

Torben Ulrich

Writer/musician/filmmaker/painter/ballplayer/director/performer
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CV

Writings

1940s: Apprenticeship at Reuters (News Agency) in Copenhagen. Articles in local jazz magazines (Tribune, then JazzInformation, also editorial assistant).

1950s: Six months of columns for Danish daily newspaper Information. Transferring to daily paper Politiken, writing primarily on music, reviews on jazz plus weekly column (illustrated by first Jørgen Ryg, then Klaus Albrechtsen). Co-editor of literary magazine Bazar (with Gustava Brandt and Bengt Janus). Writing for contemporary jazz music trade journals (continuing into the 1960s, e.g. Jazzrevy, co-editing with Boris Rabinowitz and Klaus Albrechtsen).

1960s: Weekly music column, jazz reviews, roving reports on assorted cultural themes, with Klaus Albrechtsen for Danish daily newspaper BT.

1970s: Contributions to music periodical M.M.

1980s onwards: Writings on music, film, athletics, etc., as U.S. correspondent to Information sports and cultural pages (Hans-Jørgen Nielsen, Poul Albret, Lasse Ellegaard, Kristen Bjørnkjær).

2002: Liner notes for the film "Before The Wall: Body and Being," part one and part two. Compendium for the film. Essay "Hvis," as contribution to "festskrift" for Claus Bøje, "Idrættens Enhed Eller Mangfoldighed," edited by Henning Eichberg and Bo Vestergård Madsen (Klim, 2002).

2003: "Jazz, bold & buddhisme," an anthology of writings from the late 1940s into the 2000s. In Danish.

2004: "Udspil – samtaler med Torben Ulrich," a book by Lars Movin of conversations with T.U. about events and activities in T.U.'s life and how they relate to their cultural setting, published by Lindhardt and Ringhof (Copenhagen). In Danish, with a few of T.U.'s Lines in English.

2004: "Until It Leaps," article for the Metallica fan club magazine "So What!" reprinted in the book of the name.

2005: "Terninger, tonefald: 12 Lines, 36 Off-lines," a collection of 12 Lines and 36 Off-lines (all in English) by T.U., with introduction (in Danish and English) by Lars Movin, published by Forlaget Bebop (Copenhagen).

2006: Essay "All The Things You Are: Katte, Hunde, Underhunde" appears in "Fokus På Freud," a book released on the occasion of Sigmund Freud's 150th birthday, published by Hans Reitzels Forlag, Denmark.

2007: "Suddenly, Sound: 21 songlines for piano, drainpipe, etc.," written for recording session with Danish pianist Søren Kjærgaard in Seattle. CD released in 2009. "Stilhedens Cymbaler" ("Cymbals of Silence, Notes of Un-Knowing"), a collection of Lines and Off-lines (all in English) by T.U., connected with his performances with the group Instead Of, published by Forlaget Bebop (Copenhagen).

2008: The essay "Sadlende År, Etc.," appears as foreword to "En dag forsvandt Duke Jordan i Harlem – tekster om jazz" by Jørgen Leth (an anthology of J.L.'s writings about jazz), edited by Lars Movin (Bebop, 2008).

2010: Liner notes (with Søren Kjærgaard) for the album "Alphabet, Peaceful, Diminished."

2013: "On Cacophony etc.," on the Cacophony for 8 Players dance project.

2014: "Toward a Theater of Transversality," on the Cacophony for 8 Players dance project. Director's note for the performance program. Liner notes (with Søren Kjærgaard) for the Meridiana album.

2015: Appears in "Poetry Is" video series by George Quasha.

Current: Book in progress: "Boldens øjne, værens ben: Notater langs idrættens spaltede veje".

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Music

1950s: Based out of own Copenhagen jazz club Blue Note, New Orleans-type jazz band, playing clarinet. Playing several tunes with Louis Armstrong in Aarhus ("Ain't Misbehavin' ", "Sunny Side of the Street"). In San Francisco, scolded by Sidney Bechet. Traveled with quartet through Scandinavia, Europe.

