Quotes on Death from your pals Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

ROS: Whatever became of the moment when one first knew about death? There must have been one, a moment, in childhood when it first occurred to you that you don’t go on for ever. It must have been shattering – stamped into one’s memory. ...We must be born with an intuition of mortality. (71)

PLAYER: There’s nothing more unconvincing than an unconvincing death. (77)

GUIL: (fear, derision) Actors! The mechanics of cheap melodrama! That isn’t death! ...You die so many times; how can you expect them to believe in your death? (83)

PLAYER: On the contrary, it’s the only kind they do believe. They’re conditioned to it. (84)

GUIL: ...It’s just a man flailing to reappear, that’s all – now you see him, now you don’t, that’s the only thing that’s real: here one minute and gone the next and never coming back – an exit, unobtrusive and unannounced, a disappearance gathering weight as it goes on, until, finally, it is heavy with death. (84)

ROS: We might as well be dead. Do you think death could possibly be a boat? GUIL: No, no, no...Death is...not. Death isn’t. You take my meaning. Death is the ultimate negative. Not-being. You can’t not-be on a boat. (108)

ROS: Be happy – if you’re not even happy what’s so good about surviving? (121)

GUIL: I’m talking about death – and you’ve never experienced that. And you cannot act it... Because even as you die you know that you will come back in a different hat. But no one gets up after death – there is no applause – there is only silence and some second-hand clothes, and that’s – death ---- . (123)