Monday, September 14

Jim Carroll R.I.P.

Musician and author of The Basketball Diaries dies of heart attack at 60

Photo by Eric Hamilton

The New York Times reports that the writer and musician Jim Carroll died in his Manhattan apartment on Friday. Ex-wife Rosemary Carroll says the cause of death was a heart attack. He was 60.

As the frontman of the Jim Carroll Band, Carroll recorded a couple of totally indelible slices of jagged, grimy new wave in "People Who Died" and "Catholic Boy". Carroll, already renowned as a poet, formed the band in the late 1970s. The band, signed to Atlantic Records after Keith Richards arranged a deal, recorded three albums before breaking up in the mid 80s. Carroll also released the 1998 solo album Pools of Mercury, and he collaborated with Lou Reed, Rancid, and Blue Öyster Cult.

More than music, though, Carroll is famous for The Basketball Diaries, his fascinating 1978 memoir of being a smack-addicted high school beatnik basketball star in mid-60s Manhattan. The follow-up memoir, Forced Entries, covers the years when Carroll kicked around Andy Warhol's Factory.

Check below for a video of Carroll doing "People Who Died".