

# **The Happy Clown**

## I.) At The Dawn Of Becoming A Star

### The Last Joke

"Wow Peter, you're the man! They lay at your feet! You had the total control of them, you....."

".....come down, Jack. It was a show."

"Yeah, it was a show. But what a show it was! They totally freaked out! Listen, they still laughing, your joke at the close of the show? Man, this joke is a killer!"

"Yeah, a joke about a clown."

"Yeah, he's a clown, he's our first clown! We need people like you!"

"For what?"

"Why you're in this fucking mood? Listen! Nobody at the moment hits the point in a way like you! At the end, when you bring the thing with the toilet brush and the toilet paper with the face of our beloved first clown on it? It's unbelievable how dry you bring the punch line! Man, I've heard it not for the first time, but I've still tears in my eyes....."

"Be happy about it."

"Come on, this is your special time. I know that the pressure....."

".....don't worry, I will not forget you."

"You will. We all know that this was your last performance in my little theater. But nevertheless, it was one of the highlights of all time in my small house. I'm not allowed to buy me that stuff - and we all wait then: Why? And then you in your matchless way: Because my poo has it prohibited me - and then this short moment, this dramatic break, when we all are unsure whether we should start to applaud or not. Your grin, everybody understands - hey folks, that was not everything: My poo refuses to get in contact with this....."

".....Jack! I will not forget you! Yes, maybe this was my last performance here, but I will never forget what you did for me. There will be other ways to support you. And first, we have to see how the things will develop."

"Jimmy Fallon? You will perform at Jimmy Fallon? We all know, everybody say it, that this will be your nation wide breakthrough! You will become a star! Everybody wants to book you then, you can ask for every fee you want - you will get your own TV show.....Hollywood waits at the end of the rainbow....."

"You know that I'm not interested in this fucking Hollywood, this fucking L.A. shit."

"Hey, be a bit more optimistic and be happy about your success. We need people like you, today more then ever."

"Yeah, and the fucking audience is happy and laughs. How many of this idiots in the house have elected him? Yeah, they are laughing about him - we should fear him. He and his bunch destroys our nation, our community and we laugh - very good strategy. We're the happy clowns who entertain the people with their nice little clownery while they destroy our nation. You know how much I adore Charles Chaplin, but, does he defeated Hitler with "The Great Dictator"? I don't think so! The people who died fighting against the Germans? The people who tried to kill him? See all the people who march on the streets, see Mueller? See people like Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders? They laugh - yes, how funny! It would be better they would march!"

"Assumed that it's meaningless what you do. Can you tell me then, why such people like our wonderful president, why dictators around the world not only fight against a free press, against freedom of expression, but also against independent art. Why are artists around the world victims of suppression? Because they are nothing than stupid clowns? Maybe you're a harlequin, we need them very much today. Aristotle - maybe he should have written about the comedy. And if he did it, this book would be one of the greatest loses in human history. There will be a time after this, and you will be a part of this change."

"Yeah, you're a Jew?"

"You know this, and I know that your parents immigrated to the USA after WW II."

"There was a time after Hitler - millions had to pay the price. How about the thought that one of the early assassinations would had been successful? As a Jew?"

"Hitler? Antisemitism was a fashion in Europe at this time. Hitler? Only a name, a name that defined an illness."

"And our wonderful president?"

"The Germans have elected Hitler, we've elected him - no revolution, no putsch, only free elections. No discussion about Russia and the electoral college now - you know what I mean."

"You know that I don't know what I would have done, would I have lived in Germany after '33."

"Would we have lived in Germany at this time, there would have been a great possibility that you would have killed me. But we live today and in this country and I see what you do today. And what you do today is important."

"I'm dubious about this....."

### **The End-Of-The-Year Review Show**

"Hello Peter, nice that you have still time for me and our modest local newspaper."

"Apart from that your "modest local newspaper" is read in the whole state and beyond, you're the one who was the first who wrote an article about me, hello Caroline!"

"That's right, but a lot has happened during the last two years. With every show you became more and more known. And now? Your "End-Of-The-Year Review Show" was your final breakthrough - nationwide you attracted attention now."

"Please, don't start with Jimmy Fallon now!"

