

Der NAK präsentiert

ein Hörspiel der
SLAVE PIANOS

THE STRANGE VOYAGE OF BAS JAN ADER

In einem Akt, für 6 Sänger, 6 Instrumentalisten und Audioeinspielung

Libretto der SLAVE PIANOS nach Texten von Bas Jan Ader, Willoughby Sharp, Liza Bear, Mary Sue Ader und Donald Crowhurst.

Sonntag, 14.10.2001
20 Uhr
KLANGBRÜCKE
Kurhausstraße 2
Aachen

Dienstag, 16.10.2001
20 Uhr
MALKASTEN
Jacobistraße 6a
Düsseldorf

Besetzung

Sänger

Stephan Saus	<i>Bas Jan Ader</i>
Viviane Hoetzel	<i>Mary Sue Ader</i>
Claudia Schulze Althoff	<i>Liza Bear</i>
Jolanta Kosira	<i>Philosophie</i>
Won-Suk Woo	<i>Willoughby Sharp</i>
Hans-Helge Gerlik	<i>Donald Crowhurst</i>

Instrumentalisten

Matthias Rein	<i>Cembalo/Kammerorgel</i>
Nina Leonards	<i>Violine</i>
Ludmilla Wutzel	<i>Cello</i>
Juli Sokolianski	<i>Trompete</i>
Li Lansong	<i>Fagott</i>
Ulrich Poth	<i>Perkussion</i>

Prelude **The Maiden Voyage**

1. **A Craft Too Small**
Light vulnerable objects threatened by eight cement bricks, 1970

2. **The Consumer of Extreme Comfort**
Fall I, Los Angeles, 1970

3. **Farewell to Faraway Friends**
Fall II, Amsterdam, 1970

4. **Silence and Loneliness**
I'm Too Sad to Tell You, 1970

5. **Searchin´**
Farewell to Faraway Friends, 1971

6. **Pitfall on the Way to a New Neo-Plasticism**
Broken Fall (Organic), Amsterdamse Bos, Holland, 1971

7. **Primary Time**
Broken Fall (Geometric), Westkappele Holland, 1971

8. **Contemplating the Forces of Nature**
Pitfall on the way to a new Neo Plasticism, Westkappele Holland, 1971

9. **AAAARRGH!**
Untitled (Tea Party), 1972

10. **All my Clothes**
The boy who fell over Niagara Falls, 1972

11. **Implosion**
Primary Time, 1974

12. **Into the Dark Tunnel**
Untitled (Flower Work), 1974

13. **The Cosmic Mind**
Invitation Card, 1975

14. **The Great Beauty of Truth**
Nightfall, 1971

Epilogue **All is Falling**

THE STRANGE VOYAGE OF BAS JAN ADER

Prelude. The Maiden Voyage

LIZA BEAR

Wann genau fuhr Bas Jan Ader fort *In Search of the Miraculous?*

MARY SUE ADER

Er fuhr am 9. Juli 1975 los.

BAS JAN ADER

Like an eagle caged, I pine / On this dull, unchanging shore / Oh give me the flashing brine / The spray and the tempest roar!

DONALD CROWHURST

Zu sich selbst zu reden ist sehr wichtig.

1. A Craft Too Small

LIZA BEAR

Von wo fuhr er los?

MARY SUE ADER

Von Stage Harbour, Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Wo wollte er hin fahren?

MARY SUE ADER

Ans Landesende, England, nach Falmouth.

DONALD CROWHURST

Die Bedingungen in einem kleinen Boot sind dermaßen prekär und verheerend, dass es erstaunlich ist, dass Menschen überhaupt in kleinen Booten aufs Meer hinaus fahren.

BAS JAN ADER

Devices to prevent the falling of people.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Und wie lange, dachte er, würde die Reise dauern?

MARY SUE ADER

60 bis 90 Tage. Eigentlich glaubte er, innerhalb von 67 Tagen dort zu sein.

DONALD CROWHURST

Einhandfahren hat seine Vorteile. Egal wie schizophoren man ist; es ist schwer, mit einer Crew von so exzellenten Leuten auszukommen...

2. The Consumer of Extreme Comfort

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Und wieviel Nahrung hatte er, für wie lange?

MARY SUE ADER

Er hatte Nahrung und Wasser für ungefähr 180 Tage, außerdem hatte er eine Angelausrüstung dabei.

