL, I never saw anybody ad lib anything. For a very good reason - the director cut according to the script. So, if you ad libbed, you'd be off mike and off camera.

~Harry Shearer

The act of getting married, stripped of the necessity to have a secure setting to raise children, seems to me no less grim than registering your emotions with the government.

~Harry Shearer

The last president we had was the smartest guy anyone could remember and he did the dumbest thing anyone has ever seen in the White House so go figure.

~Harry Shearer

I didn't have a lot of independent film connections. It really took until the digital film revolution came along that I realized that I could do it myself.

~Harry Shearer

Sometimes, songs spill out of you very fast, and sometimes you have to wrangle them to the floor. But the same thing is true of comedy, where sometimes it really flows.

~Harry Shearer

The Simpsons will end as soon as Fox is able to find an 8 p.m. comedy hit to replace it - so I give us another 50 years.

~Harry Shearer

[C. Montgomery] Burns is much purer evil than Nixon was. I think it's the purity of his evil that attracts me as a comic character.

~Harry Shearer

I'm not sure that there's anybody else that's as psychologically complex

and who's given us this window into his soul that Nixon gave us. That's what I find absolutely addictive and seductive.

~Harry Shearer

For a guy who is always banging on about the masculine virtues, Nixon had this remarkable proclivity for very dainty gestures.

~Harry Shearer

If Nixon were a Republican senator today, he would have been primaried out.

~Harry Shearer

I think the British learn their history through the prism of this gallery of grotesques known as the royals.

~Harry Shearer

Music can happen with equal ease as a solo or collaborative venture, it seems to me.

~Harry Shearer

I have a very strong visual memory of the first time I made him laugh. That was remarkable. I was like, "Oh, God, I just made Jack Benny laugh."

~Harry Shearer

I always used to sit next to Mel Blanc when we'd do the shows. When you have Jack Benny on one side and Mel Blanc on the other, you're not going to go far wrong.

~Harry Shearer

I was never into candy and games and clowns.

~Harry Shearer

I'd always loved radio. I loved Bob And Ray. I loved Stan Freberg.

~Harry Shearer

You can get an awful lot of effects into the customer's mind for a great deal less time and money in radio than you can in television.

~Harry Shearer

The first thing you've got to do is know your craft, and then you can do something else with it.

~Harry Shearer

The theater business is very much about "Hey, if you want our big blockbuster at Christmas time, you'll play our piece of crap in April."

~Harry Shearer

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