"Why not? A dream comes true now - or not?"

"Yes, a dream comes true in a world of a nightmare. Not exactly, whereof I've dreamt."

"But maybe we need people like you now more then ever? Can I start with my interview?"

"Yes, sure."

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"Two years ago you started in our city with open mic performances. Did you expect that only two years later you're on the cusp of becoming a nation wide star?"

"It's difficult to "expect" something in this business. I hoped for, to have my breakthrough one time. But you can plan nothing in this business."

"It's not the first time that we sit together and talk with each other. But nevertheless the question: When did you had the feeling that your art has, say "substance"? When did you felt for the first time that you became a "serious" artist?"

"At the beginning of last year. I saw progress and I decided to try it. I decided to accept a low-paying job, but a job that gave me the opportunity to plan my performances more easily. A job that gave me more time for my artistic development."

"So you took a risk?"

"That's relative. I earned still enough to make my living. Also it would have been possible for me all the time, to look for a better-paid job again. Therefore, the "risk" was a very relative one."

"But you lost money - at least at the beginning?"

"Yes, that's true. But you have to decide what's more important for you. You cannot have everything - well, at least when you're, or maybe your parents, aren't rich."

"You think of somebody special?"

"No, that should be no critique. But think about, many, classic European writers for instance. They simply had the time for writing because they hadn't to work. A farmer or a working man or woman simply had not the time to write novels. Also you would have to talk about education and access to art now. But maybe that would be too much for our interview."

"Yes, I fear so. Back to the beginning of last year?"

"Yeah, sure."

"Last year you performed three different shows. The first was a....."decent result"?"

"Yes, I got some very positive reactions. The first articles about me, people like you became aware of me. Nevertheless, I performed very often in front of not more than fifteen people."

"A hard time?"

"A very hard time. I knew that this show wasn't perfect. But I thought, that the show wasn't that bad at all. But.....no real audience!"

"You came up with a new show very fast then."

"Yes, but it was not only because of the modest feedback on the first show. So much happened in our country and I felt that I was no longer up to date."

"And now it started! You got more and more commitments, the halls got bigger and bigger."

"Yes, but also people like you, people who supported me, have their share of this development."

"Thanks, but in the end you are the one on the stage. And then: "The End-Of-The-Year Review Show"! I have to confess, one of the best stand-up comedy performances I've ever saw - the reaction of the audience was fantastic!"

"Yes, all shows were sold out. I performed all the times in larger halls, but all the time full house! It was a kind of fantasy."

"And now, at the beginning of this year?"

"Have we to talk about Jimmy Fallon now?"

"I think so - and about your new show. You've a title for it already?"

"With what I shall start now?"

"The new show?"

"Yes, the new show. I will no longer work with a fixed script. In this times we have so much and so fast developments. I will work with a basis framework. But with what I will fill this framework, I will decide always at the latest possible moment."

"You have a title?"

"Only a working title - "Happy Country"."

"In February you will perform at Jimmy Fallon's show - nervous?"

"No, not in that sense. I can only win."

"A new show, nationwide - not nervous?"

"I've reached more, than I could hope for. Everything is a gift now. So many try it, but so few reach that, what they would have had deserved."

"That's a point we've talked about often. You started to perform with forty-nine - others retire in this age."

"Yeah, I waited too long. So much the more everything is a gift for me now."

"I wish you the best for you future, Peter."

"Thank you very much, Caroline! I will perform at some open mic events this month - I will try some things. If you're interested.....?"

"In any case!"

"I would have a question to you."

"Yes?"

"So far I did everything alone. But now everything becomes bigger and bigger - too big for me alone. Although that I earn enough money with my art now, that I have no longer to work in my normal job. Everything becomes too big for me alone now."

"You need a management?"

"Not a "management". But someone who would help me with the scheduling and such things. If you would know someone?"

"I will have an open ear....."

## Thoughts Of A Doubting Person

I'm on a stage, but I don't wanna entertain - isn't that schizophrenic?  
But why I'm onstage then?  
Yeah, why?  
I don't know what I should expect, that I can expect - isn't that schizophrenic?  
But why I wanna be an artist then?  
Yeah, why?  
  