DONALD CROWHURST

... das setzt einen Menschen ganz schön unter Druck, wenige Arbeiten sondieren die menschlichen Schwächen mit einer derartigen Vehemenz.

LIZA BEAR

Ist Bas schon oft gesegelt?

MARY SUE ADER

Ja, 1962 segelte er zusammen mit einem anderen Mann mit einem 13 Meter Boot von Marokko nach Los Angeles. Seitdem plante er eine Einhandsegeltour.

DONALD CROWHURST

Schatz, ich bin sehr enttäuscht von diesem Boot. Es ist nicht das Richtige. Ich bin nicht gut genug vorbereitet.

MARY SUE ADER

Das ist der Höhepunkt eines jeden Seglertraums. Im September 1974 begann er, seinen Kurs zu planen.

DONALD CROWHURST

Wenn ich in diesem hoffnungslosen Zustand fort fahre, wirst du dann vor unendlichen Sorgen verrückt werden?

BAS JAN ADER

The thought of our inevitable and separate deaths fills my heart with intolerable grief.

PHILOSOPHIE

Wenn du nun aufgibst, wirst du dann für den Rest deines Lebens unglücklich sein?

3. Farewell to Faraway Friends

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Dachte er, dass er es schafft?

MARY SUE ADER

Oh ja, klar, in kürzester Zeit. Er bestand darauf, auch wenn wir in einer verzweifelten Geldsituation waren und er einen Lehrvertrag in Kalifornien hatte, dass ich ihn in Amsterdam treffe, wo er eine Ausstellung im Groninger Museum haben sollte.

DONALD CROWHURST

Ich gehe, weil es wichtig ist; es ist eine persönliche Herausforderung, die wahrscheinlich ertragreich sein wird; ich gehe, weil ich keine Ruhe hätte, hier zu bleiben. Ich gehe, da ich gehen muss.

BAS JAN ADER

When I fell off the roof of my house or into a canal, it was because gravity made itself master over me. *When I cried, it was because of extreme grief.*

DONALD CROWHURST

Philosophieren ist irrelevant und muss aufhören. Ich habe andere Dinge zu tun! Es ist außerdem Energieverschwendung.

MARY SUE ADER

Ich wartete auf ihn. Ich war zuversichtlich, dass er auftauchen würde. Als er es nicht tat, war ich weiterhin überzeugt, er würde eintreffen.

BAS JAN ADER

I was awfully comfortable last night, you should have been there.

DONALD CROWHURST

Widerliches Wetter, harte Arbeit, leicht deprimiert über die Deckluke.

4. Silence and Loneliness

LIZA BEAR

Als er nicht eintraf, was passierte dann?

MARY SUE ADER

Ich erwartete ihn wöchentlich. Als er nicht zu der von ihm errechneten Zeit ankam, beschlossen wir, dass er sich in seiner Zeitrechnung extrem verrechnet haben müsste, und dass er in einem so kleinen Boot länger bräuchte.

DONALD CROWHURST

Seufzer wurden gehört.

BAS JAN ADER

I know a man ain't supposed to cry.

MARY SUE ADER

Viele erfahrene Segler haben gesagt, dass er es schaffen könnte, aber dass es wahrscheinlich bis zu 150 Tage dauern würde. Und so warteten wir den 150sten Tag ab, und schließlich dachten wir, na ja, dass er es immer noch schaffen könnte und verschoben es weiter...

DONALD CROWHURST

Ich kann nicht zurück, noch wünsche ich es.

MARY SUE ADER

...Zur Weihnachtszeit ging ich es nochmal an und klapperte sämtliche Botschaften der Regierungen entlang des Atlantiks ab, um sie über die Situation zu informieren.

DONALD CROWHURST

Ich fühlte mich mit der Gemeinschaft bereits lange toter Seemänner verbunden.

5. Searchin´

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Wurde nach irgendeiner seiner Routen gesucht?

MARY SUE ADER

Ja, einige Male wurde eine Suche von England aus gemacht. Die britische Küstenwache empfing Signale eines kleinen Boots und einer Leuchtrakete und suchte. Sie fanden nichts.

BAS JAN ADER

My body practicing having been drowned.

