

SANTASADŌ

Fred Baggen - The Adversary

A Life with the Church of Satan

(AUTO)BIOGRAPHY | HISTORY



Perhaps Maarten J. Lamers (b. 1947) is the last Dutch adventurer, artist, and entrepreneur for whom anyone had the courage to write a biography on. Lamers, once the Magister Templi of the Church of Satan, is so much more than just the former leader of the Grotto Magistratis Amsterdam who built an erotic-occult empire in the 1970s and 1980s with resourcefulness and swagger, bamboozled the police and tax authorities, and to whom newspapers devoted many columns on a weekly (sometimes daily) basis.

In *The Adversary* all the myths and secrets of this enfant terrible are revealed: from the moment he was thirteen, lived on Mallorca and caught the eyes of all the girls of Mallorca and Spain with his stage act as a rock 'n roll singer, followed by successes in Amsterdam as an actor, comedian,

theater director, and founder of the world's first sex theater.

In the early 1970s, Lamers booked the American nude revue Oh! Calcutta! for stages in the Netherlands which instantly made him a celebrity as willful and independent director of ground-breaking theater, with commotion and parliamentary questions guaranteed.

In San Francisco, Lamers met Anton Szandor LaVey, the founder of the Church of Satan, who promptly appointed the Dutch theater maker as a high priest. Back in the Netherlands he founded the Dutch 'Kerk van Satan', initially as an illegal night café, later as a 'serious' society in the small Dutch village of Etersheim, half an hour north of Amsterdam. From 1980 it became a thematic sex empire in the Amsterdam red light district, where the Grotto Magistratis, the Sex Theater, and the Walburga Abbey (currently the Banana Bar) were iconic features of the city for years.

In the mid-1980s, Lamers briefly was the director of the erotic Casa Rosso theater and a pioneer in exploiting the highly profitable telephone sex lines. When the Dutch Church of Satan closed its doors in 1988 after seventeen years, Lamers traded his black-red cape for comfortable business suits and he became the CEO of companies like Antillephone (phone sex) and Monacall (communication services and telephone casino) with which he earned the Big Bucks.

Nowadays, Maarten Lamers tirelessly is and does everything simultaneously: lord of a castle, composer, musical writer, entrepreneur, and (former) Dutch celebrity without a biography. The latter will finally change with the publication of *The Adversary*.

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- Dutch edition published by Aldus Boek Compagnie

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Fred Baggen (1967) spent five years writing Maarten Lamers' biography, interviewing dozens of people involved, including childhood friends, classmates, former colleagues, and employees, former members of the Church of Satan who were willing to talk, police officers, journalists, family members, ex-partners, Lamers himself, and many other unknown and well-known people who share their raw stories for the first time – anonymous or not – about the Adversary, Maarten J. Lamers.

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