A vicious circle?

## A Picture Of Kurt Cobain

You know this picture of Kurt Cobain, sitting on the hood of a car together with David Grohl and Krist Novoselic, pointing a rifle into his mouth? Well,.....

Well, Nirvana was no longer already, some say Kurt Cobain far beyond his zenith. Well, even if, why not singing in a glitter suit in Las Vegas, while someone kills dozens and injures hundreds?

Could you imagine Kurt Cobain and Amy Winehouse together in a retired home? You laugh? It's no joke - be happy that they are dead and bestow you the fucking stories about the dead artists and heroes you need because of your fucking boring bourgeois existence. Be happy and smile.....

## Jack

"You here, in my little theater?"  
"Thanks for the warm welcome, Jack."  
"Hey, come here Peter! Give me a hug. - Why you're here? Not because of the show - or?"  
"Tap dance? Have heard that they are really fantastic."  
"They are - why you're here?"  
"You always had a knack for finding new talents - I need an advice."  
"Maybe I can help you?"  
"You know that Jimmy Fallon is near."  
"Yes, soon the whole nation will see your talent."  
"I would need someone who would support me - help me, everything becomes bigger and bigger."  
"I've said it to you often enough. You cannot handle everything by your own. We have more than one artists agency in the city."  
"Yes, but.....I asked Caroline."  
"That she should become your manager?"  
"Yeah, I would trust her."  
"She loves her work at the newspaper - you asked her?"  
"Not directly....."  
"Do it!"  
"I would trust you."  
"Oh Peter, I've my little theater. As you said it, I'm the one who finds the new talents. That's my part - thanks for your inquiry."  
"Yeah.....you think that it would be possible that Caroline would say yes?"

"Ask her? And if not, look for an agent! I can give you some names."

"Thanks Jack, it's good to know to have friends."

"You know that you can knock at my door in the dead of the night."

"Yes, and I'm grateful for that."

"I'm a Jew - forgotten? And you? You are a German. Wouldn't it be a sad time, when a Jew would help a German no longer?"

"Yeah, that would be a very sad time."

### **Caroline**

"It's me, Peter. I call you because - can you remember, we talked about that I would need someone for scheduling and so?"

"Yes, you need a manager. But apart from the known names and agencies I have nothing for you."

"Yeah, I would like to ask you.....would you become my manager?"

"Well.....I wasn't sure about, if I have to understand your question the last time in that way. I have to confess that I thought about it, in case that this would have been your intention."

"And?"

"I'm not sure if I would be a good manager. We have enough professional agencies and agents in the city. It should be no problem to find someone. I mean you're one step away to become a big star - who wouldn't be interested in, to become your manager?"

"You talk about the money?"

"Well, we should not be naive? Seinfeld.....Chappelle.....all others? They are no poor people anymore. There's a lot of money around it."

"Yeah, but I would need somebody in whom I can trust. It's not about the money."

"No, I know that money was never a reason for you, to enter a stage. I'm not sure whether I would like all the bustle.....you know what I mean."

"I understand, it's okay."

"No, I would like it in a way, but we all know this stories. Would it be okay for you, that I would stay at the newspaper, but would do some things for you? To support you somewhat, to make the things a bit easier for you? And then we could see in which way things developing?"

"That would be cool - really. Would you accompany me to Jimmy Fallon? I mean, a story right from the source?"

"With pleasure!"

### **The Human's Empathy**

Yeah, laughing is important, but it would need more. Empathy is important, but it would need more. Deeds change the world, not feelings and emotions. One could say that feelings and emotions are the basis of deeds - but only in the case that deeds take place. And that's the problem.

Look at them, they laugh at the correct moments. See, how courteous and well-behaved they clap their hands and spend you the deserved applause. They feel good after it - well, they belong to the good ones. And you bestow them this feeling, this knowledge. Therefore they bestow you with their benevolence - what a nice circle, be happy and die.

But be honest, what would you expect? Endless suffering all around the world - children dying, wars and hunger, expulsion and flee, we all know the pictures - give them their moments to feel good. They will make you rich and famous - supply them with their moments of empathy.

