

Wallace Shawn

Quotes

*Play, Thinking, Writing, People, Years, Actors, Giving, Character, Children,
Reality, Jobs, Views, Different, Awkward, Country, Men, Has Beens, Acting,
Looks, Schedules*

For me, a play is a form of writing which isn't complete until it is interpreted by actors. But it's still a form of writing. And so most of my time is spent thinking about how to write a sentence.

~Wallace Shawn

It's obviously a characteristic of human beings that we like to feel superior to others, but our problem is we are not superior

~Wallace Shawn

Who says one instance of writing has anything in common with another instance?

~Wallace Shawn

Even with my wife, I find sharing soup is hard.

~Wallace Shawn

I have been vain since birth.

~Wallace Shawn

Sleep: a poor substitute for caffeine!

~Wallace Shawn

I spend most of my time thinking about things like laundry and buying stationery supplies.

~Wallace Shawn

I'm not proud to be me, I'm not excited to be me, but I find that I am me, and like most other individuals, I send out little signals; I tell everyone else how everything looks from where I am.

~Wallace Shawn

I have been vain since birth. I expected other people to like what I did, although my vanity has definitely diminished over the years.

~Wallace Shawn

Patriotism is considered to be an emotion a person ought to feel. But why? Why is it nobler to love your own country than to love someone else's?

~Wallace Shawn

I was making my living from a joke about my appearance that I didn't understand, and in a way still don't, because when I look in a mirror it doesn't seem funny to me.

~Wallace Shawn

Acting is an escape from the boring person that I am in real life.

~Wallace Shawn

I probably have a higher opinion of my writing than the average person, at least when I'm in a good mood, but I don't really think of my plays as only being relevant to a particular month or year.

~Wallace Shawn

We're in an emergency situation. The United States has become an absolutely terrifying country, and I would hope that I could participate in some way in stopping the horror and the brutality.

~Wallace Shawn

I sincerely believe that if Bush and Cheney recognized the full humanity of other people's mothers around the world, they wouldn't commit the crimes they commit.

~Wallace Shawn

As writers, we can't predict who might come along who might find our offerings valuable.

~Wallace Shawn

Escape before it's too late.

~Wallace Shawn

I am recognized a lot for Clueless, but I am recognized a great deal for The Princess Bride. I dont know... maybe everybody who has seen that movie just goes out on the street.

~Wallace Shawn

I have an enormous appetite to see life as I know it presented in front of my eyes.

~Wallace Shawn

I don't see that many plays, and for me, musicals are rarely pleasing.

~Wallace Shawn

I don't have a television, and I'm just not too up on television.

~Wallace Shawn

I don't happen to have a sense of humor personally, so I don't know what's funny about a character... This happens to be a feature of my life generally.

~Wallace Shawn

I know that I am one and I've made a living as an actor and I enjoy being an actor, but when I'm not actually doing it, I forget that I do it.

~Wallace Shawn

I'm a very lucky man. It's a beautiful thing for a writer, to see people allowing your words to enter their own unconscious and their souls.

~Wallace Shawn

My style as a human being is to indulge people who need to escape, yet I insist on confronting them as a playwright. It's quite embarrassing, it's quite unpleasant, it's quite awkward.

~Wallace Shawn

There's nothing regular about my life at all, really. I don't keep a regular

schedule and every day is different. It's all rather chaotic.

~Wallace Shawn

I grew up. I began to think the United States had some problems that really required the help of artistic people to solve. And I gave myself permission to be a writer instead of a civil servant.

~Wallace Shawn

I have more free time than a lot of individuals, so, instead of talking, I sometimes write.

~Wallace Shawn

I'm being mocked because I don't live up to a socially determined view of what other people think a person should look like.

~Wallace Shawn

I never grew up thinking, 'One day I will play so and so' because I wasn't expecting to be an actor at all.

~Wallace Shawn

From being a writer of plays, it was not that surprising that somebody thought of giving me a job as an actor. After I played one part, others came along.

~Wallace Shawn

I never planned to be an actor. It turned out I could make a living doing it.

~Wallace Shawn

My father was a jazz listener, and I think, at least before I was 5, I was not so into that. Although there were records that emphasized percussion that I liked, like Baby Dodds.

~Wallace Shawn

'The Princess Bride' is by far the most popular film I've ever done. I don't think I'll ever top it.

~Wallace Shawn

In real life, every person is the leading man or woman. We don't think of ourselves as supporting or character actors.

~Wallace Shawn

I was clever enough to know that John Donne was offering something that was awfully enjoyable. I just wasn't clever enough to actually enjoy it.

~Wallace Shawn

I love going to plays. There's a subconscious side to it, obviously-some people like to be spanked for XYZ psychological reasons, and I like to go to plays, and I can't entirely explain why.

~Wallace Shawn

When I was first starting to write plays, I quite literally had never heard of the idea of studying playwriting. I wouldn't have studied it even if I had heard of it.

~Wallace Shawn

The life of an actor can be very enviable.

~Wallace Shawn

My personal life is lived as 'me,' but my professional life is lived as other people. In other words, when I go to the office, I lie down, dream, and become 'someone else.' That's my job.

~Wallace Shawn

The actor's role in the community is quite unlike anyone else's. Businessmen, for example, don't take their clothes off or cry in front of strangers in the course of their work. Actors do.

~Wallace Shawn

And my singing, I don't think I could sing Wagner or opera, but I could probably carry a tune. I was in a musical once, but it was never performed.

~Wallace Shawn

I think I'm trying to write truthfully about life, and naturalism, or the way people normally talk in movies, is a convention. It's not the way people talk in life at all.

~Wallace Shawn

You know, I haven't written as much as most other writers. Certainly maybe those who keep a more regular schedule accomplish more.

~Wallace Shawn

I do things, and other people laugh at them. I rarely know what the joke is supposed to be or why they're laughing.

~Wallace Shawn

But because we've all been readers, we know what the experience is like, and we hope that what certain writers have given to us, we will give to someone.

~Wallace Shawn

In my early 20s, I studied history and politics, and I really thought that perhaps I would devote my life to that.

~Wallace Shawn

"The Fever" is a one-person play. I decided I would perform it myself, and I decided I would not perform it in theaters, because the character in the play says certain things that I meant.

~Wallace Shawn

In terms of number of movies, I've been in an extraordinary amount. If you count only the minutes I'm onscreen, it's not so long.

~Wallace Shawn

My plays have been strange from the beginning, and they never got unstrange.

~Wallace Shawn

I think the whole system of education would change if I were in charge and had the ability to make changes. I don't think I would keep Princeton exactly being Princeton.

~Wallace Shawn

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