DONALD CROWHURST

Ideen können manipuliert werden. Wenn sie im Rahmen von korrekt formulierten Regeln manipuliert werden, produzieren sie neue Resultate...

PHILOSOPHIE

... welche klare Aspekte des Originalkonzepts enthüllen, die, wenn gültig, nicht so klar enthüllt würden.

6. Pitfall on the Way to a New Neo-Plasticism

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Was denken sie passierte?

MARY SUE ADER

Ich denke, das Boot war zu klein und für einen solchen Turn nicht gebaut, und es konnte es einfach nicht bewältigen.

DONALD CROWHURST

Wenn kreative Abstraktion als Vehikel zu einer neuen Einigkeit fungiert und den bisherigen stabilen Status verlässt...

PHILOSOPHIE

... es liegt in der Kraft kreativer Abstraktion, dieses Phänomen zu kreieren!

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Denken sie also, dass er verschollen ist?

MARY SUE ADER

Ich bin davon überzeugt, dass er verschollen ist. Es gab zwar jede Menge Spekulationen darüber, dass er fort segelt, eine andere Identität annimmt und so'n Zeug...

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Glauben sie das denn?

MARY SUE ADER

Nein, das glaube ich auf keinen Fall.

BAS JAN ADER

My body practicing being dead.

DONALD CROWHURST

Ich bin mir darüber bewusst, dass ich den Frieden und die Schönheit der Umgebung ansehe...

PHILOSOPHIE

... dass das Leben gewiegt wurde von Intelligenz.

7. Primary Time

LIZA BEAR

Wie schien er sich bezüglich seiner Reise zu fühlen?

BAS JAN ADER

I'm too sad to tell you.

DONALD CROWHURST

Die Erklärung dieser Gefühle scheint mir akzeptabel...

PHILOSOPHIE

... hier und jetzt.

MARY SUE ADER

Er gab mir keine spezifischen Anweisungen darüber, was ich tun sollte, falls er sterben oder es nicht schaffen sollte.

BAS JAN ADER

Thoughts unsaid then forgotten.

MARY SUE ADER

Er war dermaßen davon überzeugt, dass er es schaffen würde. Ich bin mir sicher, es lag an dem Boot, es war nur 3,81 Meter lang.

DONALD CROWHURST

Gottes Uhr ist nicht dieselbe wie unsere. Er hat ein unendliches Konvolut von „unserer“ Zeit.

PHILOSOPHIE

Deine ist bald vorbei...

8. Contemplating the Forces of Nature

LIZA BEAR

Dachte er, dass dies der Höhepunkt seiner Arbeit sein wird?

MARY SUE ADER

Er dachte, es wäre ein Schritt nach vorne. Fortschritt, nicht Höhepunkt. Er fühlte sich sehr stark dabei, sehr sensibel, er hatte sehr romantische Gefühle über die Freiheit des Ozeans, die Herausforderung der Meere.

BAS JAN ADER

The sea, the land, the artist has with great sadness known they too will be no more.

DONALD CROWHURST

Gottes Königreich hat ein Gebiet, das nicht in Quadratmetern gemessen wird, sondern in Quadratstunden. Es ist ein Königreich mit aller Zeit der Welt...

PHILOSOPHIE

... du hast alle Zeit genutzt, die du hattest, und nun musst du nach einer imaginären Art von Zeit suchen.

BAS JAN ADER

A life on the ocean wave / A home on the rolling deep

9. AAAARRGH!

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

War das riskante Spiel ein signifikanter Teil in seiner Arbeit?

MARY SUE ADER

In gewissem Sinne ja, aber es ging nicht darum. Es ging nicht darum, sein Leben zu riskieren.

PHILOSOPHIE

Die Schnellen sind schnell, und die Toten sind tot. Das ist Gottes Urteil.

DONALD CROWHURST

Ich hätte diese furchtbaren Qualen und das bedeutungslose Warten niemals durchstehen können.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Worum ging es dann hauptsächlich?

MARY SUE ADER

Ich denke, es ging um das Fallen in mehreren Bedeutungen.

BAS JAN ADER

Greetings from Beautiful Ader Falls.

10. All my Clothes

LIZA BEAR
Nahm er irgendetwas zur
Beschäftigung mit aufs Boot?

MARY SUE ADER
Er nahm einen Kassettenrekorder,
Kameras und eine Filmkamera und
ein paar Bücher mit...