1960s-1970s: Fumbled with saxophone and flute.

2000s: Invited to collaborate with established Copenhagen trio Clinch (Claus Bøje/drums, Peter Friis Nielsen/bass guitar, Christer Irgens-Møller/keyboards), using voice/texts, re-sampling, etc. (electronica: Steffen Poulsen).

2006: "Dice, Done," a CD with Clinch and Poulsen plus Lotte Anker, released by Olufsen Records, Copenhagen.

2006-present: In collaborative improvised music group *Instead Of* (Angelina Baldoz/trumpet, bass guitar, samplings; Lori Goldston/cell; Jaison Scott/drums; T.U./texts, voicings and "bag of tricks"), based in Seattle, performing in the city and down the coast. Released in 2007 "Live on Sonarchy" CD, from an hour-long performance on KEXP's Sonarchy Radio.

2007: Records with Danish pianist Søren Kjærgaard in Seattle with texts written by T.U. for the occasion, "Suddenly, Sound: 21 songlines for piano, drainpipe, etc."

2008: Records with *Instead Of* at Verkstad Studios in Seattle for the album "Not Quite Live at the Diller Hotel."

2009: "Suddenly, Sound" released as LP and CD, followed by a tour of Denmark.

2010: Records with Søren Kjærgaard in Seattle for the album "Alphabet, Peaceful, Diminished: 29 Proposals from the Towers of Babble," released as CD later that year and followed by another tour of Denmark.

2013: Performs with Lori Goldston and Phillip Greenlief at the Berkeley Arts Festival.

2014: Records in July with Søren Kjærgaard and Messer Kvartetten in Oakland, California, for the album "Meridiana: Lines Toward a Non-local Alchemy," released as LP and download in October, followed by a tour of Denmark.

Paintings

1971 to present: Several series of works, "Imprints of Practice" and "Exsamplings of Play"; acrylic, later primarily ink on rice paper, including exhibitions in Copenhagen, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Seattle, Woodstock and Odense. Featured in magazines *Jazz Special*, *Apparatur*, *Nyt fra Denmark*, *Lettre Internationale* and on the cover of the book, "The People of Democracy: Understanding Self-Determination on the Basis of Body and Movement."

2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011: Rice-paper prints given as Play The Game Award, given to a selected journalist at the international Play The Game Conference.

2013: Included in Simon Dybbroe Møller's installation at the exhibition "I knOw yoU" at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin.

2015: Included in "Great Gifts of Chance," an exhibit at Galleri Tom Christoffersen in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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Dance

2011: Begins development of the dance project "Cacophony for 8 Players" with choreographer/dancer Beth Graczyk and composer/musician Angelina Baldoz.

2012: Short-version (20-minute) premiere of "Cacophony for 8 Players" accepted into and performed at the Northwest New Works Festival at On The Boards in Seattle, Washington, USA.

2013: Slightly longer version (30-minute) version of "Cacophony for 8 Players" accepted into and performed at the Dance+ festival at Conduit Dance in Portland, Oregon, USA.

2014: Evening-length premiere of "Cacophony for 8 Players" Jan. 23-26 at Washington Hall in Seattle.

Athletics

1940s: Copenhagen and Danish junior championships in soccer, table tennis, speed skating, tennis. (Through school years, also club handball and bandy.) Commences play on international tennis circuit.

1950s-1960s: In Paris, winning French Indoor championships; in Lahore, Asian championships; in Karachi, Pakistani championships. Other singles titles in Cannes, Capetown, Madrid, Monte Carlo...

1970s-1980s: While still on Open tour, invited to join Tennis Grand Masters tour (over age 45). With Sven Davidson won Wimbledon Centennial senior doubles. Ranked No. 1 in the world on the senior circuit in 1976.

1980s-1990s: Three U.S. Senior National singles titles (in age 60s and 65s).

