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 that 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 Few 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

**Bibliography**


**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)

(Original footage recorded during the 1964 trip)