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Posted on Sun, Sep. 20, 2009

Jim Carroll | Poet and punk rocker, 60

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Jim Carroll, 60, the poet and punk rocker who wrote The Basketball Diaries, died of a heart attack Sept. 11 at his Manhattan home.

In the 1970s, he was a fixture of the burgeoning downtown New York art scene, where he mixed with artists such as Andy Warhol, Patti Smith, and Robert Mapplethorpe. His life was shaped by drug use, which he wrote about extensively.

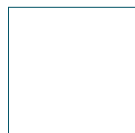
He also published several poetry collections, while his 1980 album, Catholic Boy, has been hailed as a landmark punk record, and he became known for one of its songs, "People Who Died."

But it was The Basketball Diaries, his autobiographical tale of life as a sports star at Trinity, an elite private high school in Manhattan, that brought his widest audience.

The book, which began as a journal, was published in 1978 and became even more popular, particularly on college campuses, when it was issued in paperback two years later. A 1995 film version starred Leonardo DiCaprio.

With Smith, who encouraged his music, he formed the Jim Carroll Band. - AP

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