Consternation expressed by laughing, but not by deeds - how easy this is. So let us laugh, let us

applaud, let us feel good. And all this naive who act? Yeah well, have you ever see them laughing? No? Isn't that an answer? Do they maintain our society, our order? They change the world? But they don't laugh, they can't be good people! What, they aren't able to laugh any longer, seeing this world? Then they have no real empathy - laugh and die!

## Jimmy Fallon

I sit in my chair, looking at the TV - again "play". Jimmy Fallon good as always, funny guests and at the end some stand-up comedy. Definitely the next comedy star, now the first time in nation wide TV, his new upcoming tour sells fantastic, blah-blah-blah.....

Hey, what should I say! This guy is fantastic! The audience screams with laughter, they nearly freak out - hey, this is no rock 'n' roll star! This is only a fucking stand-up comedian! And believe me, I know him!

Caroline works for me now - she enjoyed Jimmy Fallon totally. The tour massively expanded yet, larger venues now, nearly every evening sold out now - Caroline has a lot to do now. Press and TV asking for interviews, other late night shows - yeah, Jimmy Fallon was great!

He became aware of me because a friend had told him about me. Thanks friend, maybe I can do something for you one day. I look out of the window and maybe you will not believe me, but I see a rainbow and Caroline enters the room.

"Again!"

"Hey, this is my final breakthrough. You remember the beginnings - open mic?"

"Yeah."

"You were there, you were always interested in this scene."

"Many of our biggest stars have begun with open mic performances. I always thought about who maybe will become a star."

"And now you found your answer?"

"Did you found your answer?"

"I would be happy, would I know the question - is something?"

"We should talk about the beginning of the tour, the requests for interviews and especially further TV appearances."

"Yeah, we should. Can we start with it tomorrow?"

"Are you sure?"

"Believe me, I'm a professional now! I'm on the spot, exactly when it has to be! Look at him, fucking good performance - or?"

"Absolutely, are you interested in some reviews?"

"Why? I guess, that they are all absolutely fantastic."

"Well, depends a bit....."

"Yeah, I hope that the fucking right wing press is not happy about my show."

"No, not at all! You get a lot of bad comments in social media now - it's extreme what some write."

"You're interested in this shit?"

"You not?"

"Would such people react in another way, then I would do something wrong. To be everybody's darling means to be everybody's fool - I hope they hate me."

"But also some liberal media is not happy with your style. They think you're too aggressive."

"How aggressive is the try to destroy our nation? How aggressive is it to destroy lives and families because your an egomaniac? How aggressive is it to ransack the "ordinary" people to get some more billions? Such media is as liberal as Hillary - fuck them!"

"You not have to convince me, I hope you know this. But I fear that this is only the beginning and that the tour will make it not better. The New York Times criticizes your style in a short article for instance."

"As I said it. They hyped Hillary and neglected Sanders - very liberal! Hey, they really wrote about me? Wow, I'm in the New York Times now."

"Tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow - I will be in a better mood then."

Look at this sweet little bastard, how funny he is - well, maybe he should be a bit more aggressive. I think he will become a very big star, will he become happy? Once there was a stand-up comedian.....

## **Plannings**

"Hi Peter, I've pondered on the tour. Jimmy Fallon boosted everything. I think about a tour through whole America, divided in the five regions, always with a pause between them. Many requests for interviews - press, radio, TV. We could connect many things. But I would need some time for the planing."

"Wow, you're taking your new job very seriously. What's your idea."

"To start with the Northeast, this part I have to plan in detail before we can begin. For the other parts I would have more time then. Then the Midwest, not that much response from there at the moment. The Southeast and the Southwest next. Especially the Southeast will be difficult for you, not that much friends of such performing there. Finally the West. I think we should start in the north to end the whole tour in San Francisco and Los Angeles - what do you think?"

"What's your time schedule?"

"It would depend whether you're only interested in the big cities or not. At the moment we have different opportunities."

"No, not only the big cities. Well, use your opportunity! You would accompany me?"

"I have to, as your manager?"

"How long would be okay for you, to be on tour?"

"As you said it: Use the opportunity! It can be your final road to success."

