

September 18, 2009 - Friday

"... this song is for you my brother!" Jim Carroll R.I.P.

Current mood:  sad

Category: Writing and Poetry

Sadly, a week ago today the world lost one of it's last great, pure and true poets and to anyone he touched with his poems and songs a friend was lost as well. I was lucky that we got the chance write some songs together and become friends in the process. Jim also helped me with lyrics on a few songs with my band Truly. We use to chat on the phone for hours and I learned so much from him, not just about the world of literature, but on many subjects and when we'd finally hang up my face would usually be sore from laughing. IMHO he was the best, pure poet/writer in the last 100 years. Please go out and find his most recent collection of poems 'Void of Course' (1998). He wrote Basketball diaries when he was a kid and he got better and better with age. We played sold out shows two years in a row at the Crocodile Cafe in Seattle (98' & 99') in support of his new album 'Pools of Mercury' and his new book of recent poems, the previously mentioned 'Void of Course'. In Sept. 2000 Jim read and then we played to 1500 people at, once again, a sold out Seattle Opera House. I've never heard that many people laughing at one time ever and it was so impressive to see that many people hanging on to every word, they we're completely with him. One of the highlights for me was playing his beautiful ballad "Dance the Night Away" which Jim hadn't played since the 80's. As a singer/guitarist, this was my first time playing piano on stage and I managed to get through the whole song without a single flub (whew!!) and according to Jim I even got a standing ovation for my guitar solo on "Wicked Gravity". (What a night, I'm telling you!) After the gig we went to see Ronnie Spector with the Kill Rock Stars crew (the label that released 'the Runaway E.P.). Jim was in great mood and we had a fantastic time hanging out. Ronnie Spector blew us all away with her huge voice and terrific ten piece band put together by Ramones longtime producer Daniel Rey. While we were hanging out backstage, we did a bunch of group photos and Jim was signing autographs etc... but then I noticed Jim looked slightly perturbed at one point, so I whisper, "What's wrong man?" Jim whispers back, "when Ronnie Spector just came over and hugged me she thought I was fucking Bowie man!" I reminded Jim that Phil Spector had her locked up in their mansion for 28 years and that she didn't get out much. He laughed and of course was over it like that. Although he was very much down to earth and most definitely wasn't a prima donna, he was conscious of who he was and wasn't afraid to let people know. Rightly so! I don't think there is any doubt that Jim's work will last through the ages and continue to inspire each new generation along the way. I was always impressed to see so many fans, from young students to graying hipsters, line up after the shows and readings to say hello and get stuff signed, but also there was always a clutch of hot women who would throw themselves at Jim... rock-n-roll poet indeed! I wonder if Rimbaud ever got that? (Besides from Verlaine!) I feel so privileged to have known him and to have worked with him. He had lightening quick wit and would tell story after story. Anyone who has been lucky enough to speak with him will tell you same. Just having a meal together was like getting a free reading. The observations, humor and the connecting of cultural dots flowed endlessly out of him. He was and is very much loved and appreciated. He inspired many to write and even many more to laugh at life's cruel ironies, peculiar beauty and this worlds "Wicked Gravity". In tribute to Jim, on this site I've posted an unreleased live version of 'People Who Died' from the first Crocodile Cafe show from along with our cover of Del Shannon's "Runaway" that starts off with a little spontaneous and hilarious story from Jim that I snipped from the 98' show and added to the intro. (I'll also be adding a demo of one of the songs we wrote that was recorded with Truly to the Truly Myspace page very soon) After feeling in dumps all week about Jim's passing, hearing this again made me feel a little better. I love and miss you man... "more than all the others... this song is for you my brother!"

3:11 PM 4 Comments 4 Kudos

<p>johny</p> 	<p>a beautiful elegy robert. thank you for sharing your vivid experiences with jim.</p> <p>Posted by johny on September 19, 2009 - Saturday - 12:19 AM</p>
<p>alexander de...</p> 	<p>Robert, there are no words to say in these moments that fit right, one could easily say the same old obvious things. Jim's passing has been a great loss for all mankind, i didn't ever meet him and i know i've missed something good. Now he is no more, but he'll continue to live within you and all the others that loved him, just as a memory, but still living, and that's a good thing. Just keep on keeping on, brother.</p> <p>With love,</p> <p>-luciano</p> <p>Posted by alexander de large on September 19, 2009 - Saturday - 7:46 AM</p>
<p>Kim Acrylic</p> 	<p>i was at both those shows,front row,sooo fun and i remember you and truly from pain in the grass days!</p> <p>no one is doing enough tributes on Jim and this saddens me,so thanks for this!!!</p> <p>Posted by Kim Acrylic on September 20, 2009 - Sunday - 8:39 PM</p>
<p>Matt Brown</p> 	<p>A wonderful tribute, my friend. Thank you so much for sharing your memories.</p> <p>Posted by Matt Brown on September 22, 2009 - Tuesday - 6:56 PM</p>