

Ian Mckellen

Quotes

*Gay, People, Thinking, Directors, Play, Acting, Men, Actors, Character, Ideas,
Jobs, Lying, School, Film, Looks, Trying, Done, Audience, Kids, Adventure*

Try and understand what part you have to play in the world in which you live. There's more to life than you know and it's all happening out there. Discover what part you can play and then go for it.

~Ian Mckellen

I often thought my gravestone would say, 'Here lies Gandalf. He came out,'

~Ian Mckellen

I'm dead against the idea that you should try to "cure" people of being gay.

~Ian Mckellen

Acting is a very personal process. It has to do with expressing your own personality, and discovering the character you're playing through your own experience - so we're all different.

~Ian Mckellen

To know you are in the company with people who love and care for each other, as well as for whatever they are working on, is almost essential.

~Ian Mckellen

I've often thought the Bible should have a disclaimer in the front saying this is fiction.

~Ian Mckellen

You can always pick out stage actors at the Oscars: they know how to walk.

~Ian Mckellen

We are very lucky to be men because women have a terrible time getting older parts. It's much more difficult.

~Ian Mckellen

Personally, coming out was one of the most important things I've ever done, lifting from my shoulders the millstone of lies that I hadn't even realized I was carrying.

~Ian Mckellen

I can't take on all the worries of the world, you know. I can only talk about being gay and being an actor. I'll have to leave those other battles to somebody else.

~Ian Mckellen

When you were on stage, you could be absolutely open about your emotions and indulge them and express yourself in a way that - in real life - I wasn't doing.

~Ian Mckellen

There's no sex in Middle Earth.

~Ian Mckellen

Splendid architecture, the love of your life, an old friend... they can all go drifting by unseen if you're not careful.

~Ian Mckellen

In fact, my face has shrunk in the meantime, but it won't be particularly noticeable because it's covered up with hair. So I hope I'm not alarmed if I ever do sit through the five movies.

~Ian Mckellen

No one needs to feel sorry for me or anyone else who has fallen victim to success.

~Ian Mckellen

[There's] nothing special about an actor's imagination, except that he uses it a lot.

~Ian Mckellen

Why live outside the US? Do you want health care or safe food products or democracy or something? They're all overrated. Stay for the excellent cable TV.

~Ian Mckellen

In the theatre, the actor is in total control. The director wasn't in the house last night, the designer wasn't there, the author's dead. It's just us and the audience.

~Ian Mckellen

Every anti-gay remark from the Church gives the thug a license to be cruel.

~Ian Mckellen

If you've got Mystique as your girlfriend the fun you could have in bed - I've just imagined X-Men 3 might open with me in bed with Patrick Stewart.

~Ian Mckellen

My reaction to 3D is subtly. Things don't come out at you, but rather you - The audience come into the film.

~Ian Mckellen

Acting is no longer about lying. It's now about revealing the truth. People are at ease with me now. Honesty is the best policy.

~Ian Mckellen

The thing you notice here after America is how refreshingly ordinary people look, because they haven't had their chin wrapped around the back of their ears.

~Ian Mckellen

I was brought up in industrial south Lancashire, down the cobbled road from where LS Lowry (1887-1976) lived and painted.

~Ian Mckellen

The audience's expectations are ever-present.

~Ian Mckellen

What I particularly like about Broadway is the camaraderie and the friendship of other people in other shows. Everybody knows you're opening and cares about you. There's a real village atmosphere.

~Ian Mckellen

I suspect the base that I'm working from is not particularly one of inquiry, but of memory of what I did last time.

~Ian Mckellen

It was wrongly assumed that I wished to become some sort of leader among gay activists, whereas in reality I was happier to be a foot soldier.

~Ian Mckellen

I don't make much distinction between being a stand-up comic and acting Shakespeare - in fact, unless you're a good comedian, you're never going to be able to play Hamlet properly.

~Ian Mckellen

All other areas of my life, I'm hopeless. I can't even be certain how to boil an egg.

~Ian Mckellen

That was the big effect Lord of the Rings had on me. It was discovering New Zealand. And even more precious were the people- not at all like the Australians.

~Ian Mckellen

Success in the movies has pushed me to places I didn't know I was

allowed to go.

~Ian Mckellen

Elijah looks angelic but his beauty of spirit is what makes his Frodo leap out of the screen. Unalloyed goodness is one of the most difficult attributes to act.

~Ian Mckellen

My acting stopped being about disguise and became about truth which suits the camera, so my film career took off when I came out.

~Ian Mckellen

The performance is created by the director. The actor is the material. And I think that has to be true.

~Ian Mckellen

Godot is whatever it is in life that you are waiting for: 'I'm waiting to win the lottery. I'm waiting to fall in love'. For me, as a child, it was Christmas. At least that eventually came.

~Ian Mckellen

Actors are merely the medium through which a story happens.

~Ian Mckellen

It is so painful watching yourself act, particularly because you can't do anything about it, it's all done and dusted.

~Ian Mckellen

For old actors, just remember that inside you're only 14. Acting is for kids. You poor old grown-ups, you've forgotten how to do what kids know automatically.

~Ian Mckellen

I'm a latecomer to popular TV. This is rather new to me, being in a

sitcom. It's been an ambition of mine.

~Ian Mckellen

Ever since the invention of the camera, people have been trying to create 3D, because we see things in 3D, and everyone's aware that the camera doesn't.

~Ian Mckellen

Kids are coming out earlier and earlier - some, as young as twelve now - and schools need to take that into account.

~Ian Mckellen

I think I'm a bit gruffer than I used to be, and I'm certainly older.

~Ian Mckellen

Television can take anything. It can take the most exaggerated of storytelling forms.

~Ian Mckellen

As for the clarity of the 48 frames, I've heard people say that it looks odd, it's too demanding, there's too much information, you don't know where to look.

~Ian Mckellen

When you're on stage with an audience, the director's nowhere to be seen. He's onto the next job.

~Ian Mckellen

I think if I were asked to do as many as fifty takes, I would assume the director had no idea what he wanted, and was just hoping, eventually, to see it.

~Ian Mckellen

In the old-fashioned sitcoms, to be gay was, in itself, funny, and you

laughed at the characters rather than with them.

~Ian Mckellen

Most of the time when you do a job, a play or a film, you're wondering, "Will there be an audience?"

~Ian Mckellen

That's the imagination that happens in the theater. That imagination is translated in film by the film magicians and all the technology.

~Ian Mckellen

2D looks so flat. Well, it is, of course, it's flat. But 3D isn't. And for an adventure story that takes you into a long-distant, fictional world, it's ideal, I think.

~Ian Mckellen

I love the Broadway audiences, who relish live drama and don't hesitate to display their enthusiasm.

~Ian Mckellen

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