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R.I.P. Jim Carroll

Back in the mid-1990s, my band played for the first time at the Bumbershoot Festival in Seattle. We were playing a stage far too big for us -- long and sparse, ill-lit, hollow-sounding and very much unclaimed. We tried to spread ourselves out among the blank canvas of it all, but we felt tiny, and our songs spewed forth into the ether, misshapen.

Jim Carroll was on the same bill as us. He was tall and lithe, with a ghostly, otherworldly mien. Carroll was reading poems with no back-up band, no team, no amp to crank to up to 10. But he didn't have any problems covering the stage, reaching the corners and permeating the room. Carroll died Friday at age 60, but here's a moment to remember him by:

Carrie Brownstein

11:58 AM ET | 09-14-2009 | [permalink](#)

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COMMENTS

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[John Myers \(mrtwilight23\)](#) wrote:

Never heard this guy before. I'll have to look into his work. Thanks!

I was sad to learn of the passing of Paul Davis. I don't know what it is about his music, but he somehow elevated pop music. I could listen to '65 Love Affair' over and over.

Rest In Peace to you both.

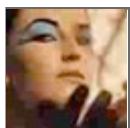
Here is playing 'live'.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-vNGiuoot4>

Thu Sep 17 23:13:24 2009

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[michelle castro \(transister sis\)](#) wrote:

I loved Jim Carroll and saw him many times. Whether it was playing music with the Jim Carroll Band, or doing his book readings, it was always a great experience. I even saw him do a combination of music & spoken-word stuff with The Patti Smith Group's Lenny Kaye on guitar, whom I was interviewing for a fanzine. Jim Carroll came & joined in on our discussion about 1960's Nuggets garage rock bands (he liked The Chocolate Watchband and Love the best!).

One of my favorite times was one of the 1st shows that the newly formed Jim Carroll Band played, right before the "Catholic Boy" record came out. It was a free show at Aquatic Park in Berkeley, opening for the legendary San Francisco punk band, Crime. I was 14 years old, and my 16 year old boyfriend was a roadie for Crime. Crime were really good that night, but I must say that The Jim Carroll Band stole the show-he was mesmerizing & he kinda scared me (in a great way!)

Oh, Jim Carroll also does the middle, spoken-word part of the punk rock band Rancid's song, "And Out Come The Wolves", from their album of the same name

Wed Sep 16 22:45:51 2009

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[Andrew Dunn \(atd\)](#) wrote:

andrei codrescu got me into jim carroll's work. 'people who died' is based on a ted berrigan poem. i liked the way carroll wrote about basketball. i'm sure he must have had game because nyc was the basketball capital then, way before the knicks became pathetic.

Tue Sep 15 11:36:42 2009

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[Jamie Sweet \(SweetNuthin\)](#) wrote:

It's too bad that all artists don't get the Michael Jackson treatment.

Strike that.

It's too bad Michael jackson got the Michael jackson treatment. If I was a relative to any great artist to

whom I had true emotional ties to, I would feel slightly off-put if the spot light of sensationalism was shined on my friend/relative.

That being said, I do wish, somehow, that we as a society could find a decent way to remember great art and the people who make it. Jim Carroll, Pina Bausch, and others who have passed away and left our world a little less bright should be remembered for what they were: true innovators who possibly re-defined their art form and definitely paved the way for younger people to notice the world of poetry and dance, respectively.

Mr. Carroll, enjoy your first steps on your new journey, if only we could listen to you speak about them on our earthly plane.

Tue Sep 15 11:06:07 2009

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[**mrjyn mossie \(mrjyn\)**](#) wrote:

I found it. I included some lagniappe to flesh-out your Jim Carroll piece, just in case you do a follow-up...oops. And thank you so much for not succumbing to the "People Who Died" 'Punline' Blogfrenzy. While you were watching TV, I was collecting them for my blog -
<http://www.visualguidanceltd.blogspot.com> - I'm still missing a "Jim Carroll: A People Who Died"

Here's the disguised Kanye VMA clip - "George Bush Does Not Like Taylor Swift - BLOGSTEIN" -
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xahokn_george-bush-does-not-like-taylor-sw_music - OR -
<http://j.mp/10pYi8> (bitly) - AND I took the liberty to provide a couple of other topical docs, in case you weren't watching TV tonight: - Kanye West - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzA1GNXFXYg>
 Jim Carroll Talks Aspirin - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVSA4X_wEoE
 Jim Carroll Bukowski - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNa1yAdgtb0>

BONUS: "30-second 'Guitar Hero 5 'Love Gives Kurt Cobain Bad Name' causing stir in Cobain Enterprises LLC-Land" 30-second 'fan?' compilation of most improbable 'unlocked' Kurt Cobain performances from new Activision release, Flava Flav, Bon Jovi, Stevie Wonder David Bowie Really! -
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBxPASl1m64>

p.s. SK ROX!

nichopoulouzo

Mon Sep 14 22:24:12 2009

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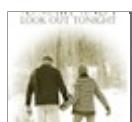
[**Earl Curley \(BEEarl\)**](#) wrote:

"I salute you, brother!"

Mon Sep 14 16:46:52 2009

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[**Nicholas Leitzke \(space_coyote\)**](#) wrote:

That's really too bad. I think I was in eighth grade when I first saw Basketball Diaries. It was my first real glimpse of society's seedy underbelly, and I realized just how much I felt like those kids. Count it step one on my road to Kerouac. I can also testify that after watching the shotgun-in-the-classroom scene I did not go on a killing spree.

Mon Sep 14 14:43:53 2009

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[Alberto Santillan \(The Card Cheat\)](#) wrote:

I have a friend in New York whose father was a heroin addict in the late 70s and early 80s and she always told me that he got clean with Jim Carroll...but it's good that you knew him when you did. He might fit in to that category of mysterious figures in pop music if I didn't know any better. Although I wonder how my friend's dad is taking this....

Mon Sep 14 14:40:39 2009

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[Robert Young \(rcyoung\)](#) wrote:

Sad news. RIP Jim. Catch "Basketball Diaries" Early Dicaprio movie that is surprisingly good. Others can comment on how accurate it was.

Mon Sep 14 13:52:00 2009

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[c wood \(cawood\)](#) wrote:

i was so upset by this news...it seems so many great figures from the NYC '70s scene are gone. i must admit i don't know a lot about his poetry, but i do love his prose work. "forced entries" is a great companion piece to "please kill me" if you want to get a good idea of what a wonderfully intoxicating place the art & music scene in n.y. in the mid-seventies must have been if you weren't too strung out to realize it.

Mon Sep 14 13:28:50 2009

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