LIZA BEAR
Welche Bücher?

MARY SUE ADER
Navigationsbücher und ein paar
Bücher über Hegel. Ich glaube, er
hatte auch geplant, ein Tagebuch zu
schreiben, und er wollte sich selbst
die Lieder, die in Groningen gesungen
wurden, beibringen.

DONALD CROWHURST
Der Mensch wird zu bestimmten
Schlussfolgerungen aufgrund seiner
Fehler gezwungen.

PHILOSOPHIE
Keine Maschine arbeitet ohne Fehler!

BAS JAN ADER
I can think around corners.

11. Implosion

LIZA BEAR
Warum denken sie gab es keine
Reaktionen auf diese ganze Episode?

MARY SUE ADER
Ich habe keine Ahnung. Ich hörte,
dass seine Studenten dermaßen
unfähig waren, mit der Realität zu
leben, dass sie fasziniert
verschiedenste Möglichkeiten
fantasierten...

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
Fluchten?

LIZA BEAR
Ein anderes Leben irgendwo anders
beginnen?

MARY SUE ADER
Ja, ja, ja. Es gingen Monate lang
Gerüchte herum, dass er leben würde
und dass es ihm gut ginge.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
Es war nicht in seinem Sinne, dies zu
wollen oder zu denken...

MARY SUE ADER
Oh Nein.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
...Es war sein letztes Werk und... sich
umzubringen.

12. Into the Dark Tunnel

DONALD CROWHURST
Natur erlaubt es nicht

PHILOSOPHIE
Gott sündigt keine Sünden

DONALD CROWHURST
Bis auf eine -

PHILOSOPHIE
Das ist die Sünde der Geheimhaltung.

MARY SUE ADER
Nein, ich bin absolut davon überzeugt,
dass war nirgends in seinem
Bewusstsein. Wir sprachen darüber,
und er versicherte mir wiederholt, das
dies nicht seine Intentionen waren.

13 The Cosmic Mind

DONALD CROWHURST
Das System der Bücher ist perfekt
reorganisiert.

PHILOSOPHIE
Viele Parallelen.

DONALD CROWHURST
Eremiten fordern unnötige Umstände
von sich selbst.

PHILOSOPHIE
Die Wahrheit zu suchen, ist seine Zeit
zu vergeuden.

DONALD CROWHURST
Falsche Entscheidung ist nicht
perfekt.

14. The Great Beauty of Truth

PHILOSOPHIE
Zeit.

DONALD CROWHURST
Nicht länger errechnet.

PHILOSOPHIE
Hatte unorganisierte Uhren.

DONALD CROWHURST
Muss Position bekennen.

BAS JAN ADER
The earth will fall...

DONALD CROWHURST
Stellte mir eine „unmögliche“
Aufgabe.

BAS JAN ADER
...beyond where it will be tomorrow.

PHILOSOPHIE
Nichts wird durchs Spiel erreicht...

Epilogue. All is Falling

BAS JAN ADER/ DONALD
CROWHURST/ PHILOSOPHIE
All is falling

Sources:

1. Bas Jan Ader Notebook Entries
1970-75
 2. Mary Sue Ader, Liza Bear &
Willoughby Sharp
AVALANCHE, Summer 1976
 3. Nicholas Tomalin & Ron Hall
The Strange Voyage of Donald
Crowhurst, 1970
 4. Christoph Müller Bas Jan Ader
Implosion, 2000
 5. Brad Spence Bas Jan Ader, 1999
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THE STRANGE VOYAGE OF BAS JAN ADER

Prelude The Maiden Voyage

LIZA BEAR

When exactly did Bas leave *In Search of the Miraculous*?

MARY SUE ADER

He left July 9th, 1975.

BAS JAN ADER

Like an eagle caged, I pine / On this dull, unchanging shore / Oh give me the flashing brine / The spray and the tempest roar!

DONALD CROWHURST

Talking to yourself is very important.

1. A Craft Too Small

LIZA BEAR

Where did he leave from?

MARY SUE ADER

Stage Harbour, Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Where did he want to go?

MARY SUE ADER

Land's End, England, to Falmouth.

DONALD CROWHURST

Conditions in a small boat are so peculiarly devastating that it's amazing that people go to sea in small boats at all.

