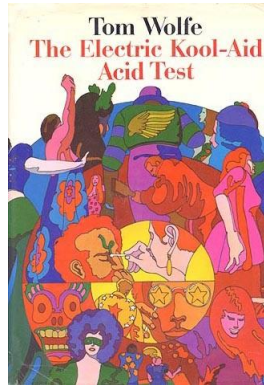


## The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test Tom Wolfe



*A new phenomenon, in 1968, baffled the american imagination: the transformation of the "promising middle-class youth with all the advantages" into what was popularly known as "the hippie."*

In 1964 Ken Kesey, Tom Wolfe, Neal Cassady and the Merry Pranksters took the road on a psychedelic painted school bus, the "Furthur". This journey, reported by the vivid new journalism style of Wolfe prose, will drive them across the country, on a crucial experience they will set the imaginary of the psychedelic movement for generations to come.

### Time Line

- 1938 In Switzerland Albert Hofmann synthesizes for the first time LSD-25 while looking for a blood stimulant
- 1951 CIA is known to experiment on LSD, with Project MK-Ultra the drug is given to unwitting subjects
- 1955 *Howl* by Allen Ginsberg is published
- 1957 *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac is published
- 1959 Allen Ginsberg tries LSD at the Mental Research Institute in Palo Alto, California. LSD enters US literary counterculture.
- 1959 Kesey volunteers to try LSD in a university program and works at the Veterans Medical Center in Menlo Park
- 1960 Harvard University's Timothy Leary establishes the Psychedelic Research Program
- 1962 *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey is published
- 1963 Timothy Leary is fired from Harvard and his Program dismissed

- 1964 Ken Kesey, Tom Wolfe, Neal Cassady and others of the "Merry Pranksters" travel from California to New York on the school bus "Furthur"
- 1965 Kesey's first marijuana arrest
- 1966 6 October. LSD is declared illegal in California
- 1966 31 October. Acid Test Graduation in San Francisco
- 1967 Human Be-In in San Francisco Golden Gate Park, prelude to the summer of love
- 1967 Beatles *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* is released
- 1968 LSD is declared illegal in the US
- 1968 *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Tests* by Tom Wolfe is published

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### **Film**

- CBS Documentary: *How To Go Out Of Your Mind - The LSD Crisis*.  
(Series of interviews with Timothy Leary about the psychological effects of LSD)
- Alex Gibney and Alison Ellwood. Documentary film: *Magic Trip*. (2011)  
(Original footage recorded during the 1964 trip)