1970s-1990s: Clinics-cum-exhibitions, films and commentary, world wide. Speaking engagements: e.g., USTA Teachers Conference in New York, on "Pros(e) & Poetry". Co-teaching (with Molly Martin), "Sports & Gender," University of Washington Experimental College, Seattle (1984). "Psychology, Women & Sports" conference, Denmark (1985). Teaches "Ballplaying: Western View, Buddhist Approach," Omega Institute for Holistic Studies, Rhinebeck, New York (1989). Seminars at Gerlev Idrætshøjskole and other schools/institutions in Denmark (1980s-'90s).

2000s: Participant at Play The Game, international conference for sports journalists, Copenhagen (2000, 2002). Lokale- og Anlægsfonden (2002): speaking on athletic-architectural ideas (Buckminster Fuller, etc.), in connection with Olympic project in Texas from early 1970s. "Elemental Play" workshop in Napa Valley, California, based on the film Before The Wall: Body & Being" (2005).

General: As an internationally touring tennis player, played over four decades at Grand Slam events (Wimbledon; U.S., French and Australian Opens). Represented Denmark in 100 Davis Cup matches from 1948 to 1977.

Radio

Late 1940s onwards: Associated with jazz music department at Danish Radio, throughout '60s as co-editor (with Erik Wiedemann) of weekly or biweekly news series called Jazz 61, Jazz 62, etc., and monthly series Tangent (on contemporary classical music, jazz and world musics). Studio production work with visiting musicians (e.g., Albert Ayler, Archie Shepp, Don Cherry & members of Danish Radio Symphony).

1970s-2000s: Continuing from U.S. as special correspondent on Olu Dara and Lucky Thompson (under editorship of Ib Skovgaard). Irregular contributor, later honorary U.S. correspondent to athletic monthly journal called first Clinch, then Sportsånden (edited by Jørgen Johansen and Claus Bøje). Introduces the Cecil Taylor film "All The Notes" at the Documentary Film Festival in Copenhagen.

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Film, theater, television, etc.

Early 1950s to mid-1960s: Worked in various settings as player/actor/musician or editor/co-director: e.g., Danish cinema ("Vi der går Stjernevejen", with Birgitte Reimer, Jørgen Ryg); television collaboration with Maria Marcus.

1969-1986: Four projects with Jørgen Leth, including his two films "Motion Picture" (with Ole John, 1969) and "Moments of Play" (San Francisco, 1986).

1987: In Eske Holm film "Pearls of the Moment" (1987).

1988: Co-directed with Gil de Kermadec and appeared in "The Ball and The Wall" (Paris, 1988).

2001: With Gary Hill, Charles Stein, George Quasha, filmed part in performance piece, at On The Boards theater, Seattle.

2002: Co-director with Rick New and Molly Martin, "Body & Being: Before The Wall", filmed in Seattle.

2006: "Before The Wall", "The Ball and The Wall" and "Motion Picture" featured in Playspots, an exhibition of innovative art, architecture and design installations, at the School of Architecture in Copenhagen.

Current: In progress: "Leaping, Looping: Before The Call", a film with Rick New (and continuation of "Body & Being: Before the Wall"). A film about Torben Ulrich by director Andreas Johnsen.

Buddhist studies

Root teacher: Tenga Rinpoche of Benchen Monastery, Kathmandu, Nepal. Early readings, from later part of 1940s, including Evans-Wentz's Tibetan volumes and Suzuki's Zen series. Calcutta, Bombay, Kerala: in late 1950s visits Indian teachers in music and yoga. Late '60s, in London, studies with Japanese Zen master Katsuki Sekida. Takes refuge, early '70s, with Kalu Rinpoche, later with H.H. 16th Karmapa. Since then received teachings from lineage holders of main Tibetan schools – Kagyu, Nyingma, Sakya, Gelug. From 1980s-2010s continues with emphasis on practices of Mahamudra and Dzogchen (Namkhai Norbu Rinpoche).

General

1986: Received the Gerlev Prize from Gerlev Idraetshøjskole in Denmark for athletic-cultural contributions.

2006: Received award from Klara Karolines Fond, "for his inspiration to artists of many kinds and for his views on athletics, art and existence".

2013: Ulrich family receives Davis Cup Award.