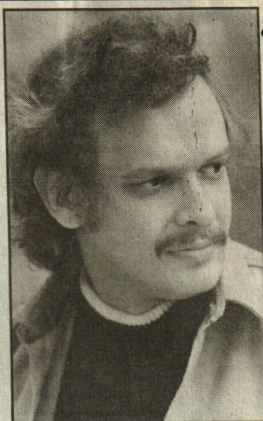


ANDERSON, Jon 45 Jul 1940 - 20 Oct 2007
Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, Arizona 29 Oct 2007 Page B5 Obituary



Jon Anderson

Jon Anderson, nationally acclaimed poet and recently retired Professor in the English Department at the University of Arizona, died on Saturday October 20, 2007 at Northwest Hospital after several weeks of illness. He was born on the Fourth of July, 1940, in Somerville, Massachusetts. He received his BS in English Education from Northeastern University in 1964, and his MFA from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa in 1968. Before coming to Arizona in 1978, he taught at the University of Portland, Ohio University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Writers' Workshop. Among his many awards were a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts Awards, and the Shelley Memorial Award for Career Achievement from the Poetry Society of America.

Between 1968 and 1982, Jon published six books of poems, and along the way established himself as one of the foremost lyric poets of his generation. He stopped writing for almost twenty years, then published one more book in 2001, after which he stopped writing completely. Charles Simic, current Poet Laureate, once said in conversation, "Jon taught us a new way of looking at ourselves." His students included some of America's best writers, among them Shahid Agha Ali, Joe Bolton, Michael Collier, James Galvin, Jorie Graham, Tony Hoagland, David Rivard, Richard Siken, and David Wojahn. He leaves behind his son, Bodi Orlen Anderson, his daughter-in-law Ayaka, and his former wife Barbara, all of Flagstaff; his sister Vicki Cahalane, her husband Michael and daughter Christine, of Osterville, Massachusetts. Among his friends in Tucson, he leaves behind Hank Combellick, Peggy Flyntz, Annie, Jet and Francesca Guido, Chris Kiesel, Kevin Lanoue and Deb Gregerman, Jane Miller, Gail Marcus-Orlen and Steve Orlen, Nancy Pitt, Boyer Rickel, George Shelton, Julie Willson, and Gibb Windahl. Jon will be cremated and his ashes spread in the woods outside of Flagstaff. In accordance with his wishes, there will be no service. Plans for a memorial in spring are underway, to be organized and presented by the University of Arizona Poetry Center. If we were given the chance to bury a few of Jon's favorite things with him, among them would be the remote for his aged, giant television set, his Boston Red Sox hat, a CD of Thelonious Monk, and a volume of ancient Chinese Poetry. We will miss his sense of humor, his acceptance of people as they were, and his presence among us in his parlor for all the Wildcat basketball games. The television is off, but the porch lights are still on.

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