"Then plan the beginning. Yes, to start with the Northeast would be good. A very liberal region, interesting cities and places to perform. Strong and important liberal media, should be an easy start for me. Then it would become more difficult - and California at the end! Very clever arrangement."

"I do my best."

"Can you give me the planning for the Northeast, when you're ready?"

"Sure."

"How long you will need - roughly."

"I can use your old planning as basis, therefor it should take not that long. In the Northeast you had already planned many performances."

"Inform me when you've finished the first part."

## **A Benchmark For Art**

What would be a benchmark for art? To put it in a nutshell: To think about, that there would be any benchmark for art, is simply a stupid thought.

Success - that would be a joke! Easy to find an example therefore, that you can have an enormous success with total rubbish - social media!

The verdict of experts - say, literary critics in relation to literature? That joke wouldn't be lesser a joke than the joke before! Apart therefrom, that they disagree with each other, why they should be something like Pythia? An example? Houellebecq? Should I read him now? Why? Because some think that his last book is fantastic literature, because some think it's right-wing fantasy shit from an impotent sex-driven white old man, because the book is number one of the bestseller lists? What

about, reading articles about the plot, about the statements of the author.....to render your own verdict - knowing that it could be wrong?

To speed the things up again: You will find no benchmark for art. On one hand that would be no problem - why it should be a problem? On the other hand, it's a problem for the artist - at least when he's no self-satisfied asshole.

You're creating something - is it good? Who should answer this question? A runner achieves a certain time - he can easily decide how good his time is (compared to the times of others). But an artist?

I stand on a stage and an audience applauds, maybe freaks out. I'm a great artist now? Do you want total war.....

## Plannings

"Okay, I can give you an update now. I've planned the Northeast nearly completely now. More precise. New England everything is fixed, Middle Atlantic I still have to fix some interviews in TV, radio and press. But maybe I should give you the basic information first."

"Yes, would be good."

"The tour will begin at February 26<sup>th</sup>, so we have a bit more then two weeks till then. Because you had started already with fixing shows, interviews and suchlike, two weeks will be enough till you have your first show. We will begin in Boston as you had planned it. I only added a second show. The tour will end - so far - at February the 26<sup>th</sup> next year in Los Angeles. It's a mix of larger and smaller venues. I've planned shows in all five regions, not in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The distances would be too long for this tour, maybe as addition at the end? So far everything is fine for you?"

"Yes, sounds a bit like a monster. But it would be stupid not to do it, when you have the opportunity thereto - the cities?"

"This is the list with the cities in the New England States. On the PC you can find a folder "Tour 2019/2020" with all details. I will update the data constantly. As I said, we will start in Boston with two shows, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We will arrive in Boston a day earlier, time for an interview for the Boston Globe at the morning and two TV appearances in the afternoon and at the evening. This will be the official starting shot for the tour. Oh, in the afternoon at 7 News and in the evening at CBS Boston. In the followup I have planned, and still plan, various interviews for newspapers, also appearances on the radio and TV - for details see the file. As you can see on the list, we will continue with Providence after Boston. Then Plymouth, Springfield, Worcester, Portland, Brunswick, Augusta, Medway, West Forks, Pittsburg, Berlin, Conway, Littleton, Montpelier, Burlington, Schenectady, Albany, Pittsfield, Hartford, Middletown and New Haven. At the end of this part we will return to Boston for another two shows. This is the first part of the tour. As you can see, sometimes we have two days time till the next performance. As regeneration or maybe for additional shows. So far?"

"How many cities?"

"Twenty-two cities, Middle Atlantic will be just as dense as New England - and of course New York! We have to talk about the late-night shows. Jimmy Fallon would be too early for a second appearance. I fixed The Daily Show and also Stephen Colbert. Seth Meyers and John Oliver are a bit more passive, but I think that's not a disadvantage. "

"Wow, cool - the press?"

"From the top five the New York Post has been asking for an interview, the Wall Street Journal is not interesting for us - I guess!"

"Definitely not! The other three?"

"They will report about your performances when you're in the city, but so far they are not interested in an interview. I have planned four shows in different parts of the city, in very different venues. Okay, no Manhattan, no Broadway so far."

"That's no problem - Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and Staten Island?"

