

# Rod Serling Quotes

*Writing, Men, Thinking, Twilight, People, Prejudice, Twilight Zone, Years, Ideas,  
Television, Pieces, Mean, Race, Directors, Space, Believe, Art, Trying, Self,  
Independent*

Every Superstate has one iron rule: logic is an enemy and the truth is a menace.

~Rod Serling

We're developing a new citizenry. One that will be very selective about cereals and automobiles, but won't be able to think.

~Rod Serling

There is nothing in the dark that isn't there when the lights are on.

~Rod Serling

In almost everything I've written there is a thread of this: man's seemingly palpable need to dislike someone other than himself.

~Rod Serling

Any state, any entity, any ideology that fails to recognize the worth, the dignity, the rights of Man, that state is obsolete.

~Rod Serling

Being like everybody is the same as being nobody.

~Rod Serling

I found that it was all right to have Martians saying things Democrats and Republicans could never say.

~Rod Serling

It is difficult to produce a television documentary that is both incisive and probing when every twelve minutes one is interrupted by twelve dancing rabbits singing about toilet paper.

~Rod Serling

for civilization to survive, the human race has to remain civilized.

~Rod Serling

Coming up with ideas is the easiest thing on earth. Putting them down is the hardest.

~Rod Serling

There are weapons that are simply thoughts. For the record, prejudices can kill and suspicion can destroy.

~Rod Serling

Imagination... its limits are only those of the mind itself.

~Rod Serling

Every writer is a frustrated actor who recites his lines in the hidden auditorium of his skull.

~Rod Serling

According to the Bible, God created the heavens and the Earth. It is man's prerogative - and woman's - to create their own particular and private hell.

~Rod Serling

If you want to prove that God is not dead, first prove that man is alive.

~Rod Serling

If you have the temerity to try to dramatize a theme that involves any particular social controversy currently extant. . . then you're in deep trouble.

~Rod Serling

Some people possess talent, others are possessed by it. When that happens, a talent becomes a curse.

~Rod Serling

It may be said with a degree of assurance that not everything that meets the eye is as it appears.

~Rod Serling

You unlock the door with the key of imagination.

~Rod Serling

Ideas are born from what is smelled, heard, seen, experienced, felt, emotionalized.

~Rod Serling

All the Dachaus must remain standing.

~Rod Serling

The ultimate obscenity is not caring, not doing something about what you feel, not feeling! Just drawing back and drawing in; becoming narcissistic.

~Rod Serling

I'm afraid that if I started to ponder who I am and what I am, I might not like what I find.

~Rod Serling

Fantasy is the impossible made probable. Science Fiction is the improbable made possible.

~Rod Serling

Our greatest responsibility is not to be pencils of the past.

~Rod Serling

Justice can span years. Retribution is not subject to a calendar.

~Rod Serling

Writing is a demanding profession and a selfish one. And because it is selfish and demanding, because it is compulsive and exacting, I didn't embrace it. I succumbed to it.

~Rod Serling

The writer's role is to menace the public's conscience. He must have a position, a point of view. He must see the arts as a vehicle of social criticism and he must focus on the issues of his time.

~Rod Serling

If you need drugs to be a good writer, you are not a good writer.

~Rod Serling

You see. No shock. No engulfment. No tearing assunder. What you feared would come like an explosion is like a whisper. What you thought was the end is the beginning.

~Rod Serling

Hollywood's a great place to live... if you're a grapefruit.

~Rod Serling

Bias and prejudice make me angry...more than anything.

~Rod Serling

I don't enjoy any of the process of writing. I enjoy it when it goes on if it zings and it has great warmth and import and it's successful.

~Rod Serling

Somewhere between apathy and anarchy lies the thinking human being.

~Rod Serling

Whenever you write, whatever you write, never make the mistake of assuming the audience is any less intelligent than you are.

~Rod Serling

If in any quest for magic, in any search for sorcery, witchery,

legerdemain, first check the human spirit.

~Rod Serling

There are millions of ways to not be writing. You say you're not in the mood, you'll pick it up tomorrow.

~Rod Serling

I'd rather go along with this sense of illusion that I'm a neutral beast going along through life doing everything that's preordained.

~Rod Serling

a basic "must" for every writer: A simple solitude-physical & mental.

~Rod Serling

How can you put on a meaningful drama when every fifteen minutes proceedings are interrupted by twelve dancing rabbits with toilet paper?

~Rod Serling

Now death is with us in such abundance and hovers over us in so massive a form that we don't have time to invent a mythology, nor is our creativity directed toward same. Now it's to prevent death.

~Rod Serling

Just drawing back and drawing in; becoming narcissistic.

