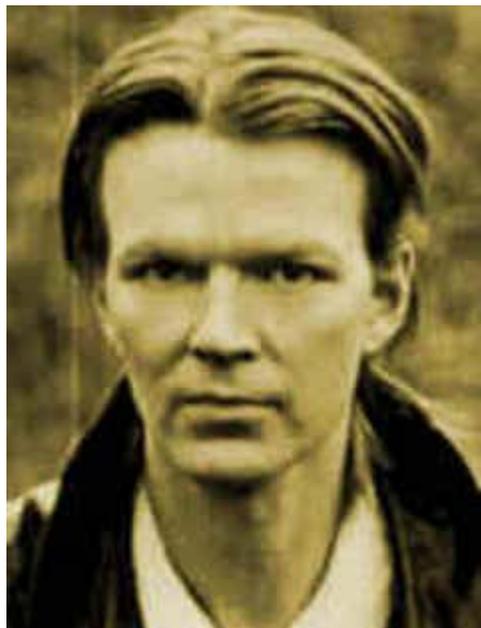


Jim Carroll, RIP: This song is for you, my brother

Posted by [jbaker](#) September 14, 2009 21:10PM



Jim Carroll

Jim Carroll, author and musician, [died last week](#) of a heart attack. Carroll will be remembered for two pieces of art: His book "[The Basketball Diaries](#)" and his album "[Catholic Boy](#)." "The Basketball Diaries," written when he was a teenager, is pure and honest. "Catholic Boy," an album released in 1980 after Carroll was encouraged to perform with a band by Patti Smith, is pure energy. "People Who Died" gets all the attention, but the whole album kicks it hard.

"The more she denies them the more they demand her. But she just wants to lay in bed all night, reading Raymond Chandler."

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Comments

motherducker says...

check out his Cameo in the film "The Basketball Diaries." Cooler than James Dean. Pure authenticity.

"I want my will and capability to meet inside the region
Where this gravity don't mean a thing
It's where the angels break through . . .
It's where they bring it to you
It's where silence, silence can teach me to sing"

-Wicked Gravity

Posted on 09/14/09 at 9:41PM

HomahSimpson says...

I first read Basketball Diaries at the UO 28 years ago in Dr. William Strange's class on Satire. Its an amazing read and light years away from my growing up in the Columbia Gorge. The real-life diary of a white-boy basketball wiz with a heroin addiction growing up in New York in the 60's both horrified and fascinated me. The movie does not match the book -- no movie could match the intensity of the book. I saw him give a reading of his book and listened to his music -- glad I had the chance.

Don't know where or care how he fits in american culture, all I know is I'm glad I read the book (bought a reissued copy 5 years ago) and that taught me something about this country.

Posted on 09/14/09 at 9:46PM

JoeDando says...

Aw, dude.

"I write your name
With thick blue ink
On stones I throw just to watch 'em sink"

-I Write Your Name

The world has lost an incredible poet. Here's to remembering one whose name was not written on water, but upon the stones that dwell there.

Posted on 09/14/09 at 10:46PM

DudeInNEP says...

The inspiration for countless young writers...RIP

Posted on 09/15/09 at 2:48AM

KKuhnert says...

The basketball dairies was a raw true working class take on the big apple and all that -in the day. I'll never forget the broke white hustler playing ball against "Lewy Alcindor," on the courts of NYC.

Posted on 09/15/09 at 7:46AM

neighbor97 says...

He lived hard. Surprised he made it this long.
A hundred years from now, people will read the Basketball Diaries and get a feel for what NYC was like. He was a great artist. RIP.

Posted on 09/15/09 at 12:41PM

lensman00 says...

Jim Carroll documented an era and place that was great in some ways and completely messed up in others.

Perhaps that is true of all times and places (no doubt ours as well). The account he left stands out for its heart and soul - that's an accomplishment no matter when or where you lived.

Posted on 09/15/09 at 1:33PM

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