

Viola Davis

Quotes

Thinking, People, Actors, Character, Want, Opportunity, School, Different, Years, Daughter, Acting, Jobs, Roles, Play, Believe, Book, Numbers, Two, Winning, Rose

You cannot live to please everyone else. You have to edify, educate and fulfill your own dreams and destiny.

~Viola Davis

They say the two most important days in a person's life were the day you were born and the day you discover why you were born.

~Viola Davis

Do not live someone else's life and someone else's idea of what womanhood is. Womanhood is you. Womanhood is everything that's inside of you.

~Viola Davis

When your passion and drive are bigger than your fears, you just dive.

~Viola Davis

When you pray, God puts people in your life to lead you when you cannot lead yourself.

~Viola Davis

You can't be hesitant about who you are.

~Viola Davis

Let me tell you something: The only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity. You cannot win an Emmy for roles that are simply not there.

~Viola Davis

I don't want anyone putting any limits on me.

~Viola Davis

I don't have any time to stay up all night worrying about what someone who doesn't love me has to say about me.

~Viola Davis

I want my work to reflect my level of gifts and talent

~Viola Davis

All you really need to do is shift people just a tiny bit for change to happen. It doesn't have to be huge and humongous.

~Viola Davis

The only thing that separates women of color from everyone else is opportunity.

~Viola Davis

At the end of the day, nobody can tell you how to tackle failure or how to handle change. The world is very good at encouraging you to go along with the status quo and at basking in your successes.

~Viola Davis

When you see what the deficit is, then you have to do something about it.

~Viola Davis

And I sit in my jacuzzi with my script.

~Viola Davis

I just look at women sometimes and I just want to ask them, "Do you know how fabulous you are?"

~Viola Davis

Relationships change us and make us grow.

~Viola Davis

Sometimes you see how humanity can rise above any kind of cultural ills and hate that a person's capacity to love and communicate and forgive can be bigger than anything else.

~Viola Davis

I would love to be remembered as a person who used her life to inspire others in any way, shape or form.

~Viola Davis

I think that you always want to gravitate towards people who absolutely are great at what they do and go for authenticity.

~Viola Davis

When you're really passionate, you're going to grab hold of every rope you see, and wrap them around your arms and legs to claw your way out. And that's the way I've felt in my life.

~Viola Davis

Anything can be achieved with a good, healthy dose of courage.

~Viola Davis

I am not a glam woman - this definitely is a mask I put on for the public.

~Viola Davis

They say, 'To serve is to love,' and I think to serve is to heal, too.

~Viola Davis

We as artists cannot be politicians. We as artists can only be truth-tellers.

~Viola Davis

It feels really good to embrace exactly who I am and be my sexy, to be my sexualized, to be my woman.

~Viola Davis

And this is what was fascinating to me about 'The Help'; they were ordinary people who did extraordinary things.

~Viola Davis

Any actor will tell you, as soon as your ego and your vanity come into the mix, it destroys your work. Completely destroys it.

~Viola Davis

That's how I digest it, 'cause I can press the fast-forward button and I know that I'm gonna have to continue to be an actor, continue to make choices, continue to perform in a show every week.

~Viola Davis

If the opportunity is not out there for you to play it, then you don't see it.

~Viola Davis

I think that I'm coming off as the biggest alcoholic in the world.

~Viola Davis

I think sometimes what people miss about black people is that we're complicated.

~Viola Davis

I love Wal-Mart. You can put that down. I love Wal-Mart. My husband and I hang out there.

~Viola Davis

And "classically not beautiful" is a fancy term for saying ugly. And denouncing you. And erasing you.

~Viola Davis

It's time for people to see us, people of colour, for what we really are: complicated.

~Viola Davis

You cannot win an Emmy for roles that are simply not there.

~Viola Davis

Even when I get the fried-chicken special of the day, I have to dig into it like it's filet mignon.

~Viola Davis

I needed to make my wig ogg because I no longer wanted to apologize for who I am

~Viola Davis

I would love to star in a remake of Thelma and Louise. Yep, that's the one I'd be interested in redoing.

~Viola Davis

Creativity only resonates if you infuse real life into the work.

~Viola Davis

I can't deal with actors! I can't deal with myself. We're neurotic and miserable... I love doing what I'm doing, but while I'm doing it, I'm miserable.

~Viola Davis

I am the mother of a 6-year-old now, so that's changed my entire perspective.

~Viola Davis

Ultimately, it's not your job, as an actress, to satisfy people's expectations or image of who you should be. Even in your life, you are just who you are.

~Viola Davis

I really wanted to show [in "fences"] a marriage that is working. Not perfect, but working.

~Viola Davis

That is a huge need for a lot of women, even in 2016. You can have the

most ambitious career woman, and at the end of the day, she's like, 'I just want to be a mom.

~Viola Davis

I have been given a lot of roles that are downtrodden, mammy-ish.

~Viola Davis

I've been in this business 25 years. I've been eking out a living doing Broadway, off-Broadway... I've seen the unemployment line a lot.

~Viola Davis

We grew up in abject poverty. Acting, writing scripts and skits were a way of escaping our environment at a very young age.

~Viola Davis

Every artist, true artist, struggles with an overwhelming sense of feeling like you're not worthy.

~Viola Davis

People are just not impressed by me at home.

~Viola Davis

Womanhood is you. Womanhood is everything that's inside of you.

~Viola Davis

I think sometimes you have to see a physical manifestation of your dream. Otherwise you have to hope, pray and try to conjure something in your mind to feel like it's possible.

