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music

Conversation: Patti Smith Reflects on the Life of Her Friend, Jim Carroll



Posted by [Jeffrey Brown](#), September 14, 2009

[Jim Carroll](#), the poet and punk rocker who wrote "The Basketball Diaries," [died Friday at age 60 from a heart attack](#). In the 1970s, Carroll was a beloved fixture of the burgeoning New York art scene, where he mixed with artists such as Andy Warhol, Larry Rivers, Robert Mapplethorpe and [Patti Smith](#). It was Smith who first encouraged Carroll to blend his poetry with rock 'n' roll, bringing him on stage to perform his work with her band. He went on to form the Jim Carroll Band. I talked to [Patti Smith](#) about her friend Jim Carroll by phone earlier Monday:

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Posted:

09/14/09 at

07:07 PM

Ric Garrido : I met Jim as Catholic Boy while punking in 1980. In 1980 it seemed like all my friends would die, die. We didn't die so fast. We stayed and moved on. Move on Jim. Thinking of you today.

Posted:

09/14/09 at

08:08 PM

Brad : Wow, what a loss. I only knew Jim through 'Catholic boy', that my party buddy in the USAF turned me on to. There is not another record like that one. It was a great time in my life and a great record to learn what lay past classic rock. I suggest people FIND and listen to that one. Thanks Patti and R.I.P. Jim.

Posted:

09/14/09 at

08:49 PM

Kieran Dooley : I enjoyed your interview with Patti Smith about Jim Carroll because it focused on his poetry and artistic gifts while not ignoring his personal afflictions and tribulations. Both Patti Smith and Jim Carroll are important artist to me. Your interview was unexpected and appreciated. Thanks.

Posted:

09/15/09 at

10:45 AM

Tom Savage : I met Jim Carroll many times at the Poetry Project over 20 or 30 years. He was a great poet and at least a good rock musician. He also was a nice man. At a time when I was virtually unknown, he always seemed to remember me and was nice to me. No air of celebrity about him at all.

Posted:

09/15/09 at

07:21 PM

kevin morris : oh Jim, i will miss you and your words. EVERYTHING MOVES SO FAST

Posted:

09/15/09 at

09:19 PM

Armida S. Thomson : Jeffrey Brown - thank you! It was great to hear Patti's recollections about Jim Carroll. He will be missed.

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09/16/09 at 12:25 AM

Deb Hopkins : Thank you for covering the passing of Jim Carroll. I enjoyed hearing about Jim the poet. I only knew him as a rocker/poet. My band (The Contractions) opened for the Jim Carroll band several times in 1980-81. Jim and the band always treated us (an all female band) with great respect and were a blast to be with. I am glad to hear he passed doing what he loved. Thank you Patti.

Posted: 09/16/09 at 09:09 PM

Mary Greer : I knew Jim when he lived in Bolinas. Patti's words matched the person I knew a sweet, gentle soul who spent more time with his dog than with people but whose every thought, every breath moved around and through poetry. Patti, your phone calls to him were a life-line between the cocoon and the world outside and helped him know there was something else waiting for him.

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