BAS JAN ADER

Devices to prevent the falling of people.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

And how long did he expect the trip to take?

MARY SUE ADER

60 to 90 days. He actually expected to be there within 67 days.

DONALD CROWHURST

Single-handing has its compensations. No matter how schizophrenic you are, it's difficult to fall out with the crew, they're excellent people...

2. The Consumer of Extreme Comfort

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

And how much food did he have, for how long?

MARY SUE ADER

He had food and water for approximately 180 days, and then he had fishing equipment.

DONALD CROWHURST

... it puts a great deal of pressure on the man, it explores his weaknesses with a penetration that very few other occupations can manage.

LIZA BEAR

Had Bas done a lot of sailing?

MARY SUE ADER

Yes, in 1962 he sailed from Morocco to Los Angeles with another man on a 45-foot sailboat. Ever since, he planned to make a single-handed crossing.

DONALD CROWHURST

Darling, I'm very disappointed in the boat. She's not right. I'm not prepared.

MARY SUE ADER

It's the epitome of all sailors' dreams. In September of '74 he began charting out his course.

DONALD CROWHURST: If I

leave with things in this hopeless state will you go out of your mind with worry?

BAS JAN ADER: *The thought of our inevitable and separate deaths fills my heart with intolerable grief.*

PHILOSOPHY: If you give up now will you be unhappy for the rest of your life?

3. Farewell to Faraway Friends

WILLOUGHBY SHARP

Did he expect to make it?

MARY SUE ADER

Oh yes, definitely, in fast time. He insisted, even though we were desperate for money, and had a teaching contract in California, that I meet him in Amsterdam where he

would have a show at the Groninger Museum.

DONALD CROWHURST

I am going because it is worthwhile, it is my particular challenge, it will most likely bring benefits, but that is not why - I am going because I would have no peace if I stayed. I am going because I must.

BAS JAN ADER

When I fell off the roof of my house or into a canal, it was because gravity made itself master over me. *When I cried, it was because of extreme grief.*

DONALD CROWHURST

Philosophising is irrelevant and must stop. I have things to do! It is also wasting the torch battery.

MARY SUE ADER

I was waiting for him. I was positive he would show up. When he didn't, I was convinced he would show up any time.

BAS JAN ADER

I was awfully comfortable last night, you should have been there.

DONALD CROWHURST

Foul weather, had to heave-to. Fairly depressed about hatches.

4. Silence and Loneliness

LIZA BEAR

When he didn't arrive, what happened?

MARY SUE ADER

I expected him any week. When he didn't arrive within his set time period we decided that he had grossly miscalculated the time it would take him on such a small boat.

DONALD CROWHURST

Sighs heard.

BAS JAN ADER

I know a man ain't supposed to cry.

MARY SUE ADER

A lot of experienced sailors said that he could make it but it would probably take him up to 150 days. So we waited until 150 days were up and then we thought, well he still

could make it, and we kept postponing...

DONALD CROWHURST
I cannot turn back, nor do I wish too.

MARY SUE ADER
...I went over again at Christmas time and with his brother went to all the embassies of the governments bordering the Atlantic and informed them of the situation.

DONALD CROWHURST
I have felt a community with long dead seamen on many occasions.

5. Searchin´

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
Was a search made along any kind of route?

MARY SUE ADER
Yes, there was a search made a couple of times out of England. The British Coastguard received a report of one sighting of a small boat and one sighting of a flare, and searched. They didn't turn anything up.

BAS JAN ADER
My body practicing having been drowned.

DONALD CROWHURST
Ideas can be manipulated. If manipulated under a correctly formulated set of rules, they produce new results...

PHILOSOPHY
...which clearly reveal aspects of the original concepts which, though valid, would not have been so clearly revealed.

6. Pitfall on the Way to a New Neo-Plasticism

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
What do you think happened?

MARY SUE ADER
I think the boat was too small and not designed for that kind of trip and it just couldn't take it.

DONALD CROWHURST
If creative abstraction is to act as a vehicle for the new entity, and to leave its hitherto stable state...

PHILOSOPHY
...it lies within the power of creative abstraction to produce the phenomenon!

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
So you think that he's lost?

MARY SUE ADER
I'm convinced that he's lost. There's been a lot of speculation about him sailing off and taking on a different identity and stuff like that...

