

Kenneth Tynan

Quotes

*Art, Play, Doubt, Theatre, Writing, Men, Artist, Drama, Felt, Wish, Body, Life,
Would Be, Cities, Home, Years, Doe, Past, Unique, Creative*

A critic is a man who knows the way but can't drive the car.

~Kenneth Tynan

A neurosis is a secret that you don't know you are keeping.

~Kenneth Tynan

Show me a congenital eavesdropper with the instincts of a Peeping Tom and I will show you the making of a dramatist.

~Kenneth Tynan

Dichotomy = operation performed on lesbians to make them normal.

~Kenneth Tynan

Art is a private thing, the artist makes it for himself; a comprehensible work is the product of a journalist. We need works that are strong, straight, precise, and forever beyond understanding.

~Kenneth Tynan

The buttocks are the most aesthetically pleasing part of the body because they are non-functional.

~Kenneth Tynan

No theater could sanely flourish until there was an umbilical connection between what was happening on the stage and what was happening in the world.

~Kenneth Tynan

A good drama critic is one who perceives what is happening in the theatre of his time. A great drama critic also perceives what is not happening.

~Kenneth Tynan

Pearl is a disease of oysters. Levant is a disease of Hollywood.

~Kenneth Tynan

Not content to have the audience in the palm of his hand, he goes one further and clenches his fist.

~Kenneth Tynan

All of life is more or less what the French would call s'imposer, to be able to create one's own terms for what one does.

~Kenneth Tynan

I do not see the E.E.C. [European Economic Community] as a great love affair. It's more like nine middle aged couples with failing marriages meeting at a Brussels hotel for a group grope.

~Kenneth Tynan

The sheer complexity of writing a play always had dazzled me. In an effort to understand it, I became a critic.

~Kenneth Tynan

It is Ireland's sacred duty to send over, every few years, a playwright to save the English theater from inarticulate glumness.

~Kenneth Tynan

William Congreve is the only sophisticated playwright England has produced; and like Shaw, Sheridan, and Wilde, his nearest rivals, he was brought up in Ireland.

~Kenneth Tynan

Drama criticism ... is a self-knowing account of the way in which one's consciousness has been modified during an evening at the theatre.

~Kenneth Tynan

A novel is a static thing that one moves through; a play is a dynamic thing that moves past one.

~Kenneth Tynan

The vengeful hag is played by Ingrid Bergman, which is like casting Eleanor Roosevelt as Lizzie Borden.

~Kenneth Tynan

Art is a private thing, the artist makes it for himself

~Kenneth Tynan

A city whose living immediacy is so urgent that when I am in it I lose all sense of the past.

~Kenneth Tynan

Everyone is vulnerable who is at once gifted and gregarious.

~Kenneth Tynan

The unique thing about Margaret Rutherford is that she can act with her chin alone. Among its many moods I especially cherish the chin commanding, the chin in doubt, and the chin at bay.

~Kenneth Tynan

What, when drunk, one sees in other women, one sees in Garbo sober.

~Kenneth Tynan

I hope I never need to believe in God. It would be an awful confession of failure.

~Kenneth Tynan

When you've seen all of Ionesco's plays, I felt at the end, you've seen one of them.

~Kenneth Tynan

There, standing at the piano, was the original good time who had been had by all.

~Kenneth Tynan

I doubt if I could love anyone who did not wish to see *Look Back in Anger*.

~Kenneth Tynan

Western man, especially the Western critic, still find it very hard to go into print and say: "I recommend you to go and see this because it gave me an erection."

~Kenneth Tynan

Among the classic tastes: bread sauce, Nuits St Georges Les Perdrix 1962, Worcestershire sauce, Toblerone and Bovril.

~Kenneth Tynan

Any country that has sexual censorship will eventually have political censorship.

~Kenneth Tynan

A good many inconveniences attend playgoing in any large city, but the greatest of them is usually the play itself.

~Kenneth Tynan

We shall be judged by what we do, not by how we felt while we were doing it.

~Kenneth Tynan

A villain who shares one's guilt is inevitably more attractive than a hero convinced of one's innocence.

~Kenneth Tynan

The greatest films are those which show how society shapes man. The greatest plays are those which show how man shapes society.

~Kenneth Tynan

A useful word previously unknown to me: 'ergophobia', meaning 'fear or

hatred of work'. At last I can define myself in one word.

~Kenneth Tynan

If there's one thing I can't bear, it's people who are wise during the event.

~Kenneth Tynan

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