

Mikhail Baryshnikov

Quotes

Dance, People, Art, Dancer, Inspirational, Father, Mother, Thinking, Ballet, New York, Giving, Kind, Dancing, Party, Military, Country, Age, Hate, Trying, Tickets

I don't go to a gym, I don't do yoga. I don't do personal training.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

When a body moves, it's the most revealing thing. Dance for me a minute, and I'll tell you who you are.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Be. Good. To yourself, to other people, to everything you do. It's a norm of life by which people should try to live. Don't waste time. Be interesting and interested.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

The more injuries you get, the smarter you get.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

No one is born a dancer. You have to want it more than anything.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I was not extremely patriotic about Mother Russia. I played their game, pretending. You have to deal with, you know, party people, KGB. Horrifying.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

No dancer can watch Fred Astaire and not know that we all should have been in another business.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

There comes a moment in a young artist's life when he knows he has to bring something to the stage from within himself. He has to put in something in order to be able to take something.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

When I see people on the street, I look at how they walk. It's like a signature, a fingerprint.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

It doesn't matter how high you lift your leg. The technique is about transparency, simplicity, making an earnest attempt.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Dance is an ephemeral, a fleeting art. To describe this momentum, every movement on stage, in words is virtually impossible.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I found that dance, music, and literature is how I made sense of the world... it pushed me to think of things bigger than life's daily routines... to think beyond what is immediate or convenient.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I am not the first straight dancer or the last.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

A country like Belgium, or socialist countries in central Europe spend more money on art education than the United States, which is a really puzzling thought.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

To achieve some depth in your field requires a lot of sacrifices. Want to or not, you're thinking about what you're doing in life—in my case, dancing.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Dance is one of the most revealing art forms.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

What do dancers think of Fred Astaire? It's no secret. We hate him. He gives us a complex because he's too perfect. His perfection is an absurdity. It's too hard to face.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

To achieve some depth in your field requires a lot of sacrifices.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Working is living to me.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

We're trying to stretch our muscles creatively. It gives us so much more freedom.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I go a lot to see young people downtown in little theaters. It's great. If you start somebody's career, it's so exciting.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Your body actually reminds you about your age and your injuries - the body has a stronger memory than your mind.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Just sit and open your eyes and open your heart. It's dance theater.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

You see, dancers are quite mature people because they start performing so early. They become professionals when they start to take everyday classes.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

The problem is not making up the steps but deciding which ones to keep.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I want to see people dance, and I would like to guess what kind of people they are. I don't want to know the recipe for their pasta.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I don't drink milk, and I don't eat bread, pasta or rice. But I eat a lot of meat, chicken, fish and salads.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

If your only dance experience is the Nutcracker, it will be a shock; hopefully shocking in a good way.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I've always said, 'I am a selector, I am not defector' - the first few phrases in English I learned. I said I hate 'defector'; something defective about the people. It's a bad word.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

My mother had a son from previous marriage and her husband died in Second World War.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

People dance at any age.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Fundamentals are the building blocks of fun.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

You don't measure life by receiving awards.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I don't try to dance better than anybody but myself.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Dancing is my obsession. My life.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Nobody is born a dancer.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I read Russian literature a lot.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

People of art should never get married and have children, because it's a selfish experience.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I kind of lost interest in the classical dance. I was very much interested in the modern choreography.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

When I'm alone, I work sometimes with music, sometimes without and sometimes just listening to NPR.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I cannot stand authority.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

What brought me to the theater, no matter you're a Jew or a Russian or Armenian or Latvian, are suddenly illuminated by stage light and one beautiful image of dance.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I adored my mother, and I will always have extraordinary memories about her and remember her, and she opened the doors for me to appreciate arts.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Dancers are stripped enough onstage. You don't have to know more

about them than they've given you already.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

In the second part of life you get rid of stuff you've accumulated.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I think art education, especially in this country, which government pretty much ignores, is so important for young people.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

You cannot be happy with your family while being personally unhappy with your work. It's a Catch-22 kind of thing.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

It's weird when you see pieces of choreography that were done for you 15 or 20 years ago and now they are being done by another dance company.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I want to do exactly what I want to do. I'd rather gamble on the box office than beg for a grant.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I get speeding ticket like everybody else. If the restaurant is full I'm waiting in line like everybody else.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I like to go to anybody else's birthday, and if I'm invited I'm a good guest. But I never celebrate my birthdays. I really don't care.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

He [Astaire] was not a sexual animal, but he made his partners look so extraordinarily related to him.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I would like to go and dance in Palestine one day, with great pleasure, great pleasure.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Although I don't gamble in life - I've never played poker - I do gamble on stage. I gamble with myself: 'Can I do this?'

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Creative Artists Agency put together a project of extraordinary mediocrity and colossal stupidity. Otherwise, it was great.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I was never like, "collect, collect," like people who go to auctions. I never spent a serious amount of time because I don't have any time!

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Every ballet, whether or not successful artistically or with the public, has given me something important.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

The Russian people get so insanely close to each other as friends. Their lives are interrelated so much on an everyday basis.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I have some Russian friends. But probably only 10 percent. I don't hang out usually in the big Russian communities in Brooklyn and New Jersey.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I have been very lucky to work in so many new ballets, but that is what a dancer's work is.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Now there is in a way a renaissance of modern dance - suddenly, it is

more respected and discovered.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I am not trying to do material which I cannot do full out.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I cannot belong to a nonprofit organization because when you receive grants, you have to make such great compromises with your artistic plans.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

A theater is such a revealing form of art, such a transparent and good actors, they're such powerful individuals. I always kind of dreamt that one day I will open my mouth on stage.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Obviously, the young dancers lack a certain air of maturity.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I really reject that kind of comparison that says, Oh, he is the best. This is the second best. There is no such thing.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

He is a male butterfly without the wings - the same kind of grace of a very young horse, so angular.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I never liked dance photography; it's very flat, and dance photography in the studio looks very contrived.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Dances have a second and third life. You feel they are never ready. They always have a chance for another life.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I am teaching more. That is what I do best.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Nobody else in the world has a form like the Native American musical, and Americans should be very proud.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

What people will do to get away from boredom!

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Running a company is pretty demanding.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

To walk across the street is a risk.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

In '74 it was really a very gloomy atmosphere, I would say, to put it mildly.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I - you know, I'm not an actor.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Acting is not my language at all.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I feel very uneasy with a lot of aspects of the Russian life and the Russian people.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I gave away a lot of works for benefits and then people would also give me back.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

Nothing is ever too expensive if it furthers the repertoire and artistic standards of a dance company.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

I like the most provocative and most surprising partnerships on stage. Intensity and surprise.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

It's what's left in life, to work with interesting people.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

You can be totally involved, you could admire just the shape of or you could be totally emotionally mushed up into the dance.

~Mikhail Baryshnikov

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