

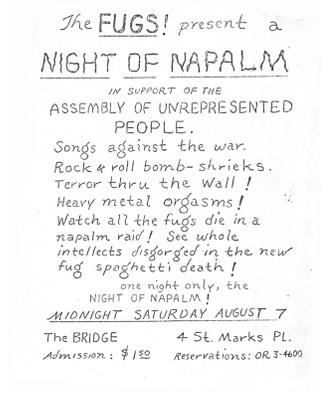
Poem for Nick Amster

He was born in Wooster, Ohio on Sept 30, 1948

He ran away for a year to New York City
in 1965. That's when I met him

He performed on drums with the Fugs
at a benefit we gave called "The Night of
Napalm" for the Assembly of Unrepresented People
at the Bridge Theater (where Jonas Mekas
had been recently arrested for showing
Jack Smith's "Flaming Creatures")

[The Fugs did a series of midnight concerts
at the Bridge in '65, located on St. Mark's Place
just off 3rd Avenue near the St. Mark's Baths.]



Nick may have met Harry Smith at the Night of Napalm
concert, for Harry was in the audience.

Or he may have encountered Harry at the
Peace Eye Bookstore, where the Fugs had been founded,
on East 10th, 'tween B & C

In any case, Nick got along well with Harry
& was his escort decades later at the

Grammy Awards when Harry received
a life time achievement award
for his Anthology of American Folk Music

In 1979 Nick met Sarah Jane Buck
They became a couple, and married in 1992
and they have two children, Claire 25, and Eli 22
They were together for 41 years

during which time Nick became a mover & shaker
in the musical world of the Cleveland area.

For instance, in recent years he was a partner in the
Beachland Ballroom a prominent music venue
at 15700 Waterloo Road in Cleveland

Nick loved live music, & was an Einstein
of esoteric lore about musicians past and present.

He sent me a 5-CD boxed set of Doo Wop
when he learned the Fugs might record the Clefstones'
1957 hit, "Little Girl of Mine" on our new album

Nick's Leonine Mane

In recent years Nick sported almost a knee-length
Leonine Mane that cascaded down his back—
He told me he was uncomfortable flying with it,
and tried, when possible, to find other travel modes

There's a large photo of Nick arriving at the Waldorf Astoria
for the '03 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony
resplendent with a full back view of his leonine mane
(It's for sale by Getty Images for \$499!!!)

In February of 1991 there were three Special Merit Awards given

at the 33rd Grammy Awards

1. to Bob Dylan, who sang "Masters of War,"
(it was day one of the US invasion of Iraq)
2. to John Lennon, a posthumous lifetime achievement award
3. a "chairman's Merit Award" to Harry Smith

It was a joy to see Harry clamber up the Grammy steps wearing a tuxedo & escorted by Nick Amster. Harry said to the audience "I'm glad to say that my dreams came true— I saw America changed through music."

Always Reaching Out

In his search, Nick reached out to musicians such as Lou Reed after Nick had gone to Velvet Underground performances during visits to NYC & also at the famous Cleveland club called La Cave in 1968 (where also the Fugs performed that same year)

Later in 1993 Nick went to Europe to attend 12 concerts the Velvets performed during a reunion tour

Over the years, Nick and Lou stayed in touch— After Reed had a liver transplant at the Cleveland Clinic in 2013 Nick visited Lou at the Clinic in September of that year for the final time

After seeing Reed that day, Nick headed to a Pere Ubu concert at the Beachland Ballroom

Working with the Fugs

Nick supported a number of Fugs projects, including a 2008 CD, and the May 2017 Fugs Exorcism of the White House, held at the Lincoln Memorial in D.C.

We also talked about a CD project featuring all 22 original Fugs songs recorded at the April 1965 Folkways session in NYC

There were other projects, including a forthcoming Fugs recording featuring songs written for the summer 2019 Fugs reunions in NYC & Woodstock

Nick sent wonderful emails— 35 in the past three years alone, such as when on August 16, 2018 he emailed: "Subject: now, unquestionably, the most significant day of death in American music...

Robert Johnson — 16 August 1938
Elvis Presley — 16 August 1977
Aretha Franklin — 16 August 2018"

He was very sensitive to the Passing of Time.
For my 80th birthday in August 2019
Nick sent huge and lush bouquets of flowers,
enough to fill two vases!

Nick was very supportive of the upcoming
Fugs recording project, & we were
in frequent contact about it

and then his wife Sarah called with
the tragic news of a heart attack
leoning Nick had suffered April 26

and 300 Oi Oi Oi's!!! resounded in the Vale

**Nick Amster, 1965 drummer for the Night of Napalm
& for decades a mover and shaker in Cleveland
and the World.**

All hail!

**Ed Sanders
April 29, 2020**