

Michael Stipe

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Song, Rocks, Sex, Band, Two, Way, Sick, Kind, Radio, Years,
Records, Real, Tired, World, Voice, Different, Sleep, Labels*

Sometimes I'm confused by what I think is really obvious. But what I think is really obvious obviously isn't obvious.

~Michael Stipe

I've always felt that sexuality is a really slippery thing. In this day and age, it tends to get categorized and labeled, and I think labels are for food. Canned food.

~Michael Stipe

Super casual music listeners. That's most of the people in the world. And you have to understand, that's why Top 40 radio exists. It's not there for people who seek out music and who love music.

~Michael Stipe

A wise man once said, 'The skill in attending a party is knowing when it's time to leave.'

~Michael Stipe

Love, love will be my strongest weapon

~Michael Stipe

The only thing to fear is fearlessness.

~Michael Stipe

Sometimes before we make a record I go back and listen to a few. It's equally humbling and uplifting.

~Michael Stipe

Never eat broccoli when there are cameras around.

~Michael Stipe

Be yourself. Follow your heart. I know it sounds obvious, but it's the best advice at anyone ever. Take advice from other people, but take from it what feels right for you.

~Michael Stipe

My feeling is that labels are for canned food... I am what I am - and I know what I am.

~Michael Stipe

Anybody that walks can sing.

~Michael Stipe

Links have become the suburbs of the real world.

~Michael Stipe

By nature I will find hope in everything. Even if it's the most incredibly hopeless situation or circumstance. That's just me... I'll never be able to see things any other way.

~Michael Stipe

I'm tired of being this solemn poet of the masses, the enigma shrouded in a mystery.

~Michael Stipe

I remember traffic jams Motor boys and girls with tans Nearly was and almost rans I remember this, this ... At the edge of the continent

~Michael Stipe

The whole punk ethic was do-it-yourself, and I've always been very literal, especially as a kid. When they said that anybody can do this, I was like, 'OK, that's me.'

~Michael Stipe

On planes I always cry. Something about altitude, the lack of oxygen and the bad movies. I cried over a St. Bernard movie once on a plane. That was really embarrassing.

~Michael Stipe

When we first started, we were a band from Athens and that was so off the map.

~Michael Stipe

I went through this difficult time [in the 1984] when we were making our third record where I kind of lost my mind. That's when the bulimia kicked in. And that's when I got really freaky.

~Michael Stipe

There was never a golden era of American radio as far as I can tell.

~Michael Stipe

We toured that record for a year, which turned out to be the culmination of ten years of being constantly on the road. We were sick to death of touring.

~Michael Stipe

I am not an autobiographical writer. I'll take little elements here and there from things that I've actually experienced-counting eyelashes on a sleeping beauty, for example.

~Michael Stipe

My iPod that was programmed by Peter Buck. It has 7,000 songs hand-picked for me by him.

~Michael Stipe

And I don't expect anyone can bring about a revolution in the way that Bob Dylan did - and really didn't - in the 1960s.

~Michael Stipe

If I'm tired of me, I'm sure the public is as well.

~Michael Stipe

There are people that very strongly identify themselves as gay and then

lesbian, and then I think there are a lot of people who are kind of some percentage or some version of that.

~Michael Stipe

Peter was sick of being a pop star, the guitar god, and so he decided to teach himself other instruments. Among the instruments that he picked up was the mandolin.

~Michael Stipe

For every great thing we did, there is a very public moment of falling on our faces. But everything that came through us as a band was a distinct vision of R.E.M.

~Michael Stipe

If you disagree with me, fine! Because that's the great thing about America, we can disagree!

~Michael Stipe

I think my apocalyptic feelings went deeper than [heavily influenced by Reagan and AIDS]. I'm really at peace with how afraid I am.

~Michael Stipe

They spoke truth and a lot of people listened.... that voice, Kurt we miss you.

~Michael Stipe

The song "Sing for the Submarine" presents my dream world, which is way different from my waking world. It's set in the future and it's post-apocalyptic.

~Michael Stipe

We don't get groupies. We get teenagers who want to read us their poetry.

~Michael Stipe

You don't need to be talented. You don't even have to play the guitar to be a guitar player in a punk-rock band. So I, in a very naïve and teenage way, said, "That's it. I'm going to be in a band."

~Michael Stipe

I really wanted to be on Six Feet Under as a corpse. That would be hysterical.

~Michael Stipe

Our generation was supposed to be about trying to deal with nuclear concerns and environmental disasters.

~Michael Stipe

I was born in Georgia. That's where my grandparents-and all my people-are from. But my family traveled a great deal because my dad was in the army as a helicopter pilot.

~Michael Stipe

The whole point of the punk-rock thing was that "We're not special. We just have a voice."

~Michael Stipe

I'm kind of quoting Thurston [Moore] and Kim [Gordon] in saying that about not being great with addicts, because they are the ones who said it to me.

~Michael Stipe

I'm afraid of everything. I'm not a naturally courageous person.

~Michael Stipe

I'm not homosexual, I'm not heterosexual, I'm just sexual.

~Michael Stipe

We're kind of an international phenomenon.

~Michael Stipe

They always want me to play myself and that's a big snooze.

~Michael Stipe

Everybody hurts sometimes Everybody cries

~Michael Stipe

I'm just not that fascinating a person to have had all those lives that I've written about.

~Michael Stipe

Frankly I'm not great with heroin addicts. I tried heroin, but it was by accident. I'm not great with that level of substance abuse.

~Michael Stipe

For me, as a music fan, visuals kind of steal away the purity of the song. My instinct is not to provide a visual to go with a piece of music. But here's MTV. It's really powerful.

~Michael Stipe

In fact, a lot of critics seemed to consider R.E.M. the first American music since the '60s to break out on its own and develop a stand-alone sound.

~Michael Stipe

I don't find R.E.M. to be nihilistic. There is a constant undertone of joyous optimism. I'm not going to kill myself to Patti Smith or R.E.M.

~Michael Stipe

I was vulnerable every day. Every night that I stepped on stage I was laying myself open.

~Michael Stipe

I went through a period where I was really tired of seeing and reading about myself.

~Michael Stipe

The world of WONDERLAND is authentic, vibrant, and genuine. Stacey D'Erasmus explores the delight and terror of second chances. A great read!

~Michael Stipe

To be called an elder statesman is so unbelievably insulting. Brad Pitt is exactly three years younger than me.

~Michael Stipe

Anything you do as a group is fraught with compromise... But everyone's got to do that, right? It's part of being a good parent, or a good boyfriend, whatever.

~Michael Stipe

When I get really hammered I take my clothes off. That's a sure sign. It's been a long time since the last time I did that. Probably a year.

~Michael Stipe

I was doing that [a collaboration with Kurt Cobain] to try to save his life. The collaboration was me calling up as an excuse to reach out to this guy. He was in a really bad place.

~Michael Stipe

When you meet a stranger, look at his shoes. Keep your money in your shoes.

~Michael Stipe

The punk-rock ethos was "Do it yourself. Anyone can do this. We're not sent from the heavens."

~Michael Stipe

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