

Patti Smith Performs at AMM Conference

Wednesday, October 6, 2010
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
9:00pm

Kick off the conference with your friends and colleagues at the Great Lakes Science Center and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. We'll begin with refreshments on the deck of the SS Mather before heading into the Great Lakes Science Center for hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. We'll conclude the evening with a party at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Legendary Rock Artist Patti Smith will perform at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame exclusively for our AMM registrants!



Patti Smith, 2007
© Edward Mapplethorpe

In 1975, Patti Smith—a bohemian New York poet and rock artiste—released her debut album, *Horses*. Its inspired garage-band amateurism flew in the face of increasingly slick rock production values. Smith's lyrics were street poetry that nodded toward Beat Generation and French symbolist poets, as well as literate rockers like Jim Morrison and Lou Reed. *Horses* arrived at a time when rock and roll needed a jolt from its unadventurous rut and upwardly mobile arena-rock pretensions.

Smith was born in Chicago and grew up in southern New Jersey, where she worked a factory job, studied to be a teacher and plotted her escape from an uneventful life via poetry and rock and roll. She fled to New York in 1967, where she worked in bookstores, wrote poetry and hooked up with such fellow art-boho misfits as photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, playwright Sam Sheppard and music scribe Lenny Kaye. (Smith herself would try her hand at rock journalism, writing for such magazines as *Creem* and *Rolling Stone*.) Smith and Kaye brought street poetry and rock guitar together at a memorable 1971 reading in New York.

Smith followed *Horses* with the several critically-acclaimed albums, *Ethiopia* and *Easter*, which yielded the Top 20 hit, *Because the Night*. The song was co-written with Bruce Springsteen, who'd been recording in an adjacent studio, and it furthered Smith's unlikely yet well-deserved conquest of the rock mainstream.

In 1988, Smith resurfaced with *Dream of Life*, which contained the rousing anthem *People Have the Power*. Over the next five years, however, Smith lost a series of close friends and relatives, including her brother Todd, husband Fred, band mate Sohl and fellow artist Mapplethorpe. In 1995, she released the highly personal and elegiac *Gone Again*, on which she eloquently sang of time, loss and mortality. Smith was a pioneer in the punk rock movement and continues to perform. In 2007, Smith was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.