

# Ted Alexandro

## Quotes

*Thinking, Comedian, Ideas, People, Talking, Teacher, Years, Risk, Clubs,  
Crowds, Hard Work, Acceptance, Listening, Want, Voice, Character, Names,  
Funny, Guy, Mourning*

I often think about my future wife and how lax she's been about getting in touch with me.

~Ted Alexandro

I'm keeping in shape, you know, gotta look good for the ladies - and certain guys. Hey, I can't control who's looking. I just gotta bring the heat.

~Ted Alexandro

You'll get them tomorrow. You gave it a good shot. Keep your chin up.

~Ted Alexandro

The more you perform, the more adept you get at the nuances of navigating that communal conversation.

~Ted Alexandro

I belong to a gym now... well, let me rephrase that: I don't belong there at all, but I go.

~Ted Alexandro

The blues is a hopeful music. It helps you process something rather than avoid it. It's like mourning, in essence.

~Ted Alexandro

Ultimately, an audience wants to laugh. That's who they like, the comedian who makes them laugh.

~Ted Alexandro

Comedy clubs are arguably one of the last bastions of uncensored, public free speech.

~Ted Alexandro

Comics definitely embody the importance of practicing free speech.

~Ted Alexandro

Comedians can articulate some important and profound ideas that address a lot of the hypocrisy we're inundated with (in the media).

~Ted Alexandro

Laughing at something is a form of accepting it or at list making peace with it.

~Ted Alexandro

Your stage persona is usually a version of yourself, to varying degrees. Some folks do a full-on character, so that's different. But most comics do some version of themselves.

~Ted Alexandro

I don't think comics necessarily think in literary terms. There is an element of developing your stage persona and your comedic voice, but I don't think comics see it like a character in a novel.

~Ted Alexandro

I also do a certain amount of talking through material on stage, to see what happens and allow interesting ideas to manifest.

~Ted Alexandro

I'll sit down for an hour or two a few days a week in a quiet place and brainstorm. The earlier in the day, the better, before the parade of distractions starts.

~Ted Alexandro

I wasn't in the drama department, but I auditioned anyway and he not only cast me but also included a few sketches that I wrote, which really sparked my pursuit of comedy.

~Ted Alexandro

'Teachers Lounge' is a web series I co-created with Hollis James. We intentionally left the apostrophe out to turn 'Lounge' into a verb. The

show is about teachers lounging around, wasting time.

~Ted Alexandro

With a project like 'Teachers Lounge,' you're wearing a lot of hats, so it demands hard work and focus if you want to do it right.

~Ted Alexandro

It's a constant process of bouncing ideas off of one another and intuitively arriving at the right decision in the moment.

~Ted Alexandro

Comics can definitely be subversive on the whole, but it's a stylistic thing.

~Ted Alexandro

It's harder to reveal sides of yourself that make you vulnerable but it's another muscle that can be developed and one that I think is worthwhile. That said, everyone finds their style. It's personal.

~Ted Alexandro

I don't know that I have a single comedy philosophy. But talking about things that matter to you is a good place to start. Listening is a big part of it, too.

~Ted Alexandro

People don't come to a comedy club simply to hear someone's thoughts, no matter how profound.

~Ted Alexandro

I think the more you hone your voice, take risks and talk about things that matter, the better chance you have of getting into the realm of the philosophers of stand up. But you have to be funny.

~Ted Alexandro

Not that that's the goal, but sometimes these funny insights can also be deeply profound.

~Ted Alexandro

Comedians are thinkers. The best ones are akin to philosophers, in my opinion.

~Ted Alexandro

If you're funny, you can find a stage to get on. If you're good, you'll start to get work and eventually get paid.

~Ted Alexandro

I don't do the mirror thing; maybe once or twice when I first started out.

~Ted Alexandro

A crowd is the only way to know if something works. Telling a friend or two doesn't matter. A crowd is what tells you what works or doesn't, so I'd rather go in front of them cold and see.

~Ted Alexandro

After twenty plus years of performing hundreds of shows a year, I prefer to try things out on stage rather than for friends. I don't see the benefit in that, really.

~Ted Alexandro

Listening to your own sets and listening to the audience as you perform. It's a conversation of sorts. There is an exchange.

~Ted Alexandro

Certainly, you want to be liked, but as you gain confidence and experience you're more concerned with expressing yourself and what matters to you.

~Ted Alexandro

I don't really worry about a crowd liking me.

~Ted Alexandro

Sometimes crowds start out not liking someone but then they shift and love them. Or vice versa. It can shift on a dime.

~Ted Alexandro

A person riding a unicycle on a tightrope doesn't worry about being likeable; they're doing something amazing that very few people can do.

~Ted Alexandro

Chris Rock went from a guy whose name you knew from SNL to a legendary comedian by working his ass off.

~Ted Alexandro

I think there comes a time in any comedian's career where they can either coast or keep growing and evolving.

~Ted Alexandro

Comedy takes all of life and puts it through a lens of acceptance, just by the mere act of talking about it on stage in a communal setting. It's very primal and ritualistic in that sense.

~Ted Alexandro

Inherent in mourning is celebration. Mourning without celebration or some form of acceptance leaves you stuck.

~Ted Alexandro

Comedians act every night on stage, so they have great performing chops. They especially know how to play themselves, which is how we set 'Teachers Lounge' up.

~Ted Alexandro

It always comes down to what the crowd buys coming out of your

mouth, which differs from one comic to the next.

~Ted Alexandro

Louis CK went from a writer/comedian to winning Emmys for his own show because he works his ass off.

~Ted Alexandro

Hard work is a muscle that you develop, as is taking risks.

~Ted Alexandro

In terms of my own work ethic, I've always been a determined person. When I'm focused on something, I try to see it through.

~Ted Alexandro

Opening for Louis C.K. during his "Hilarious" tour was a great experience for me. He is the generation just ahead of me, because he started so young.

~Ted Alexandro

Like once we picked Jim Norton as the head of security, the writing flows pretty easily.

~Ted Alexandro

That heightened dynamic can produce interesting, funny ideas that are phrased in ways that surprise even you, as the performer.

~Ted Alexandro

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