~Rod Serling

But it makes you wonder, doesn't it? Just how normal are we? Just who are the people we nod our hellos to as we pass on the street? A rather good question to ask - particularly in The Twilight Zone.

~Rod Serling

I would guess that the price of the script really is secondary. The credit

is much more the essence.

~Rod Serling

If survival calls for the bearing of arms, bear them you must. But the most important part of the challenge is for you to find another means that does not come with the killing of your fellow man.

~Rod Serling

I remember the first sale I made was a hundred and fifty dollars for a radio script, and, as poor as I was, I didn't cash the check for three months. I kept showing it to people.

~Rod Serling

I choose to think of tv audience as nameless, formless, faceless people who are all like me. And anything that I write, if I like it, they'll like it.

~Rod Serling

I don't know what my friends do. Generally they become producers. That way they can stop writing!

~Rod Serling

I guess we all have a little vaunting itch for immortality, I guess that must be it.

~Rod Serling

I don't have any system. I dictate a lot, through a machine, and I also have a secretary. But I used to type just like everybody else.

~Rod Serling

If it sounds good as you say it, likely as not it'll sound good when an actor's saying it.

~Rod Serling

The writer's no different. When he's rejected, that paper is rejected, in a

sense, a sizeable fragment of the writer is rejected as well. It's a piece of himself that's being turned down.

~Rod Serling

I don't feel, God dictated that I should write.

~Rod Serling

You can be a hunchback and a dwarf and what-all. If you write beautifully, you can write beautifully.

~Rod Serling

Why do I write? I guess that's been asked of every writer. I don't know. It isn't any massive compulsion.

~Rod Serling

Somehow, some way, incredibly enough, good writing ultimately gets recognized. If you're a really good writer and deserve that honored position, then by God, you'll write, and you'll be read.

~Rod Serling

I'm sufficiently independent to know that I can live well and comfortably all the rest of my life whether I'm rejected or not.

~Rod Serling

There are a lot I'm proud of, and a lot I wish the hell I'd never written.

~Rod Serling

Seeing does not always believe.

~Rod Serling

Do I want to start my own production company? No, I doubt it. I'm too old for that. I don't want to start anything.

~Rod Serling



I couldn't direct because I'm too impatient and I couldn't put together a package because I don't understand money. I'd rather just do what I'm doing.

~Rod Serling

Over the long haul I'd say that most directors I've worked with have been pretty sensitive to the quality of the interpreted scenes.

~Rod Serling

I don't believe in reincarnation. That's a cop-out. . . . I anticipate death will be a totally unconscious void in which you float through eternity with no particular consciousness of anything.

~Rod Serling

I don't have close relationships with agents. They're friends, but they're not confidants.

~Rod Serling

If you write beautifully, you write beautifully, that's all.

~Rod Serling

Writers vary tremendously. Was it Tom Wolfe who stood up or was it [Ernest] Hemingway who had to stand up? I don't know.

~Rod Serling

The good agent probably is not the reader, he's just the guy who can put together a deal.

~Rod Serling

I don't think it's man's function to write. I don't think it's a normal thing like teeth-brushing and going to the bathroom. It's a supered position on the animal.

~Rod Serling

I miss the comraderie of live television - the fact that you were on the set, you worked closely with the director and the cast, that I miss. But, no, I'm happy, I'm happy doing film.

~Rod Serling

I think I would like to be in Victorian times. Small town. Bandstands. Summer. That kind of thing. Without disease.

~Rod Serling

I write much better in the nonconfines of the early morning than I do the clutter of the day.

~Rod Serling

I guess Requiem for a Heavyweight as old as it is was as honest a piece as I've ever done.

~Rod Serling

(on being born on Christmas Day, 1924) I was a Christmas present that was delivered unwrapped.

~Rod Serling

Science fiction makes the implausible possible, while science fantasy makes the impossible plausible.

~Rod Serling

Not since the British raided Cologne had so many bombs landed in such a small space in such a short time.

~Rod Serling

I ask for your indulgence when I march out quotations. This is the double syndrome of men who write for a living and men who are over forty. The young smoke pot - we inhale from our 'Bartlett's.'

~Rod Serling

I've written all that I've wanted to write to date.

~Rod Serling

You can become much more independent, much more courageous with a bank account. And also, much more independent and self-reliant when you know you have money behind you.

~Rod Serling

The tendency when you dictate is to overwrite, because you're not counting pages, you don't really know what the hell the page count is.

~Rod Serling

Personally, my daughter's wedding gave me a tremendous pleasure.

~Rod Serling

Infinitely more taboos, on television.

~Rod Serling

I don't believe in reincarnation. That's a cop-out, I know. I don't really want to be reincarnated.

~Rod Serling

I find it very difficult to live through the censorship of profanity on television.

~Rod Serling

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