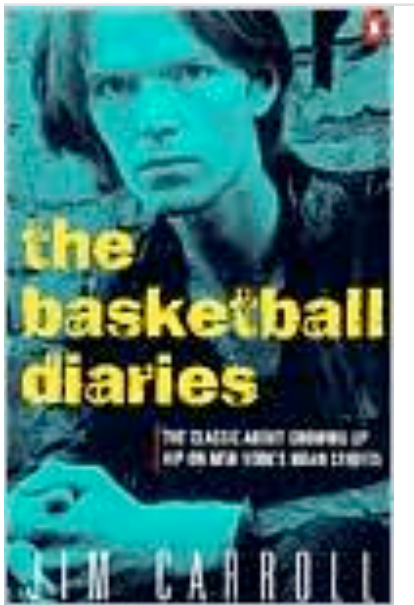


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## Pause for Poetry: a Reading by Jim Carroll

By LA Books Examiner, Frank Mundo  
September 24, 10:12 PM



This week's Pause for Poetry focuses on legendary basketball player, poet, and

musician **Jim Carroll**, who died at age 60 on September 11, 2009 in Manhattan, NY.

Unlike most writers, Carroll was already a well-known writer when, at just 13 years old, Jack Kerouac said, "Jim Carroll writes better prose than 89% of the novelists working today." Carroll is probably best known for his book *The Basketball Diaries*, published in 1978, the actual diary he kept from ages 12 to 15, which chronicled a life of basketball, friendship, writing, and drugs in New York's Lower East Side.

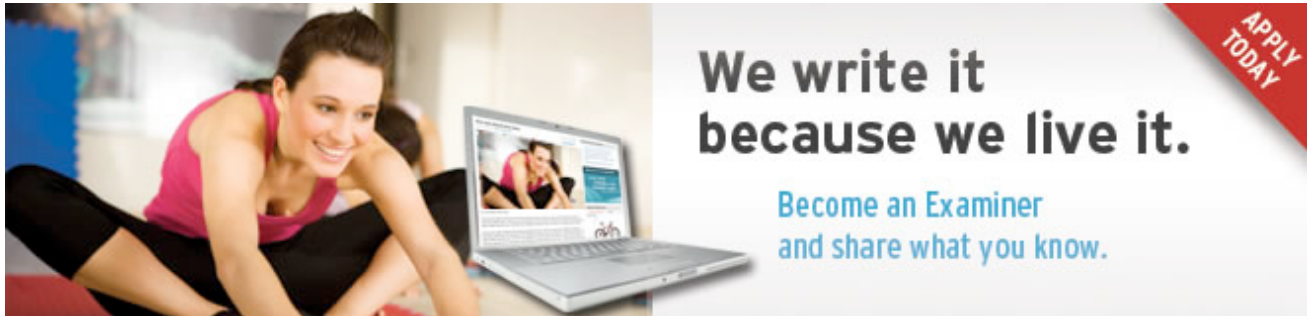
This amazing little book, a slim volume, not only inspired the movie version in 1995, it inspired a generation of new writers, including your LA Books Examiner after reading it over and over again in 1989, launching an era of basketball and books (more basketball than books) that forever changed my life. I can honestly say that *The Basketball Diaries* was the first book I truly loved.

With this in mind, let's all hit the pause buttons on our lives for a few minutes to watch two of Jim Carroll's most popular works in action. The first video is a haunting and beautiful excerpt from *The Basketball Diaries* and the second is a music video of the Jim Carroll Band from the soundtrack of the 1995 film.

**For more Pause For Poetry readings, check**

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out:

Charles Bukowski reads "The Man with the Beautiful Eyes."  
Kim Addonizio reads "One Night Stands" and "The Muse."

Langston Hughes reads "The Weary Blues"

Billy Collins reads "Forgetfulness" and "The Country"

Mat Lloyd "The Skateboard Poet" reads "This Town."

Joy Harjo reads "I Give You Back: A Poem to Get Rid of Fear."

Wanda Coleman reads excerpts from *Ostinato Vamps* and *Bathwater Music*.


Martin Espada reads "Alabanza: In Praise of Local 100."

Standout Poets from the San Pedro River Review.

Gina Loring reads "This Side of Mourning."

Readings from poets Douglas Kearney, Brendan Constantine and Elizabeth Iannaci

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