"Nearly! No Staten Island."

"Two times?"

"Brooklyn of course – or better, Brooklyn and Coney Island."

"Okay, why not! You're my Coney Island Queen then."

"Thanks, the late night shows?"

"Yeah, Trevor Noah is cool! He's fantastic! What schedule we have in New York?"

"New York is very important for us. We will stay a whole week in the city. We start with The Daily Show, your first show will be the next evening in Queens. This will give us a final push. Stephen Colbert is between the first two and the second two shows."

"Sounds good. The other regions?"

"I stick with New York for a second. The local press is very interested in you, also the local TV stations. Especially in Brooklyn and the Bronx. We will have some TV appearances, also interviews. The Bronx News or the Queens Tribune for example. Oh, and not to forget, the local radio!"

"As long as you stay on top of the things - I'm a bit confused now."

"Yeah, I have to ask you something."

"You need help?"

"Yeah, it would be good."

"You know somebody?"

"Yes, a friend of mine. You wanna meet her?"

"No, I think you know best with whom you can work with."

"Then I would have a special."

"I'm all ear!"

"An interlude between New England and Middle Atlantic."

"Yes....."

"I arranged a short Canada tour. Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Mississauga and Hamilton."

"Wow, you're astonishing! But this will be a very busy beginning of the tour - the other regions?"

"Midwest, Southeast and Southwest will be not that crowded with performances - at least not so far. The last part will be very busy again. Well, the Mountain States not that much, but the Pacific States."

"A hard beginning and a hard final."

"Yeah, at the end we will have a lot of fixed dates again."

"Kimmel and DeGeneres?"

"Yeah, newspapers, radio, TV and a number of shows."

"The bay area and the Los Angeles area?"

"Three shows in the bay area, four shows in the Los Angeles area."

"Wow, that's a real final. Can you give me some details?"

"The finish will be Sacramento, San Francisco, Berkeley and San Jose. Then the way down south with Fresno and Bakersfield for example, till San Diego. I thought you would like to have a show in Tijuana?"

"Oh yeah! And then the Los Angeles area?"

"Yes. We will stay there for over a week. This gives us the opportunity to add some more shows, if needed."

"Wow, I think I should study your file very carefully now. Do you think it will become a success?"

"I think it will become a triumph!"

## Jack

"Jack?"

"Yes."

"I'm frightened."

"You fear the success?"

"I would like it, I would like it would the people like my art."

"They will."

"No, how many will listen? They will be interested in me, but I'm only the artist, I'm not the art."

"It's difficult for the people to separate this, especially when standing on a stage."

"I think it's easy. There's the art - forget the artist. The artist is a person like you and me, with the same rights and the same obligations, the same hopes and the same fears. But the art is something special, the art is the measurement, the art is the artist's expression, the art is what the artist unveils, the artist as person should stay veiled, as every person has the right to veil oneself."

"You know that it not functions in this way."

"As I said, I'm frightened."

"Jack?"

"Yes."

"Do you think we're on a war?"

"You're talking about life and the world?"

"Yes."

"It's a constant war."

"I not wanna fight - would it be cowardly not to fight, simply living your life?"

"And then? You're white, European rooted and not poor, even when not rich. Yeah, live you're little fucking life, you would not harm anybody, only the ones who would need your help in their wars. I am the Jew and you're the German - how many died to "liberate" your ancestors? How many fought a war to end the Holocaust?"

"Yeah, but always fighting wars as answer?"

"Today's wars are different, fought with money and political power, commodities and tariffs, with access to education - well, sometimes still with weapons. But our primary killing weapons are the guns we can buy easily in shops. And then there's a very special war, your war, the war that you have to fight."

"The war with words?"

"Yes, look at this world today? Yes, there're still wars fought with arms, but most wars are wars fought with words. How many lies during the first two years - thousands! SOTU - dozens! You cannot argue with them, you only can argue against them - that's your war, the war that you have to fight!"

"I fear I will not be strong enough."

"You're weak, but you're not alone. And what would be the alternative? Yes, I'm the Jew."

"Would you lead me to war?"

"You're the German - why I should be necessary thereto, to lead you to war?"

"Yeah iconic soul, never I will know your name....."

