

Twyla Tharp Quotes

*Dance, Creativity, Art, Thinking, Creative, Skills, Dancing, Years, Inspirational,
People, Ideas, Mother, Children, Running, Dancer, Two, Way, Mean, Moving,
Order*

Art is the only way to run away without leaving home.

~Twyla Tharp

I have not wanted to intimidate audiences. I have not wanted my dancing to be an elitist form. That doesn't mean I haven't wanted it to be excellent.

~Twyla Tharp

Ultimately there is no such thing as failure. There are lessons learned in different ways.

~Twyla Tharp

Our ability to grow is directly proportional to an ability to entertain the uncomfortable.

~Twyla Tharp

No one is born with skill. It is developed through exercise, through repetition, through a blend of learning and reflection that's both painstaking and rewarding. And it takes time.

~Twyla Tharp

If you only do what you know and do it very, very well, chances are that you won't fail. You'll just stagnate, and your work will get less and less interesting, and that's failure by erosion

~Twyla Tharp

You don't get into the mood to create - it's discipline.

~Twyla Tharp

Life is about moving, it's about change. And when things stop doing that they're dead.

~Twyla Tharp

More often than not I've found, a rut is a consequence of sticking to

tried and tested methods that don't take into account how you or the world has changed.

~Twyla Tharp

If art is the bridge between what you see in your mind and what the world sees, then skill is how you build that bridge.

~Twyla Tharp

Reading, conversation, environment, culture, heroes, mentors, nature - all are lottery tickets for creativity. Scratch away at them and you'll find out how big a prize you've won.

~Twyla Tharp

Art is an investigation.

~Twyla Tharp

Optimism with some experience behind it is much more energizing than plain old experience with a certain degree of cynicism.

~Twyla Tharp

You have to believe there's something at the other side. And you have to have faith in yourself. You have to think that you have the tools to accomplish it.

~Twyla Tharp

I'm not one who divides music, dance or art into various categories. Either something works, or it doesn't.

~Twyla Tharp

Dance is the stepchild of the arts.

~Twyla Tharp

Over time, as the daily routines become second nature, discipline morphs into habit.

~Twyla Tharp

Perfect practice makes perfect.

~Twyla Tharp

There are as many forms of memory as there are ways of perceiving, and every one of them is worth mining for inspiration.

~Twyla Tharp

I'm often asked, 'Where do you get your ideas?' ...It's like asking, 'Where do you find air to breathe?' Ideas are all around you.

~Twyla Tharp

To make real change, you have to be well anchored - not only in the belief that it can be done, but also in some pretty real ways about who you are and what you can do.

~Twyla Tharp

I often say that in making dances I can make a world where I think things are done morally, done democratically, done honestly.

~Twyla Tharp

Dancing is like bank robbery, it takes split-second timing.

~Twyla Tharp

In dreams, anything can be anything, and everybody can do. We can fly, we can turn upside down, we can transform into anything.

~Twyla Tharp

I do everything I know how in a dance.

~Twyla Tharp

I think that anyone who's pushed to do the very best that they can is privileged. It's a luxury.

~Twyla Tharp

The ballet needs to tell its own story in such a way it can be received without having to be translated into language.

~Twyla Tharp

Dancers are allowed, indeed encouraged, to remain children forever.

~Twyla Tharp

When you stimulate your body, your brain comes alive in ways you can't simulate in a sedentary position.

~Twyla Tharp

I would have to challenge the term, modern dance. I don't really use that term in relation to my work. I simply think of it as dancing. I think of it as moving.

~Twyla Tharp

The only thing I fear more than change is no change. The business of being static makes me nuts.

~Twyla Tharp

It is extremely arrogant and very foolish to think that you can ever outwit your audience.

~Twyla Tharp

The content and thematic materials of dance is, of itself, like boxing. You play tennis and baseball. But boxing is not a sport you play: you stand up and do it.

~Twyla Tharp

The thing about creativity is, people are going to laugh at it. Get over it.

~Twyla Tharp

Creativity is a habit, and the best creativity is a result of good work habits.

~Twyla Tharp

When you're in a rut, you have to question everything except your ability to get out of it.

~Twyla Tharp

The art of these Fifties movies was in sustaining forever the moment before sex.

~Twyla Tharp

We're a machine and we have to be worked in the same way we have to be fed.

~Twyla Tharp

Dance has never been a particularly easy life, and everybody knows that.

~Twyla Tharp

Metaphor is the lifeblood of all art.

~Twyla Tharp

The formal education that I received made little sense to me.

~Twyla Tharp

Doing is better than not doing, and if you do something badly you'll learn to do it better.

~Twyla Tharp

Without the little ideas, there are no big ideas.

~Twyla Tharp

Before you can think out of the box, you have to start with a box

~Twyla Tharp

Limits are a secret blessing, and bounty can be a curse.

~Twyla Tharp

I'm willing to be regarded as a tyrant to keep my vision intact.

~Twyla Tharp

Energy and time are finite resources; conserving them is very important.

~Twyla Tharp

Creativity is an act of defiance.

~Twyla Tharp

Judgment is not my business. Existing is my business.

~Twyla Tharp

By making the start of the sequence automatic, they replace doubt and fear with comfort and routine.

~Twyla Tharp

Concentrate: you can't have it all.

~Twyla Tharp

You may wonder which came first: the skill or the hard work. But that's a moot point. The Zen master cleans his own studio. So should you.

~Twyla Tharp

You can keep on chewing gum for ten hours, but after about a minute and a half you've got all the good out of it.

