

John Berryman

Poet Description:

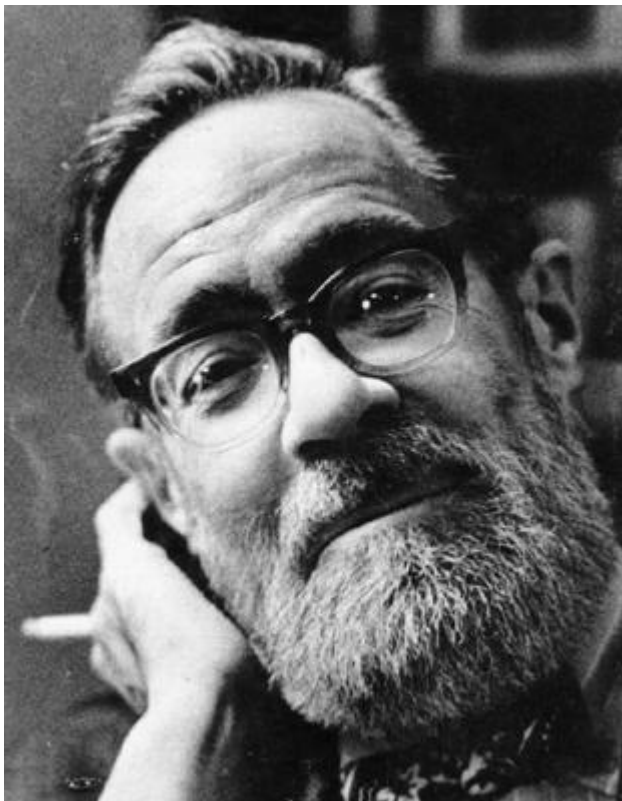
Berryman was born John Smith in McAlester, Oklahoma. At age twelve, after his family had moved to Florida, Berryman's father shot himself to death outside his son's window. His surname comes from his mother's second marriage, after the family moved to New York. Berryman was educated at Columbia and Cambridge Universities and himself became an influential teacher at Harvard, Princeton, and Minnesota. But he struggled with alcoholism and madness throughout his life. In the end, he leapt to his death from a bridge in Minneapolis.

Although he wrote short poems, a long poem and a 385-poem sequence, *Homage to Mistress Bradstreet* (1956) and *The Dream Songs* (1964-1968), are his major achievements. In the later work, Berryman performs, exhibits, and burlesques his psychic struggles and his attitudes toward contemporary culture through a series of personae. Stylistically and rhetorically inventive, they are quite unlike anything else in modern poetry.

Race/Ethnicity:

European ^[1]

Picture:



Gender:

Male ^[2]

Sexuality:

Straight ^[3]

First Name:

John

Last Name:

Berryman

Birth & Death Dates:

Sunday, October 25, 1914 to Friday, January 7, 1972

School of Poetry:

Confessional ^[4]

Birth Place:

McAlester , Oklahoma

United States

See map: Google Maps ^[5]

Oklahoma US

Death Place:

Minneapolis , Minnesota

United States

See map: Google Maps ^[6]

Minnesota US

Group visibility:

Private - accessible only to group members

Source URL: <http://www.modernamericanpoetry.org/poet/john-berryman>

Links

[1] <http://www.modernamericanpoetry.org/category/race-ethnicity/european>

[2] <http://www.modernamericanpoetry.org/category/gender/male>

[3] <http://www.modernamericanpoetry.org/category/sexuality/straight>

[4] <http://www.modernamericanpoetry.org/school-poetry/confessional>

[5] <http://maps.google.com?q=46.880607+-87.363281+%28%2C+McAlester%2C+OK%2C+%2C+us%29>

[6] [http://maps.google.com?q=36.099292+-](http://maps.google.com?q=36.099292+-81.987061+%28%2C+Minneapolis%2C+MN%2C+%2C+us%29)

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