

Mike Birbiglia

Quotes

*Funny, Humor, People, Thinking, Comedy, Writing, Laughing, Years, Art,
Trying, Selfish, Night, Comedian, Men, Want, Feelings, Situation, Dad, Baby,
Fans*

I used to think I was a little unstable, and then I met every girl I've ever dated.

~Mike Birbiglia

Saturday night is perfect for writers because other people have "plans.

~Mike Birbiglia

What I really need is a woman who loves me for my money but doesn't understand math.

~Mike Birbiglia

The key to eating healthy is not eating any food that has a TV commercial.

~Mike Birbiglia

Falling in love is a completely transcendent experience. It's like eating pizza-flavored ice cream

~Mike Birbiglia

Dopamine is a chemical released in your brain and your body when you sleep that paralyzes your body so you don't act out your dreams.

~Mike Birbiglia

The one thing you're most reluctant to tell. That's where the comedy is.

~Mike Birbiglia

I love pizza so much, I would marry pizza, but it would just be an elaborate ploy to eat her whole family at the reception.

~Mike Birbiglia

Creepy people do the things that decent people want to do, but have decided are not a great idea.

~Mike Birbiglia

I'm a big fan of pastries the size of a baby that contain enough calories for a year. That seems like an effective use of time.

~Mike Birbiglia

It was a hard name having growing up as a child. Some kids would call me names like "Birbiglebug" and "Birbibliography" and "Faggot". Some were more clever than others.

~Mike Birbiglia

You can always tell who went to catholic school, because they're atheists.

~Mike Birbiglia

There is no such thing as #1 in art.

~Mike Birbiglia

I never looked at my parents' marriage or really anyone who had been married more than 30 years and thought, 'I gotta get me some of that!'

~Mike Birbiglia

I've read that Steven Wright's style was born out of genuine nervousness.

~Mike Birbiglia

Our fear leads us to say no all the time.

~Mike Birbiglia

Everyone tries to get you to dance at clubs. They come up to you and say "You gotta dance! you gotta dance!" And then I dance, and they're like, "Not like that!"

~Mike Birbiglia

Bears are simultaneously so graceful and so strong. Bears know who they are, but they often don't know who you are, which is why they kill

you.

~Mike Birbiglia

I didn't realize how good I was with computers until I met my parents.

~Mike Birbiglia

I don't drink a lot. My family calls me an old soul. And my friends call me a pussy.

~Mike Birbiglia

I will say what I aspire to is a consistency in making films, to direct something every couple of years.

~Mike Birbiglia

I've been selfish over the years, and other people who have made it have too, but I can only speak for myself.

~Mike Birbiglia

To succeed in comedy you ultimately have to put in the hours and get lucky - The amount of people who are able to break through is so small a fraction of the amount of people trying.

~Mike Birbiglia

Every comedian comes to a fork in the road where they have to decide if they're going to make jokes about other people or make jokes about themselves. I chose myself.

~Mike Birbiglia

I feel like we can prove in real time the old trope that comedy is tragedy plus time.

~Mike Birbiglia

I read recently that women still make 30% less than men in the workplace. Which I think is fine, cause if we didn't make 30% more, you

guys would marry each other.

~Mike Birbiglia

I love Valentine's Day. When you're a kid everyone gets a Valentine. It's like 'TO TIM, NICE PANTS, LOVE SCOTT'. It's Valentines galore!

~Mike Birbiglia

I drank the Kool-Aid of being a network star. Once it didn't happen, I realized it wasn't the best version of my comedy.

~Mike Birbiglia

I feel that marriage can lead to the ultimate rejection and failure and divorce and things we all fear.

~Mike Birbiglia

I just don't give off a great first impression.

~Mike Birbiglia

Failure's hard. There's no way around. Bombing on stage never feels great. You feel judged, you feel alone. But then when your performance works, it's transcendent.

~Mike Birbiglia

Art is socialism but life is capitalism.

~Mike Birbiglia

So I went to a club the other day, which is timely because my self esteem had been hovering right around 'normal' and I had been meaning to knock it down to negative 1000.

~Mike Birbiglia

I was made to believe that my life was going to be fixed and it wasn't. I'm still the same loser who had flown to Los Angeles on my sister's frequent flier miles just six days before.

~Mike Birbiglia

I always try to attack the most honest issues I can in my comedy.

~Mike Birbiglia

Sex and pizza, they say, are similar. When it's good, it's good. When it's bad, you get it on your shirt.

~Mike Birbiglia

I wrote on my desk wall when I was writing the film... 'Art is socialism, but life is capitalism.' That's the hard thing in all of it if you expect to make a living.

~Mike Birbiglia

I went to a funeral recently, and they handed out Kleenex before the funeral. Which I thought was cocky.

~Mike Birbiglia

Awkwardness and feeling alienated are always going to be a part of comedy.

~Mike Birbiglia

People getting along doesn't sell very well in the news. I find that to be deeply depressing. I don't even talk about it on stage, because it would take too long to explain.

~Mike Birbiglia

Two Drink Mike enjoys dancing and knows a magic trick. Whereas, No Drink Mike enjoys biographies, and has serious opinions on wildlife. And Five Drink Mike... dances with wildlife.

~Mike Birbiglia

They really cut to the chase in the urologist's examination room, and I tried to laugh. If this office were a movie, it would have been rated R.

~Mike Birbiglia

I performed for the U.S. troops in Guantanamo Bay. And signed autographs for people who've been gone from America for so long they didn't realize that I'm not famous.

~Mike Birbiglia

Some people come up to me and say "You know, in Italy, it's pronounced Ber-beel-lia" And I say "Well, here in America, you're annoying..."