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
Do you discount that?

MARY SUE ADER
Totally discount it.

BAS JAN ADER
My body practicing being dead.

DONALD CROWHURST
I am clearly aware that I am looking at the peace and beauty of the environment...

PHILOSOPHY
...that has cradled the life form carrying intelligence.

7. Primary Time

LIZA BEAR
How did he seem to feel about the trip?

BAS JAN ADER
I'm too sad to tell you.

DONALD CROWHURST
This explanation of these feelings is acceptable to me...

PHILOSOPHY
...here and now.

MARY SUE ADER
He gave me no specific instructions on what to do in case he died or didn't make it.

BAS JAN ADER
Thoughts unsaid then forgotten.

MARY SUE ADER
He was so convinced that he would make it. I'm sure it was the fact that the boat was only 12 feet and 6 inches.

DONALD CROWHURST
God's clock is not the same as our clock. He has an infinite amount of "our" time.

PHILOSOPHY
Yours has very nearly run out...

8. Contemplating the Forces of Nature

LIZA BEAR
Did he think this was going to be some culmination of his work?

MARY SUE ADER
He thought it was a step ahead. Progress not culmination. He felt very strongly about it, he was very sensitive about it, he had very romantic feelings about the freedom of the ocean, the challenge of the seas.

BAS JAN ADER
The sea, the land, the artist has with great sadness known they too will be no more.

DONALD CROWHURST
The Kingdom Of God has an area measured not in square miles but in square hours. It is a kingdom with all the time in the world...

PHILOSOPHY
...you have used all the time available, and must now seek an imaginary sort of time.

BAS JAN ADER
A life on the ocean wave / A home on the rolling deep

9. AAAARRGH!

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
Did risk play a significant part in his work?

MARY SUE ADER
In a sense, yes, but it wasn't about that. It wasn't about risking his life.

PHILOSOPHY
The quick are quick, and the dead are dead. That is the judgement of God.

DONALD CROWHURST
I could not have endured the terrible anguish and meaningless waiting.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
Then what was it about, essentially?

MARY SUE ADER
I think it was about falling in its many meanings.

BAS JAN ADER
Greetings from Beautiful Ader Falls.

10. All my Clothes

LIZA BEAR
Did he take anything to do with him on the boat?

MARY SUE ADER
He took a tape recorder and cameras and movie cameras and a couple of books...

LIZA BEAR
What books?

MARY SUE ADER
Books on navigation, and a couple of books on Hegel. I think he was also planning to write a journal, and to teach himself the songs that were to be sung in Groningen.

DONALD CROWHURST
Man is forced to certain conclusions by virtue of his mistakes.

PHILOSOPHY
No machine can work without error!

BAS JAN ADER
I can think around corners.

11. Implosion

LIZA BEAR
Why do you think there's been a lack of reaction to the whole episode?

MARY SUE ADER
I've no idea. I heard a lot of his students were so incapable of living with the reality of it that they were fantasizing all kinds of situations...

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
Escapes?

LIZA BEAR
Starting another life somewhere else?

MARY SUE ADER
Uhhuh. They had rumours going for months that he was alive and well.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
There was no sense of him wanting that kind of thing or thinking...

MARY SUE ADER
Oh no.

WILLOUGHBY SHARP
...this was the ultimate piece and er... committing suicide.

12. Into the Dark Tunnel

DONALD CROWHURST
Nature does not allow

PHILOSOPHY
God to Sin any Sins

DONALD CROWHURST
Except one -

PHILOSOPHY
That is the Sin of Concealment.

MARY SUE ADER
No, I'm absolutely convinced that was nowhere in his consciousness. We talked about it, and he assured me repeatedly these were not his intentions.

13 The Cosmic Mind

DONALD CROWHURST
System of Books reorganise perfectly.

PHILOSOPHY
Many parallels.

DONALD CROWHURST
Hermits force unnecessary conditions on themselves.

PHILOSOPHY
Seek truth wasting time.

DONALD CROWHURST
Wrong decision not perfect.

14. The Great Beauty of Truth

PHILOSOPHY
Time.

DONALD CROWHURST
No longer computed.

PHILOSOPHY
Had disorganises clocks.

DONALD CROWHURST
Must resign position.

BAS JAN ADER
The earth will fall...