~Twyla Tharp

In terms of individuals who actually inspired me, very few of the

academic people that I had access to had that power over me. Maybe it's simply because I wasn't that committed to geometry.

~Twyla Tharp

The necessity to constantly turn in an excellent performance, to be absolutely wedded to this dedication and this ideal means that as a child you're going to pay for it personally.

~Twyla Tharp

I read for growth, firmly believing that what you are today and what you will be in five years depends on two things: the people you meet and the books you read.

~Twyla Tharp

Traveling the paths of greatness, even in someone else's footprints, is a vital means to acquiring skill.

~Twyla Tharp

I think people want very much to simplify their lives enough so that they can control the things that make it possible to sleep at night.

~Twyla Tharp

Whom the gods wish to destroy, they give unlimited resources.

~Twyla Tharp

The routine is as much a part of the creative process as the lightning bolt of inspiration, maybe more. And this routine is available to everyone.

~Twyla Tharp

Everything is raw material. Everything is relevant. Everything is usable. Everything feeds into my creativity. But without proper preparation, I cannot see it, retain it, and use it.

~Twyla Tharp

when dancing is right, the movement possesss a logic common to us all, an inevitability that takes it beyond the personal and egocentric and makes of it classical art.

~Twyla Tharp

It's very difficult to justify a profession as a dancer.

~Twyla Tharp

I started formal piano training when I was 4. From there I had little violas, and I had dancing lessons of every sort and description, and painting lessons. I had German. And shorthand.

~Twyla Tharp

In those days, male dancers were a rarer breed than women. as they are still today, A good male dancer, one as strong as we were, was very difficult to come by if you couldn't afford to pay them.

~Twyla Tharp

There's this expression called postmodernism, which is kind of silly, and destroys a perfectly good word called modern, which now no longer means anything.

~Twyla Tharp

Any comic is a tragic soul. Comedy is one of the things that allows one to survive. Particularly if one has been in the process of separating off the emotions, it's one place you can process them.

~Twyla Tharp

I had to become the greatest choreographer of my time. That was my mission, and that's what I set out to do.

~Twyla Tharp

In the future, I will make certain that I commit to projects so there's enough breathing space for me to have an emotional life.

~Twyla Tharp

In creative endeavors luck is a skill.

~Twyla Tharp

I think of music as fuel, its spectrum of energy governed by tempi, volume, and heart.

~Twyla Tharp

Milo Forman is a great director; Jim Brooks is a wonderful writer and director.

~Twyla Tharp

Everyone has a talent. It's simply a question of good discipline, of the good fortune to have an education that meshes with that talent, and a lot of luck.

~Twyla Tharp

Solitude is an unavoidable part of creativity. Self-reliance is a happy by-product.

~Twyla Tharp

Usually kids who are talented have the brashness to think they can do anything, but they don't often get the chance to see how close they can come.

~Twyla Tharp

You only need one good reason to commit to an idea, not four hundred. But if you have four hundred reasons to say yes and one reason to say no, the answer is probably no.

~Twyla Tharp

I work because I have issues and questions and feelings and thoughts that I want to have a look at. I'm not in need of, or wanting, particularly,

to know what other folk are up to.

~Twyla Tharp

When it all comes together, a creative life has the nourishing power we normally associate with food, love and faith.

~Twyla Tharp

I was valedictorian. Did I enjoy going to school? I hated it. It wasn't a choice on my part, it was expected.

~Twyla Tharp

I am fairly concise when I work and I work quickly because I think work is done better in a high gear than done out in a gear when everyone's exhausted. Get focused, do it!

~Twyla Tharp

A young person has to start making decisions for themselves at a much earlier age than an overbearing parent allows one.

~Twyla Tharp

I have the wherewithal to challenge myself for my entire life. That's a great gift.

~Twyla Tharp

You don't have a really good idea until you combine two little ideas.

~Twyla Tharp

Once you accept the power of spine in the creative act, you will become much more efficient in your creativity. You will still get lost on occasion, but having a spine will anchor you.

~Twyla Tharp

We get into ruts when we run with the first idea that pops into our head, not the last one.

~Twyla Tharp

Creativity is a habit, and the best creativity is a result of good work habits. That's it in a nutshell ... In order to be creative you have to know how to prepare to be creative.

~Twyla Tharp

Men and women are very different athletes, and frankly, I didn't want to deal with the male potential.

~Twyla Tharp

when the time came I would do battle with my mother for the right to sit at the center of my own life.

~Twyla Tharp

A commission is an invitation to fall in love.

~Twyla Tharp

You're only kidding yourself if you put creativity before craft.

~Twyla Tharp

The notion of the hero as outsider, as alien, is forget it, over, done with. It's not about being against society anymore. It's about standing there, holding something up. It's not pulling away.

~Twyla Tharp

I've always thought my creative life began the moment my mother called me Twyla.

~Twyla Tharp

The more you know, the better you can imagine.

~Twyla Tharp

I had always seen myself as a star; I wanted to be a galaxy.

~Twyla Tharp

Obligation is a flimsy base for creativity, way down the list behind passion, courage, instinct, and the desire to do something great.

~Twyla Tharp

Without passion, all the skill in the world won't lift you above craft.

~Twyla Tharp

if you want to create art, you'd best have a deep belief in yourself and no ulterior motives.

~Twyla Tharp

A dancer's life is all about repetition.

~Twyla Tharp

Creativity requires quite a lot of faith - not just in yourself but also in the knowledge that you have the right to proceed, even when you may not know exactly what you're doing.

~Twyla Tharp

While most people in the arts think they have to be constantly looking forward to be edgy and creative....the real secret of creativity is to go back and remember.

~Twyla Tharp

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