Jim Carroll remembered

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Last Friday, we lost a true punk-rock poet in Jim Carroll, who died of heart attack at age 60. Veteran promoter Elliott Lefko — who booked punk and indie-rock shows in Toronto in the ‘80s and ‘90s before moving over to Californian Coachella promoters Goldenvoice — sent us this tribute:

Jim Carroll, the poet, novelist (of The Basketball Diaries) and rocker, died Friday in New York at his home. Apparently, he’d been in poor health lately.

In the late ‘80s I promoted a bunch of shows with him at OCA(D), the El Mocambo and Lee’s Palace. Never have I seen a performer radiate electricity like this man. He would get up on stage and hold audiences transfixed with the power of his words and his delivery. I would book [Elvis Mondays promoter] William New’s band Groovy Religion to open up and at the last minute say, “Oh, by the way Jim, could you sing “Sweet Jane” and “People Who Died” with Groovy? He’d smile, someone would race out to make copies of the lyrics for him, and he’d blast the song into orbit, like the rock star he was.

Those were good times. I’ll miss you Jim!