~Mike Birbiglia

The ability to workshop in stand-up comedy is incomparable to any art form, in my opinion.

~Mike Birbiglia

I take the subway four times a day, or close to it. I just love the subway! My grandfather worked as an electrician when they were digging the subway.

~Mike Birbiglia

Comedy unites, it doesn't divide!

~Mike Birbiglia

I find my fans are really funny people. Most comedians can't say that about their fans.

~Mike Birbiglia

Fortunately, I don't talk about politics on stage.

~Mike Birbiglia

I couldn't recommend more that people put themselves in a situation where they can see a lot of work that they admire, and for free.

~Mike Birbiglia

I feel like everyone wants to make a movie that they feel passionate about watching.

~Mike Birbiglia

I like films that are so funny, dramatic and lifelike simultaneously, that you are laughing and cringing simultaneously all throughout the film.

~Mike Birbiglia

My writing process is very feedback-based. When I do stand-up, I listen to the audience. I try to understand what's connecting, what's not connecting, and then rewrite, rewrite and rewrite.

~Mike Birbiglia

You need to know what doesn't work to know what works. It's especially true in improv and stand-up.

~Mike Birbiglia

I think serious situations actually make for the best kind of belly laughs. But they're also the hardest to convert into comedy at the outset.

~Mike Birbiglia

Essentially, retweets are like laughs.

~Mike Birbiglia

In our culture right now, I want to take on this notion of what a singular success means. We think success is one thing, but it's actually a spectrum of where our life takes us.

~Mike Birbiglia

I think sometimes you don't understand how to convey an idea, depending on the moment you're living in.

~Mike Birbiglia

I think the cleverness is inadvertent.

~Mike Birbiglia

I can always go back to waiting tables, but I won't be very good at it. I'll never be good at it.

~Mike Birbiglia

Success is fleeting. It may not have to do with you but how your work is received.

~Mike Birbiglia

I think Mitch Hedberg is one of the great comedians of the past 20 years.

~Mike Birbiglia

I shouldn't say bad things about the illiterate, though..I should write it. That way they won't find out.

~Mike Birbiglia

I'm a compulsive everything.

~Mike Birbiglia

Sometimes, when you want to be in a place so badly, you'll do anything.

~Mike Birbiglia

Does anyone know a word that rhymes with shark?

~Mike Birbiglia

I feel like people have more in common than the news reports.

~Mike Birbiglia

I almost can't even put to words how happy I am that I got married.

~Mike Birbiglia

How many people do you know who have thrown up on the Scrambler or a carnival ride? A lot of people, is the answer.

~Mike Birbiglia

Backup dancers are completely respectable. They're the studio musicians of dance.

~Mike Birbiglia

Alienation, I suppose, can't be hackneyed because it will always exist.

~Mike Birbiglia

I like 'Donnie Darko;' it's a cool take on dreams and sleep.

~Mike Birbiglia

A girl offered me E at the club. 'Have you ever done E?' 'I watch E.'

~Mike Birbiglia

The key is to do what you love.

~Mike Birbiglia

What I write is emotionally honest and truthful as the human experience can be, to make people feel less alone, or at least that's the hope.

~Mike Birbiglia

I struggled with that notion early in my career. 'I know this is funny but nobody is laughing.' This thought occurred for years.

~Mike Birbiglia

My problem with being in New York City is that you really can't make a living as a comedian. You can, but you have to also take writing jobs, which means less stage time.

~Mike Birbiglia

All techniques of comedy are valid and interesting to me.

~Mike Birbiglia

You can express love by calling out the truth out of the situation as opposed to dancing around it.

~Mike Birbiglia

Life is unfair and improv is a great metaphor of that.

~Mike Birbiglia

Gillian [Jacobs] is brilliant, and it was Lena Dunham that recommended her. I didn't see her in the part, but Lena told me that Gillian can do anything. It turned out to be true.

~Mike Birbiglia

I figured out in my thirties it was about 'what can I contribute'? And what I figured out about that is creating something from scratch, and connecting it to people.

~Mike Birbiglia

I'm walking out my door to get like a Snapple, and someone's like 'yo man, you want to buy some heroin?' 'No... got any Snapple?'

~Mike Birbiglia

I didn't realize how good I was with technology until I met my parents... my dad told me "You're good; you should be a computer programmer." I said, "You're bad... you should be a caveman."

~Mike Birbiglia

My family isn't really Italian. We're more like Olive Garden Italian.

~Mike Birbiglia

I don't smoke a lot of pot anymore. No one wants to hang around a guy who ends every sentence with, "Do you guys hate me?"

~Mike Birbiglia

The list of fun and easily fixed brain diseases is very short.

~Mike Birbiglia

When I made 'Sleepwalk with Me,' many people asked me if was a novelty thing, a one-off. But this is the goal, I'm just hitting it 12 years after I thought I would.

~Mike Birbiglia

I was an altar boy as a kid. And the answer is no.

~Mike Birbiglia

Comedy is tragedy plus time, but the time is different for everybody.

~Mike Birbiglia

I have this habit of asking 'why do you want to do it?' and then interrupting them to say, 'here's why you want to do it.' Because it's in the 'yes...and' spirit [rule of improvisation].

~Mike Birbiglia

I got an E-Trade account. Turns out I can turn \$1,000 into \$420 in less than a week. Sure, I had to pay some fees.

~Mike Birbiglia

The people who are the worst at news, who kind of engage in what I call the World Wrestling of news, have kind of set the bar for where news is.

~Mike Birbiglia

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