

ADAM ANTI-FOLK

NEULICH IN MÜNCHEN IN DER ELSEHALLE BEI ADAM GREEN TRAF ICH EIN PAAR TEENAGER, DIE IMMERHIN ÜBER 100 KILOMETER GEFAHREN WAREN, UM ADAM GREEN LIFE ZU SEHEN. WARUM NUR? WEIL ER EINE SKANDALÖSE PERSON IST, DIE EWIG BETRUNKEN, STONED ODER SONST WAS IST? NEIN, BETEUERTEN MIR DIE ZWEI MÄDELS UND DIE ZWEI JUNGS. ER IST EINFACH EIN GUTER MUSIKER! SIE WÜRDEN SONST EHER BRITISCHE GITARRENMUSIK HÖREN, ABER AUCH SO „ZEUG“ WIE VELVET UNDERGROUND. WAS IST NUR GEWORDEN AUS UNSEREN NACHFAHREN? PLÖTZLICH LIEBEN SIE WIEDER DIE GEFÜHLVOLLE, MELODIÖSE UND GAR EXPERIMENTELLE MUSIK? ALS HERR GREEN AUF DIE BÜHNE KAM, TRAF MICH FAST DER SCHLAG, DENN SEINE TIEFE VIBRIERENDE STIMME, SEIN FRANSENKOSTÜM UND SEIN RUMGEHAMPPEL ERINNERTEN MICH DOCH SEHR AN DEN ALTERNDEN ELVIS PRESLEY. IST ADAM DIE REINKARNATION VOM KING? TEXT: ANGIEBLACK

curt: Well, I've heard you don't get drugs that easily anymore in New York City?

ADAM: That's not true. Now you have to call the dealers and they come over to your house.

curt: Oh, wow, then you shouldn't use your cell phone for those calls, because the police can check you out really easily, at least that's how it is in Germany.

ADAM: That sounds like... Do you know The „Lives of Others“? It's a German movie. It came out just the other year. It's about East Germany. It's about a guy who listens to what goes on in someone else's apartment, you know. It must be really popular over there ...

curt: Do a lot of girls come up to you after concerts and ask you to go out or hang out with them?

ADAM: Oh, all those lesbians! There are lesbians in New York; they want to have my baby. They ask me to give them sperm... I didn't even get there. Yeah, they came backstage, right? They had to crash into my backstage, lesbians who want to have my baby.

curt: That's crazy. Do you have a wife or a girlfriend?

ADAM: Yeah, Loribeth (8:20) She's on my album, she's on "Drowning Head First".

curt: Has she worked with you before?

ADAM: No.

curt: So how come she's on this album?

ADAM: 'Cause she's a nice person.

curt: People compare you with Leonard Cohen; the German newspaper FAZ even asked you if you were the new Bob Dylan. What do you think about that?

ADAM: Let me think about that for a second, I'm buying a soda.... Well, I think I'm probably the old version of – it's hard to say. I guess, I think I'm the old version of – what's the guy's name? – of – ah, oh fuck – oh, ah, Bernd Begemann. It's hard to say, 'cause it's like: who's the Jacques Brel of the 1920s (???), who's the Frank Sinatra of the 70s? It's hard to say. I don't

think anyone really thinks about it. I appreciate a historical perspective on things. But I never really needed anyone to be analyzing my music from a historical sense, because I'm not like a noble savage. I'm not a noble savage.... I'm primarily a naïve and there's no need to analyze my music in a historical sense. I think I'm a little bit of a historian, like anybody. I've already written a chapter in the Jessica Simpson story.

curt: But journalists keep comparing you with musicians from earlier times, from the 60s and the 70s. So if someone came up to you and asked you if you wanted to play Leonard Cohen in a movie about his life, would you go for it?

ADAM: Of course!

curt: Do you think you would be able to play his character and also play and sing his songs?

ADAM: Well, I'd like to think I could be more a kind of Marlon Brando type. I don't really want to play in a musical movie; I want to do more like play a drama, or maybe a crime film. I like hard-boiled detective fiction. I'd like to play a detective in a movie.

curt: So you wouldn't like to play another musician in a film story?

ADAM: Well, I could do it. But I prefer – I don't know how many movie offers I'm going to get, so. It seems like I'm getting a lot right here on the phone, I'm getting a few different movie offers. I'm going to get through them and choose the parts and – now I'm really worried about whether I could sing Leonard Cohen songs or not! I'm sure that I could, I mean, I'm sure I can sing Leonard Cohen songs.

curt: Last year you had a hit called "Anyone Else But You" with The Moldy Peaches that appeared in the film Juno. How did you get into this?