~Viola Davis

Self-deprecation is not an answer to keeping one's balance. I think that it's very damaging.

~Viola Davis

I sort of feel like that's the most revolutionary thing we can do with our narrative for me as Black people is to show that we are just like you.

~Viola Davis

For me, that was a hard scene [in "Fences"] to do twenty-something times, which (laughing), I counted. That was difficult, but once I did it, I felt like I could do anything.

~Viola Davis

It was hard, that confrontation scene [in "Fences"], that was a hard one. I felt like it was relentless, I never felt like I could just drop the ball when the coverage was on him or anything else.

~Viola Davis

Lloyd Richards is another director who was like that, who was a teacher.

~Viola Davis

Denzel [Washington] just knows the actor. He knows the process, and you don't often get that.

~Viola Davis

My biggest fear is that a paparazzi or someone ... is going to come in my backyard and see me when I get in my pool. That would be very unfortunate.

~Viola Davis

I look back at pictures of myself and I remember thinking, "I was so fat when I was growing up. I was 165 pounds when I graduated from high school. I was a mess".

~Viola Davis

No matter what, people don't think of me for glamorous parts. I'll go to an audition or a meeting in a pretty dress, and they still think of me as

depressed or embattled. Hopefully, that will change.

~Viola Davis

It made me realize again how complicated being a mother is. You have 50 million heartbreaking moments, and 100 million beautiful, joyous ones.

~Viola Davis

I think that's something that people feel that I do really well; I don't mind it, because ultimately I think the characters I play move people, and who wouldn't want to move people?

~Viola Davis

If you're a boxer, you want to get the ring with a Mike Tyson or Muhammad Ali type. When you're acting, you want to get in with Meryl Streep, and that's what I did.

~Viola Davis

Just because I was 30 doesn't mean I was grown. God, I was such an idiot. I was an absolute idiot at 30. And I grew up.

~Viola Davis

Each character has their own challenges. The challenge to doing one scene is your whole history of who you are and your relationships, you only have this one shot.

~Viola Davis

I had to invest in the love and understand that with the love comes the pain. So when he tells me that, the monologue is already there. Does that make sense?

~Viola Davis

I started a production company out of necessity, the need for great narratives for actors of color.

~Viola Davis

Each role has its own different challenges.

~Viola Davis

I think watching my mom gave me great inspiration, I wish that had been reinforced more verbally. It would have kept me from a lot of pain.

~Viola Davis

I've done a really bad job with teaching daughter to put on makeup, but I have taught her how to put on lipstick.

~Viola Davis

I've always seen myself for who I am, which is a lot of things. So, I guess that when I walk into a room, I bring all those things to a role, and I've always just simply seen myself as an actor.

~Viola Davis

I did want to mark the fact that it was the first African-American to win the Lead Actress category. I thought it was so progressive.

~Viola Davis

I just hope this [Emmy] is now a part of the status quo that women of color are included in the narratives that continue to write lead roles for us.

~Viola Davis

I've always seen myself for who I am, which is a lot of things.

~Viola Davis

To me, it's always a luxury to be able to work with the best of the best because they make it easier for you to do what you do.

~Viola Davis

It's harder to work with people who are not as dedicated to their craft. It also leaves you a better actor when you finish the project, since you always feel like you've learned something.

~Viola Davis

The sentiment that I had a little trouble with was the idea that, "You change the school, you change the community." I couldn't wrap my mind around that.

~Viola Davis

I am not a morning person, but I always work out - always.

~Viola Davis

It's always hard to be private in public, which is what acting is because you have to do thing really emotionally naked.

~Viola Davis

I think that's why August [Wilson] named her Rose [in "Fences"]; I really do. She's a rose in her sweetness and her kindness and in everything else, even her anger towards the end.

~Viola Davis

You absolutely feel, as a black actress, that you've got to ride the wave because there's just so few roles. I hate to play that card, but it's the truth. There's not a lot of roles.

~Viola Davis

I can be busy for three years and you may not even know what I'm busy doing because you only see me in a few scenes here or there, but I've been working my tail off because there's just not a lot.

~Viola Davis

I haven't seen most of what I've done. I can't even list them. Most television jobs. I haven't seen a lot.

~Viola Davis

Do the work. Create the character, don't wing it and don't hope for an award or the Red Carpet. At the end of day the people who stay in the line the longest are the people who are good.

~Viola Davis

I get so excited when my daughter says something new, which she is doing every day. I can leave the house for a few hours, come back and meet a totally different person. That's very exciting to me.

~Viola Davis

Actor is just a strange profession, it really is, that you could be in front of the same people for years, and all of a sudden one thing happens, and it finally clicks.

~Viola Davis

I don't think most people understand acting, even the people who call themselves savvy, even actors.

~Viola Davis

That's why there's so much bad acting out there, because you could see actors watching themselves.

~Viola Davis

Cicely Tyson was my inspiration to become an actor.

~Viola Davis

I think that what happens so often on screen is high-stake moments tends to look too pretty. And I just don't think it's honest.

~Viola Davis

I am addicted to any facial product that's anti-aging.

~Viola Davis

Eating bread in Hollywood is a no-no!

~Viola Davis

Acting, it's the disappearance of self, disappearance of your own needs and your own wants and the kind of embracing of the character that makes it work.

~Viola Davis

I am not a writer, but I feel that when our production company is successful, we'll be able to give some young writers with fresh voices an opportunity to put their work out there.

~Viola Davis

I talk to women all the time and try to impart wisdom.

~Viola Davis

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