

Keith Johnstone

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Ideas, Children, Laughing, Trying, Imagination, Theatre,
Teaching, Believe, Feelings, Average, Mean, Accepting, Problem, Teacher,
Stuff, School, Needs, Entertainment*

Good improvisers seem telepathic; everything looks pre-arranged, This is because they accept all offers madeâ€”which is something no â€”normal' person would do.

~Keith Johnstone

The improviser has to understand that his first skill lies in releasing his partner's imagination.

~Keith Johnstone

Many teachers think of children as immature adults. It might lead to better and more 'respectful' teaching, if we thought of adults as atrophied children.

~Keith Johnstone

If you have a good idea, open your mouth and say something else.

~Keith Johnstone

Imagination is as effortless as perception, unless we think it might be â€”wrong', which is what our education encourages us to believe.

~Keith Johnstone

The best laughs are on the recognition of truth.

~Keith Johnstone

None of us really grow up. All we ever do is learn how to behave in public.

~Keith Johnstone

If you believe you're good already, you don't need to do extra stuff to impress us. Your best work comes when you're absorbed; because then your ego is away.

~Keith Johnstone

In life most of us are highly skilled at suppressing action. Bad

improvisers block action often with a high degree of skill. Good improvisers develop action.

~Keith Johnstone

Enjoy things even when you're screwing up.

~Keith Johnstone

Every time you go the way the audience expects, they'll think you're original. People laugh with pleasure at the obvious.

~Keith Johnstone

An artist who is inspired is being obvious. He's not making any decisions, he's not weighing one idea against another. He's accepting his first thoughts.

~Keith Johnstone

If people had no fear, you'd hardly need to have to teach them. It's the fear that screws everything up.

~Keith Johnstone

In a normal education everything is designed to suppress spontaneity, but I wanted to develop it.

~Keith Johnstone

Don't come on to be funny - come on to solve problems.

~Keith Johnstone

If it weren't for fear, I wouldn't have to teach you a damn thing

~Keith Johnstone

In a scene [where the improvisers must interact] without the letter S, the audience is waiting for you to lose - so they can laugh at you. Don't try to win.

~Keith Johnstone

Good impro can make you laugh, we love it, but soon the content is forgotten. Good scenes from The Life Game stay with you always. They haunt you.

~Keith Johnstone

Truth is that the best ideas are often psychotic, obscene and unoriginal.

~Keith Johnstone

Where if you're in a universe where you have to accept ideas, you'll never know if your partner wanted the garbage you're handing them. They have to take it.

~Keith Johnstone

Every theatre worth anything has somebody in the middle of it who is driving it; like Joan Littlewood with her theatre.

~Keith Johnstone

I'm not against work, I think work is great, I work a lot; but if you want to play, the consequences must not be important.

~Keith Johnstone

The problem's always been to deal with the fear. Cos the fear is pretty . . . it ruins everybody really.

~Keith Johnstone

The improvisation had to be in public, because you only get value playing to strangers.

~Keith Johnstone

Trying to do better is trying to be better than you actually are, and I don't think you can do that.

~Keith Johnstone

Very hard to get an audience. So if you're going to fill the theatre, you can't just rely on old stuff.

~Keith Johnstone

When you want to have entertainment, it must be a waste of time. I don't like that. I don't like improvisation being pointless.

~Keith Johnstone

I think my brain is much more intelligent than I am...so I tend to trust it.

~Keith Johnstone

Light entertainment means it mustn't teach you anything.

~Keith Johnstone

My feeling is the moment the theatre is not full you have to do something else. But most people somehow think 'If we did it better, they would come'. No. They don't come.

~Keith Johnstone

You can sort of trick people into being really good. Even if they didn't know anything.

~Keith Johnstone

I was crazy about silent comedy - in the old days, and crazy about Japanese movies.

~Keith Johnstone

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