

NME.COM *First For Music News*

FIRST FOR MUSIC NEWS

NME News

Punk poet and 'Basketball Diaries' author Jim Carroll dies

*Patti Smith, Vampire
Weekend's Ezra Koenig pay
tribute*

September 14, 2009 | [0 Comments](#)

[More NME news, reviews, videos and tour dates](#)

New York punk poet, musician and author **Jim Carroll** has died of a heart attack, aged 60.

Carroll, who wrote '**The Basketball Diaries**', died on Friday (September 11) at his **Manhattan** home, his former wife **Rosemary Carroll** confirmed.

A heroin addict at 13, **Carroll** documented his teenage years in '**The Basketball Diaries**', which was originally published in 1978 and turned into a film starring **Leonardo DiCaprio** in 1995.

As well as being revered as a writer, **Carroll** was embraced by the late 1970s **New York** punk scene, becoming a punk poet and starting his own band (**The Jim Carroll Band**) at the behest of Patti Smith.

The Rolling Stones' **Keith Richards** was also a fan, orchestrating the band a three-album deal with **Atlantic Records**.

The Jim Carroll Band's most famous song, '**People Who Died**' – which you can watch by scrolling down now – was used in **Steven Spielberg's** film '**E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial**'.

Talking to the New York Times yesterday, **Smith** paid tribute to

Carroll.

"I met him in 1970, and already he was pretty much universally recognised as the best poet of his generation," she explained. "The work was sophisticated and elegant. He had beauty."

Vampire Weekend frontman **Ezra Koenig** also wrote about **Carroll's** death on his Twitter page , saying: "I spent a lot of time listening to my dad's 45 of '**People Who Died**' back in the day."

Watch '**People Who Died**' below:

Share this story:

[Del.icio.us](#)

[Digg](#)

[Furl](#)

[Reddit](#)

[Bebo](#)



[More News:](#)



PREVIOUS

'Final Countdown' rockers Europe announce UK dates



NME PROMOTION

Follow NME on Twitter



NEXT

The Boxer Rebellion, The Orb, The Drums –...



Buy NME Magazine right now

Subscribe here or get this week's issue delivered to your door

Please sign in to add your comments or register to have your say.



Pic: Getty Images

Sponsored Links

Warped Tour Interviews

Watch the best bands from Warped Tour interviewed on Babelgum now!

www.Babelgum.com