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Poet Jim Carroll Dead at 60

September 14, 6:21 PM - Manhattan Performing Arts Examiner - Eric Wendell

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On Friday September 11, 2009, poet Jim Carroll died from a heart attack at his Manhattan residence. The celebrated downtown figure was sixty years of age.

Carroll was born James Dennis Carroll and spent his childhood on the Lower East Side in the borough of Manhattan. As a student at the Trinity School, Carroll began to spend time at the St. Mark's Poetry Project where he began to study poetry. During this time, Jim became a noted basketball player at Trinity.

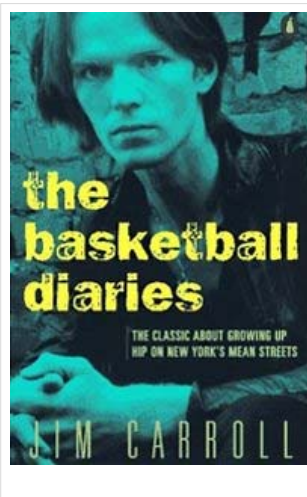
At the age of sixteen, Carroll released his first collection of poems entitled "Organic Trains." Jim spent his teenage years leading a turbulent life of drugs, which he chronicled in his journal. In 1978, he published his journal from that time as the The Basketball Diaries.

The same year, Carroll formed The Jim Carroll Band after an impromptu performance with singer Patti Smith. The band included guitarists Brian Linsley and Terrell Winn, bassist Steve Linsley and drummer Wayne Woods. Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards became a fan of the band and helped the group acquire a record contract with Atlantic Records.

In 1995, The Basketball Diaries was made into a motion picture with Leonardo DiCaprio playing Carroll. Jim continued to compose until his very last breath, suffering a heart attack at his desk. More information about him can be found at his website.

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