"Jack?"

"Yes."

"We never can know, whether that what we regard as the reality is the reality or not - that's true, without any doubt."

"Yes."

"Why then should it be possible to fight for something? Maybe we would fight for something wrong, for an illusion, for a fake, a lie? Wouldn't it be better in this situation not to fight?"

"When someone tells you that somebody is less than you, that he has not the same rights, that he has to be treated differently - you know what I mean?"

"Sure."

"Raise your voice as you did it, and as do it. Sharpen your voice, some will not love it, but some will. Look at them who not like it, look at them who like it, and then decide. Look at them who hate you, look at them who love you, and then decide."

"And the reality?"

"Is an illusion."

"And our lives?"

"Who knows, also an illusion maybe. Maybe only a dream, but a dream we can influence. We're not only passengers on a drifting vessel - do it, whatever it will pay!"

"That's what I fear, that's what frightens me, what it will pay."

"Jack?"

"Yes."

"I don't wanna entertain."

"The people wanna be entertained."

"Isn't it strange? We wanna be critical, we wanna criticize, but don't forget the punch line. They wanna laugh, but wanna they be questioned? Is the goal, to question yourself? Or is the goal, to listen to your own prejudices? It's easy to laugh about the fucking president, knowing to be on the right side. It's not that easy, to laugh about the own fucking behavior - especially it's not entertaining. Laugh about the harbinger, as long as his words strike the others. Kill him, if he dares to point his words on you!"

"Yeah, everything is a big fucking show."

"All That Jazz - his death! Yeah, everything is only a fucking lousy show. But I refuse to be a part of this lousy show - I not wanna entertain the people!"

"But you're telling jokes?"

"I would wish, they would suffocate by their own laughing, triggered by my words. And at the end, there would be only dead bodies in the theater - and silence."

"But this will not happen. They will laugh, more and more they will laugh."

"The more they will laugh, the less they will listen to my words. And at the end, it will be meaningless what words I will say. They will laugh in any case - the words will have no meaning anymore then. The happy clown will be a sad clown then. And everybody is happy now, except of the clown."

"That's how it functions."

"I don't wanna entertain - I wanna change something!"

"Burning crosses, the strange fruit of the Southern poplar trees - things can change."

"Because of what?"

"I have a dream - words can be very powerful!"

"I have a dream.....how weak my words are....."

### **The Artist As Whore**

Let's play a game: Take a dictionary and look up for "whore". Then read the article, the different paragraphs (there should be some), and replace the word "whore" with "artist". What does you mean? Will this function? Try it!

Okay, sure, you have to use your imagination a bit - seeing what words like "sexual act", "short skirts" or suchlike would mean then. But.....it functions - or?

The artist sells himself, he stands on a stage - even if only in a metaphorical way - and people can gape at him. And when he acts appropriate and pleasing, the audience will reward him. But if he acts inappropriate and unpleasing, then the audience will punish him.

Is this histrionic thinking, a bit self-pityingly, a bit pathetic? Maybe a question, only can be answered when you're in this situation? What would I have done in Germany after '33? Who would be arrogant enough to answer this question?

## **II.) Becoming A Star**

### **Northeast (New England; Middle Atlantic)**

<< The Daily Show; Trevor Noah; New York  
<< Stephen Colbert; The Late Show; New York  
<< Seth Meyers; Late Night; New York  
<< Jimmy Fallon; The Tonight Show; New York  
<< John Oliver; Last Week Tonight; New York  
<< from time to time

### **The Artist's Suicide**

### **Midwest (East North Central, West North Central)**

### **Southeast (South Atlantic; East South Central)**

### **Laughing About Kings**

<< an essay  
<< art can change the world?  
<< What one should expect that art can cause?

### **Southwest (West South Central)**

### **West (Mountain; Pacific)**

<< Jimmy Kimmel Live; Los Angeles  
<< The Ellen DeGeneres Show; Burbank

**Lenny Bruce**

**Jack**

### **III.) Welcome To The End Of The Rainbow**

- << largest houses
- << change in style?
- << own TV show
- << late night, regular guest
- << more newspapers
- << international
- << critique
- << richness
- << selling oneself