DONALD CROWHURST
Set myself "impossible" task.

BAS JAN ADER
...beyond where it will be tomorrow.

PHILOSOPHY
Nothing achieved by game...

Epilogue All is Falling

BAS JAN ADER/ DONALD CROWHURST/ PHILOSOPHY
All is falling

Sources:

6. Bas Jan Ader Notebook Entries 1970-75
7. Mary Sue Ader, Liza Bear & Willoughby Sharp AVALANCHE, Summer 1976
8. Nicholas Tomalin & Ron Hall The Strange Voyage of Donald Crowhurst, 1970
9. Christoph Müller Bas Jan Ader Implosion, 2000
10. Brad Spence Bas Jan Ader, 1999

BAS JAN ADER

(b. 19 April 1942, Winschoten, The Netherlands;
last seen 9 July 1975, Cape Cod, Massachusetts)

In 1963 Dutch-born artist Bas Jan Ader sailed to Southern California. During the next 12 years he charted an artistic course against the prevailing Angelino pedagogy. Ader produced a significant but frugal body of work that explored "the search for the understanding and structuring of life in its totality". Ader sought to challenge the ideal of the heroic master by rehearsing the themes of falling and failing. Using the tools of beauty, vulnerability and melodrama his works are characterised by a mystery, double meaning, and sly duplicity that evoke sincere pathos and cliched sentimentality. At the time of his disappearance Ader was in the process of making *In Search of the Miraculous*. On 9 July 1975 he set sail for England on a return voyage back to the old world that was supposed to take 60 to 90 days. Radio contact with him was lost after 3 weeks, and the following spring his boat was found off the coast of Ireland. His body was never recovered. After the search was abandoned his faculty locker at University of California, Irvine was exhumed and his „message in a bottle“ discovered. It contained the book, *The Strange Voyage of Donald Crowhurst*. This text seems to offer a clue to Ader's disappearance.

DONALD CROWHURST

(b. 1932, Ghaziabad, near Delhi, India;
last seen 6 March 1969, Rio Salado, Argentina)

Donald Crowhurst was a man who decided he would become a great hero, and persuaded others to help him build a boat, and set off to sail single-handed round the world. His story is one of how both man and boat broke down under this challenge. Crowhurst managed to fool the world into thinking he was circling the globe to win the Sunday Times non-stop race, when in fact he never left the Atlantic. The strain of this extraordinary deception, and of eight months alone at sea, destroyed his sanity, and finally ended his trip. Sir Francis Chichester has called Crowhurst's tragic voyage "the sea drama of the century". But it is not only a classic narrative of ocean sailing. Because Crowhurst kept a detailed log of his thoughts and actions, day by day, the gradual psychological breakdown of a man's mind is meticulously chronicled.

Bas Jan Ader's courageous pilgrimage in Crowhurst's slipstream provides a fascinating and complex nautical mystery which is also a study of the way the pressures of modern life can force a man into a challenge beyond his capacity. Millions of people, throughout the artworld, share Ader's dream of glory; they can also share in this Radio Play, the terrible nightmare that such a dream may become reality.

THE STRANGE VOYAGE OF BAS JAN ADER conflates material from three sources: 1) the writings of Bas Jan Ader; 2) an interview with Mary Sue Ader conducted by Liza Bear and Willoughby Sharp for AVALANCHE magazine; and 3) the log books of maritime adventurer, Donald Crowhurst. The musical and textual structure of this Radio Play engage directly with Ader's major obsession: the notion of *falling*. A series of falling circular functions segments were plotted over six musical parameters and a computer program written to compose a precise sequence of instrumental gestures. The tape part derives from the same sequences, and makes extensive use of noise-resonance synthesis. The entire work progressively tapers into a diatonic oblivion. The choral passages directly reference a scene from Wagner's first mature opera, *Der Fliegende Holländer*, "love is false, faith is false, to sea without hope" .

BAS JAN ADER and TONY CLARK

Each of these works serves to illuminate the respective artist's position by revealing antipodean correspondances that at first seem implausible. Clark's accomodation of failure is brought to its terminal conclusion in Ader's final gallant work. Both assume schizophrenic identities concerning gender and sought refuge in classical notions of tragedy and heroicism. These two tales present the aspiration towards globalism as a romantic interlude in a world that can no longer accomodate such folly.

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