

*The emotional center of most of the performances always revolves around stories about "you" and they are addressed directly to the audience in the simplest way possible.*

John Lilly, the guy who says he can talk to dolphins, said he was in an aquarium and he was talking to a big whale who was swimming around and around in his tank. And the whale was asking him questions, telepathically. And one of the questions the whale kept asking was: Do all oceans have walls?

It's like that door you find one day, way at the back of your closet. And you go into the closet and turn the knob and open it. And outside there it is: the immense Caribbean. And you can't believe it. You've lived here for so long, and you never knew that all this was right here the whole time.

*from "Shadow Box" 1989*



A couple of months ago I was getting out of a cab and I turned around and fell right down into an open manhole, yeah, right into the New York City sewer system. And when I was down there I looked around and said to myself: This is exactly like one of my songs. And then I thought: No it's not. So the ambulance took me to the hospital and parked my wheelchair in the emergency room. And I sat there watching this long line of misery passing by. Gunshot wounds, stabbing victims, and as the night wore on, the old people started to come in.

And there was this old woman sitting next to me. She was a bum and her feet were bleeding and swollen up like grapefruits. And she kept saying, "Look at my feet. Look at my feet." And I couldn't. And there was an old man sitting on the other side of her and she kept saying: "My feet. Look at my feet."

And he did. And he said: "That must really hurt."

*from "Falling" 1989*

You're walking.

And you don't always realize it,  
but you're always falling.

With each step, you fall forward slightly.  
And then catch yourself from falling.

Over and over, you're falling.  
And then catching yourself from falling.  
And this is how you can be walking  
and falling at the same time.

*from "United States 2" 1989*

Some people walk on water.  
Some people walk on broken glass.  
Some just walk round and round  
in their dreams  
Some just keep falling down.

*from "Ram: n' i # # #"*