ADAM: Through nothing I did. I just got an email. Actually the actress chose it, Ellen Page. It was her choice. Thank you, thank you, by the way, to her for using it, because I feel like

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– I never thought about my songs in movies, maybe a little bit, but not really. So it's nice, especially when it's in good movies. Juno is a good one.

curt: Your new album is called „Sixes & Sevens“. What do you mean by this title?

ADAM: It's a British expression. It means: I'm at war with myself. This is not for me though. I just liked how it sounded; I had no idea what it meant. For me the title is only important for how it sounds, or most important. A lot of times, as long as it's in my head I don't really care. There's a comfort level with songs. You have to feel comfortable with everything that you say and think. I think it's like, when there's a cliff and the water comes on the cliff, it's called "erosion", when the water eats away a cliff, you know what I mean? That's like a song. A bunch of different things that you throw at the wall and you see what sticks. And then you build on whatever sticks. That's the way I like to do it, because I don't like to plan too much to write a song. If you plan too much, it's boring. The inspiration leaves for me if I plan it. If you can get past that moment, the inspiration stays, or then I'm able to follow it through. I like to not know what I'm doing till the end. And I almost never want to know till



the end what the song is about... It's hard to explain it. I can't plan for it. For Sixes & Sevens I thought it was about gambling and numerology. I had no idea that it was about being involved with oneself.

curt: What things do you like to do besides writing songs? You live in one of the most exciting places in the world, in New York City. You live there, you grew up there. There are so many things to do there! Warhol was there. Burroughs was there...

ADAM: ... Well, yeah. Burroughs is great, but the cut-up method is shit, isn't it?

curt: Well, I like it! I like cut-ups and Dadaism.

ADAM: I dig that, I respect that, but I mean – you know, really – it's no way to work! I don't want to go into political office or something. You know what I mean? That's the thing about morality, for me, music is like an amoral place to work. I can sort of be a little bastard in my songs. I'm allowed to be a little bastard, whereas, if I was a politician or someone, I wouldn't be allowed to do anything! I think it's very limiting to – as long as I'm going along the way I'm going now, I probably can do anything with this. Let's say that I want to sell real estate, right? Who would trust me to do that? I just try as hard as I can to not have to work at McDonald's. I don't want to work there. It's not like German McDonald's. Germany's McDonald's is nice; American McDonald's is just like – earrgh!

curt: I guess you will never have to work at McDonald's because of your family background. Both your parents are doctors, and I guess you studied something too, no?

ADAM: My parents never gave me money. They helped me out when I started The Moldy Peaches. They helped me to pay my rent for the first year of that, which was really helpful. But you know what? They wouldn't have made me do something different... I was working before, I was working at pizzerias and I had to work at clothing stores, vintage clothes, I

worked at a video game store and the irony of that is, I hadn't played a video game since I was eight years old and I was selling them. Kids were always asking me: What's the best game? And I had to say: I don't know, I don't play them! Then they wouldn't be happy any longer. Then their smile would turn to the ground and then they would say to me: what do you mean? You don't play video games? And then the boss would get mad at me. She'd say: Why the hell do you work here? Then one day, I came back and my name was not on the schedule, not anywhere. I was like: Hey, why am I not on the schedule? They were like: You're fired. I tell you, that was a common way to tell me... I really don't want to go back there. But you know, I don't want to bug my parents for a slice of f... pizza. I'm a man now! ... I wish I was a 70-year-old folk singer still, but this is not the way of the world, this is not where it went and that's groovy, I mean – I've got nothing to complain about.

curt: My impression is that you like it to be a little bit "anti". The press even calls your music style "anti-folk". But there are so many types of "folk" going on in NYC at the moment. What do you think about this, bands like Antony and the Johnsons, CocoRosie and so on?

ADAM: Well, you know, everyone is a folk singer to one extent. And all the people you mentioned are perfectly good artists. I have no shame of being associated with any of them. I really enjoy all those records. CocoRosie – they are terrific! I think they're sisters. They are great! Anti-folk is – well, someone wrote a book about it. You just should read the book. Anti-folk is an old word. It's been around for a while. There is a long history. But you know what? I don't really identify with being a folk singer any more. In that way, I'm truly an anti-folk person.

ADAM GREEN // SIXES AND SEVENS // VÜ: 10. MÄRZ 08
LABEL: SANCTUARY/ROUGH TRADE

RAUS MIT EUCH!

Es ist wieder Festival-Zeit – also, 'raus ins Freie! Bei Sonnenschein mit Freunden abhängen und Musik hören. Noch 'n kühles Bier und 'n Kipppe in der Hand, und schon sind wir glücklich. Wir haben euch unsere Festival-Highlights für diesen Sommer zusammengeschrieben und Natural-American-Spirit-sei-Dank verlosen wir für's Southside und Chiemsee-Reggae-Festival auch noch 8Karten! Hurra! Siehe nächste Seite!

(Teilnehmen können Raucher ab 21 Jahren)

