Zalán as literary Frank Zappa

The 68-year-old Tibor Zalán, poet, writer, playwright and editor, was one of the guests of the first day of the 2nd PécsLit Literary Festival at the Knowledge Center, presenting his two recently published volumes - one in poetry and one in genre-less prose - together with Zoltán Ágoston, editor-in-chief of Jelenkor.

As I listened to Tibor Zalán talk about the turning points in his career, he shared the history of contemporary literature of the past almost fifty years with such lightness and humour that I thought it was like listening to the music of Frank Zappa.

"It doesn't matter who says what, I can do what I want!"

On the one hand, he avoids fashion to the extent that he almost only did something as soon as something went out of fashion, and in the process synthesised the whole of the twentieth century, or now the twenty-first. Folk surrealism, avant-garde, postmodernism, new sensibility... Zoltán Ágoston, taking a line from one of his essayistic questions, spoke frankly about how his attitude has changed, for example, towards the personal. In other words, how he has taken stock of it, because there is more to the world than the lyrical self.