Poet, musician Jim Carroll to appear at WOW Hall

By Chris Metzler Emerald Contributor

"I thought a poet should try and change the world and all I saw around me was people writing poems for other poets." said Jim Carroll in a recent telephone interview from a hotel room in San Fransico.

Carroll has published four books since he was 16, including his masterpiece, "The Basketball Diaries," which has earned him a repectable niche in the world of literature. He's also placed his voice on three records, his body in several movies and contributed his labor to numerous other projects.

Carroll is now in the midst of his second "readings" tour supporting his last two books "Forced Entries: The Downtown Diaries" and the prose piece, "Book Of Nods."

While Carroll is now focusing on his writing, he hasn't completely forgotten his music.

"I've written songs for the last few Blue Oyster Cult albums, for Richard Lloyd from the group Television, and three songs on Boz Scaggs new album that will be out in January. I don't know if I'll play anymore, but I'm not completely discounting the possibility."

Carroll expressed disdain for what is termed the pretentious New York City club scene.

around...I've been pretty reclusive about going out. It doesn't seem to have the same sense of community it had in the late '60s and early '70s that I talk about in "Forced Entries." I've kind of made a conscious effort not to really know what's going on."

Carroll's upcoming arrival in Eugene will not be the first time he's visited the city.

"I stayed there (Eugene) for a month and a half after playing some shows in California New Year's of '85. I was working on 'Forced Entries' there, the deal was just made with Penguin and Viking for the books. I got to know the town pretty well."

"Forced Entries," is a book that is based on true life experiences. Reliving and writing about this period of his life was a difficult thing to do, Carroll

"I had about 20 pages written out from the time it happened ('71-'73) and that was enough to define the voice. The rest was written from hindsight. The more I started writing, the more I remembered small details and whole episodes, and it was very painful in order to be honest and put myself in the place. The act of writing exorcised bad scenes and demons from that period."

It hasn't been in music where Carroll has found the greater success, but in his writing, he

"I've made a lot more money than I ever imagined by being in rock 'n' roll. It gave me an audience for my poems. The music's not there but I don't really need it; it (poetry) carries it's own music. It's very hard to fool a rock 'n' roll audience, it's much easier to fool a university audience because you can use this facade of bullshit with a slick style. But rock fans aren't very sophisticated so they perceive things through the

The video revolution sparked no special interest in Carroll, who refuses to make them. However, television viewers may see more of Carroll in the future.

"My agency wants me to do some acting for "Crime Story" but I didn't have the time. Maybe "Miami Vice," they have the rock stars. But I don't like the idea of stepping into another art form just because you have success in one and taking someone else's work away."

Carroll offered some advice

for aspiring young poets.

"The best advice I can give is to read "The Time of Assassians" by Henry Miller which is his study on Rembot and use what he called the inner register.

"It really changed my take on poetry even though I was an established poet. You have to work through the heart and the intellect not one or the other."

Carroll will be signing books at the University Bookstore at 12:30 today and will give a reading at the WOW Hall tommorow night at 8. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door and are available at the EMU Main Desk, House of Records and the WOW Hall.

Monday, November 9, 1987





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