

# Manuel Puig

## Quotes

*Literature, Writing, Thinking, Reality, Needs, Believe, People, Novel, Reading, Stories, Character, Book, Country, Giving, Hands, Film, Teaching, Novelists, Study, Rock And Roll*

I felt the need to tell stories to understand myself.

~Manuel Puig

What better model of a synthesis than a nocturnal dream? Dreams simplify, don't they?

~Manuel Puig

My stories are very somber, so I think I need the comic ingredient. Besides, life has so much humor.

~Manuel Puig

I can work in films as long as the story doesn't have a realistic nature. If I'm working with an allegory, a fantasy, it can be developed in synthetic terms.

~Manuel Puig

I think cinema is closer to allegories than to reality. It's closer to our dreams.

~Manuel Puig

I am only interested in bad taste if I can enjoy a gruesome tango or watch a movie that makes me cry.

~Manuel Puig

Your reality, isn't restricted by this cell we live in. If you read something, if you study something, you transcend any cell you're inside of

~Manuel Puig

If it's great stuff, the people who consume it are nourished. It's a positive force.

~Manuel Puig

If the novelist shares his or her problems with the characters, he or she is able to study his personal unconscious.

~Manuel Puig

Teaching is a good distraction, and I am in contact with young people, which is very gratifying.

~Manuel Puig

It's my own personal unconscious that ultimately creates the novel's aesthetic facade.

~Manuel Puig

I allow my intuition to lead my path.

~Manuel Puig

I've never seen a worse situation than that of young writers in the United States. The publishing business in North America is so commercialized.

~Manuel Puig

Being a man (male "macho") does not give you right to anything.

~Manuel Puig

Modern American cinema seems to me superficial. The intention is to understand a certain reality, and the result is nothing but a photographing of that reality.

~Manuel Puig

The essayist has to follow a certain intellectual pattern. The novelist has the advantage of using fantasy, of being subjective.

~Manuel Puig

I began teaching in New York because I needed to stay in the United States and didn't have my immigration papers in order, so working for a university was a way of resolving the issue.

~Manuel Puig

In film, you can't go into analytical explorations because the audience will reject that.

~Manuel Puig

My greatest aspiration was always to live in the tropics.

~Manuel Puig

What's better, a poetic intuition or an intellectual work? I think they complement each other.

~Manuel Puig

I haven't been the kind of writer about whom book-length academic studies have been written.

~Manuel Puig

Tardiness in literature can make me nervous.

~Manuel Puig

I write for somebody who has my own limitations. My reader has a certain difficulty with concentrating, which in my case comes from being a film viewer.

~Manuel Puig

Hitchcock makes it very clear to us. There's an objective and a subjective camera, like there's a third- and a first-person narrator in literature.

~Manuel Puig

All of my problems are rather complicated - I need an entire novel to deal with them, not a short story or a movie. It's like a personal therapy.

~Manuel Puig

For someone who writes fiction, in order to activate the imagination and

the unconscious, it's essential to be free.

~Manuel Puig

The writer needs to react to his or her own internal universe, to his or her own point of view. If he or she doesn't have a personal point of view, it's impossible to be a creator.

~Manuel Puig

Writers are not meant for action.

~Manuel Puig

We should try to understand our innermost needs. We shouldn't use irony to reduce their power.

~Manuel Puig

I only understand realism.

~Manuel Puig

It's essential not to have an ideology, not to be a member of a political party. While the writer can have certain political views, he has to be careful not to have his hands tied.

~Manuel Puig

I believe that people who don't achieve anything in life are isolated and resent those that are successful.

~Manuel Puig

My only fantasy about writing was that in my old days, after directing many masterpieces, I would write my memoirs.

~Manuel Puig

I have written every one of my novels to convince somebody of something.

~Manuel Puig

I've always wondered why there isn't a great French novel about the German occupation. The nouveau roman authors weren't interested in telling that sort of thing.

~Manuel Puig

My pleasure was to copy, not to create.

~Manuel Puig

I started writing movie scripts. They excited me a lot, but I didn't like them when they were finished because they were simple copies of the films I saw in childhood.

~Manuel Puig

Most of the movies I saw growing up were viewed as totally disposable, fine for quick consumption, but they have survived 50 years and are still growing.

~Manuel Puig

I'm not terribly happy about rock and roll. Certain rock music is uninspiring, numbing; it makes you feel like an idiot.

~Manuel Puig

Ironically, Latin American countries, in their instability, give writers and intellectuals the hope that they are needed.

~Manuel Puig

In a country like France, so ancient, their history is full of outstanding people, so they carry a heavy weight on their back. Who could write in French after Proust or Flaubert?

~Manuel Puig

Book reviews have never helped me. Most of them erred in their interpretations and their work has been a waste of time.

~Manuel Puig

I locate that special problem in a character and then try to understand it. That's the genesis of all my work.

~Manuel Puig

I don't have traceable literary models because I haven't had great literary influences in my life.

~Manuel Puig

The translator's task is to create, in his or her own language, the same tensions appearing in the original. That's hard!

~Manuel Puig

If a spectator with a philosophical mind, somebody accustomed to reading books, gets the same kind of information in a movie, he might not fully understand it.

~Manuel Puig

I don't think humor is forced upon my universe; it's a part of it.

~Manuel Puig

Kafka truly illustrates the way the environment oppresses the individual. He shows how the unconscious controls our lives.

~Manuel Puig

One performs a very different act when reading a movie and when reading a novel. Your attention behaves differently.

~Manuel Puig

I am very interested in what has been called bad taste. I believe the fear of displaying a soi-disant bad taste stops us from venturing into special cultural zones.

~Manuel Puig

Whenever I write, I'm always thinking of the reader.

~Manuel Puig

I would very much like to become a best-selling author.

~Manuel Puig

I had stories that needed more space than the hour and a half or two hours a movie gives you.

~Manuel Puig

I'm not a best-seller, but through translations, I've accumulated some money.

~Manuel Puig

It doesn't matter that the way of life shown by Hollywood was phony. It helped you hope.

~Manuel Puig

I don't want to name names, but the least I can say about rock and roll is that I'm suspicious.

~Manuel Puig

I do believe that reading can help you understand what you're writing and see what others are doing. But sometimes the desire for more information can act as an inhibitor.

~Manuel Puig

I like the beauty of Faulkner's poetry. But I don't like his themes, not at all.

~Manuel Puig

I believe realism is nothing but an analysis of reality. Film scripts have a synthetical constitution.

~Manuel Puig



Contrary to what Kafka does, I always like to refer all of my fictions to the level of reality, He, on the other hand, leaves them at an imaginary level.

~Manuel Puig

The nicest thing about feeling happy is that you think you'll never be unhappy again.

~Manuel Puig

I didn't choose literature. Literature chose me. There was no decision on my side.

~Manuel Puig

As a rule, one should never place form over content.

~Manuel Puig

I write novels because there is something I don't understand in reality.

~Manuel Puig

I believe in characters as vehicles of exposition. Their voices are full of hidden clues, and I like to listen to them.

~Manuel Puig

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