

# John Guare

## Quotes

*New York, People, Play, Thinking, Cities, Believe, Playwright, Real, Trying, Tennessee, Imagination, Dna, Years, Past, Risk, Book, Beautiful, Perfect, Hate, Business*

We live in a world where amnesia is the most wished-for state. When did history become a bad word?

~John Guare

It's amazing how a little tomorrow can make up for a whole lot of yesterday.

~John Guare

And it is always Easter Sunday at the New York City Ballet. It is always coming back to life. Not even coming back to life - it lives in the constant present.

~John Guare

Feydeau's one rule of playwriting: Character A: My life is perfect as long as I don't see Character B. Knock Knock. Enter Character B.

~John Guare

Show business offers more solid promises than Catholicism.

~John Guare

However, the moral center of New York City, I believe, is the New York City Ballet.

~John Guare

The great risk is always saying, "how will I communicate what I'm trying to get across to a room full of strangers sitting in the dark watching a stage?"

~John Guare

How much of your life can you account for? My life is a collage of unaccounted for brush strokes; I am all randomâ€•.

~John Guare

The life of a dancer is tragically short. What is remarkable about the

New York City Ballet is that it makes us forget that. Because it keeps the ballet alive.

~John Guare

And what would be great numbers in a Broadway show are now on stage of the New York City Ballet.

~John Guare

All the New York City Ballet does is hit beautiful home runs.

~John Guare

Does the New York City Ballet affect other places? Yeah, it lets people know they should come to New York.

~John Guare

I think that every year that the New York City Ballet is alive is worthy of celebration. Because otherwise the terrible thing is just that we take it for granted.

~John Guare

I think of the New York City Ballet as the Yankees without George Steinbrenner.

~John Guare

I don't think about taking a risk. I think about how far can I go. How can I make myself. What are the risks I must create.

~John Guare

You can read ten books and finally come across one detail, and it's like, "now everything else makes sense. Now I know where I am."

~John Guare

What we're dealt with hopefully is two arms, two eyes, two legs, a head, a heart. The variations, the extensions, the possibilities of the human

body, what that can do

~John Guare

Avoiding humiliation is the core of tragedy and comedy.

~John Guare

The only riots were the people trying to get tickets.

~John Guare

I mean New York City is the financial capital of the world. It's where all the money passes through, the Dow Jones, whatever, that's where all the money goes.

~John Guare

You don't push the button that says "Now I will write something that resonates in time." You don't know. It's what happens after a play is finished.

~John Guare

You cannot write to resonate twenty or thirty or forty years from now. You only can write for that very day, but whatever happens is all gravy.

~John Guare

We're all where we come from. We all have our roots.

~John Guare

I believe that the imagination is the passport we create to take us into the real world. I believe the imagination is another phrase for what is most uniquely us.

~John Guare

I wanted to be a Bride of Christ but I guess now I'm a young divorcee.

~John Guare

The Atlantic Ocean was something then.

~John Guare

Oh, I never use a seat belt. I don't believe in gravity.

~John Guare

I'm an American playwright. Tennessee Williams got in all our DNA.

~John Guare

Sometimes you have to protect the life of the play. It seems like spelling out mysterious, musical details can destroy a play by making the motivations too clear, too simplex.

~John Guare

Eugene O'Neil created an American theater, and Tennessee Williams taught it how to sing.

~John Guare

Every play is so important. It's a record of what life was like at the time you wrote that play or that book.

~John Guare

The power of the past to still dominate our thinking today.

~John Guare

You can't be a sort of pioneer.

~John Guare

I think a playwright must be his own dramaturg.

~John Guare

I think a playwright must be his own dramaturg. I believe in a theater where the director and the playwright work together to create what they need.

~John Guare

Like a dog, a playwright lives in an eternal present and a play is never closed.

~John Guare

Oh god, I'd just hate it if a certain dramaturg got a hold of a Pinter play, for example, which are all mystery and all music. That's how the life get's sucked out of plays.

~John Guare

I think that some of these plays are lost in this new horror called development, which is a place for dramaturgs to say "let me tell you what your play means," and the life gets sucked out of a play.

~John Guare

People rewrite the play so much to make it palatable to the audience, to make something clear, that they just deaden it. Like it was left it in the oven too long.

~John Guare

There's no American playwright after 1945 who wasn't profoundly affected - who didn't have their DNA changed by Tennessee Williams.

~John Guare

I'm sure there are some good dramaturgs but I've never worked with one.

~John Guare

Does any art have a practical value? People love to talk about how expensive a painting is. That's the only way we can talk about paintings in this century.

~John Guare

People go to see beautiful paintings to see how much they cost. Wow. The practical value is that it shows you what the human spirit can do.

~John Guare

The rich live hand-to-mouth too-just on a higher level.

~John Guare

There's no such thing as a perfect play. Sometimes you have to protect the life of the play.

~John Guare

You can't kind of take away, you either do or you don't. If you kind of take away something you're a failure.

~John Guare

I only do business with the people I do business with. The people I do business with find out I do business with the people I don't do business with.... I can't do business with you.

~John Guare

1975 is as much a historical document as 1803.

~John Guare

James Joyce wrote the definitive work about Dublin while he was living in Switzerland. We're all where we come from. We all have our roots.

~John Guare

### **Related Links:**

- [New York Quotes](#)
- [People Quotes](#)
- [Play Quotes](#)
- [Thinking Quotes](#)
- [Cities Quotes](#)
- [Believe Quotes](#)
- [Playwright Quotes](#)
- [Real Quotes](#)
- [Trying Quotes](#)
- [Tennessee Quotes](#)
- [Imagination Quotes](#)
- [Dna Quotes](#)
- [Years Quotes](#)
- [Past Quotes](#)
- [Risk Quotes](#)
- [Book Quotes](#)
- [Beautiful Quotes](#)
- [Perfect Quotes](#)
- [Hate Quotes](#)
- [Business Quotes](#)