

# Howard Barker

## Quotes

*Theatre, Character, Not Interested, Play, Pain, Beautiful, World, Impossible, Ordeals, Tragedy, Prejudice, Anxiety, Political, Achievement, Self Destructive, Biblical, Self, Important, Dark, Way*

I never 'say' anything in my work. I invent a world. Let others decide what is being 'said'.

~Howard Barker

We are suffocated by writers who want to enlighten us with their truths. For me, the theatre is beautiful because it is a secret, and secrets seduce us, we all want to share secrets.

~Howard Barker

Theatre should be a taxing experience: the greatest achievement of a writer is to produce a character who creates anxiety.

~Howard Barker

I don't like sympathetic characters.

~Howard Barker

I'm not interested in observed reality.

~Howard Barker

I submit all my plays to the National Theatre for rejection. To assure myself I am seeing clearly.

~Howard Barker

When I write, I am not giving a lecture, I am speculating on behavior. Sometimes this is dangerous, but it should be. As I say often, theatre is a dark place and we should keep the light out of it.

~Howard Barker

The artist who makes himself accessible is self-destructive.

~Howard Barker

I have plenty of political views and plenty of social and personal prejudices. I do not, however, value them.

~Howard Barker

A good play puts the audience through a certain ordeal.

~Howard Barker

I'm not interested in entertainment.

~Howard Barker

You emerge from tragedy equipped against lies. After the musical, you're anybody's fool

~Howard Barker

I believe in poetic discourse, in the value of speech in a non-naturalistic way; it's speculative.

~Howard Barker

I've often taken important classical, biblical or literary stories and interrogated them. I have tried to reinvigorate Lot by interpreting it differently.

~Howard Barker

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