

25 QUOTATIONS



Tallulah Bankhead

(1902-1968)

Tallulah Bankhead was a witty actress for many years on Broadway and in Hollywood, known for her deep husky voice, forceful personality, flamboyant style, bawdy disposition and many affairs. Once when she encountered a former lover she had not seen in years she said, "I thought I told you to wait in the car." Her last word was "bourbon." A southerner from Alabama who rebelled against the stereotype of the belle, she had U.S. Senators in her family and her father was Speaker of the U.S. House from 1936 to 1940:

My heart is as pure as the driven slush.

There is less in this than meets the eye.

I'd rather be strongly wrong than weakly right.

I'm the foe of moderation, the champion of excess.

Only good girls keep diaries. Bad girls don't have time.

Logic is elusive, especially to one who so rarely uses it.

I've been called many things, but never an intellectual.

I read Shakespeare and the Bible, and I can shoot dice. That's what I call a liberal education.

I was raped in our driveway when I was eleven. You know, dahling, it was a terrible experience because we had all that gravel.

My father warned me about men and booze but he never said anything about women and cocaine.

Never practice two vices at once.

Cocaine isn't habit-forming. I should know—I've been using it for years.

I've tried several varieties of sex, all of which I hate. The conventional position makes me claustrophobic. And the others give me either a stiff neck or lockjaw.

I'll come and make love to you at five o'clock. If I'm late, start without me.

I have three phobias which, could I mute them, would make my life slick as a sonnet, but as dull as ditch water: I hate to go to bed, I hate to get up, and I hate to be alone.

The less I behave like Whistler's mother the night before, the more I look like her the morning after.

Once I introduced a friend of mine as Martini. Her name was actually Olive.

I did what I could to inflate the rumor I was on my way to stardom. What I was on my way to, by any mathematical standards known to man, was oblivion by way of obscurity.

They made me sound as if I'd been castrated.

There have been only two geniuses in the world, Willy Mays [baseball legend] and Shakespeare. But dahling, I think you'd better put Shakespeare first.

It's one of the tragic ironies of the theater that only one man in it can count on steady work—the night watchman.

Acting is a form of confession. Acting is a form of confusion.

Nobody can be exactly like me. Even I have trouble doing it.

If you really want to help the American theater, don't be an actress, dahling. Be an audience.

If I had to live my life again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner.

