

R.I.P Mark Otis Selby :

Mark passed away yesterday about noon . I arrived about a half hour after that.

He was surrounded by friends and family and I was able to say goodbye to him myself in the room . I put my hand on his lifeless ravaged body said goodbye and thanked him for how much he enriched my life. Was that his spirit i felt flitter round the room or did i just imagine it? Hard to say . Might have been the weeping but i definitely developed a ringing in my ear almost like he had some heavenly amp cranked up beside my head giving me one more zing .To say i'm sad just doesn't cut it i'm truly devastated . I've written songs with Mark , countless recording sessions been on i think six tours of europe and many gigs stateside playing with his band since we met in 98 I have a bucket load of stories and memories from studios and stages all over the world. Mark was a man of science and poetry with a deep devotion to truth over trends and besides my father the most honorable man i knew. I loved being a part of his musical journey.He was an explorer and i was along for the ride.

I remember the call i got from him a couple of years ago , saw his name pop up and i anticipated another cool gig he had going, a record, a tour maybe. But it was to inform me that they had discovered a severely aggressive form of cancer.He had fallen on tour with Johnny Reid and fractured his hip and it never healed properly .They thought at that time it might have started in his prostate and migrated to his bones. The clock started ticking. It was shocking that a guy i knew to be so virile energetic who exercised and never took anything to excess would be given such a dim prognosis.For the first time since i knew him i heard fear in his voice . Leeann and i immediately started cooking and came over with food and wine and moral support. A pact was made , Mark did not want his condition to be public knowledge. I think he just wanted people to treat him like Mark,not Mark with cancer . So if you didn't even know he was sick it's because he didn't want you to know.

So last night we had an impromptu celebration of his life ,we had food and wine we told stories and got to listen to some of a collection of songs he recorded just before he passed , the naked sessions ,just mark and his guitar. Before i even heard the first word of the song i was bawling because i heard that familiar strumming style i'd come to know so well. The song rolled out easy and profoundly beautiful , deep and rich and we were all transported on the wings of our fly away friend.

The last time i got to just hang with mark was 4 weeks ago i just dropped by in time for Tia to have an errand to run and needing someone to sit with Mark till she got back. We talked a little about his latest condition then moved on to other subjects as quickly as possible he wanted to know what was going on with me, typical Mark. The conversation was tinged with inevitability and i think he knew the train was coming into the station sooner than later , he was tired.I looked at him and said we made some great music man. He smiled at me and said yes we did,yes we did.

I loved this man , i,m gonna miss this man

So to all Mark's friends and fans all over the world who came out to his shows he wanted you to know that he was receiving all your well wishes and prayers and wanted to thank you. Look out for the naked sessions for some amazing music. I've included a song Mark and Tia and I wrote back in the day , a terrific video version of a song Mark used to perform as a second encore at our shows and send people down the road . And some pics from one of our tours ...Godspeed brother ..  
.....von Daryl Burgess