

# Los Angeles Poets as The Beat Generation in "WAITING FOR JACK"

POETRY | NOVEMBER 14, 2012 | BY: YVONNE DE LA VEGA |



from left to right: Larry Rivers, Jack Kerouac, David Amram, Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso (with back to camera)

**Credits:** <http://www.davidamram.com/kerouac.html>

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**“A Poetry (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/poetry>) In Motion Event in an evening of Spoken Word. Produced by Rex Weiner, Michael C. Ford and [Eve Brandstein](http://www.examiner.com/topic/eve-brandstein/articles) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/eve-brandstein/articles>) presenting “WAITING FOR JACK”**

*O Poets! Shamans of the word! When will you recover the trance-like rhythms, the subliminal imagery, the haunting sense of possession, the powerful inflection and enunciation to effect the vision? Throw off this malaise, this evasion, this attitudinizing and sickness of urbanity. Penetrate to the discord in yourself, the rootlessness, and*

*induce the trance that will heal the rift within. Shamanize! Shamanize! The American destiny is in your hands. --William Everson, (Brother Antoninus) Birth of a Poet*

An unforgettable evening of Spoken Word with prominent Los Angeles Poets reading the works of Beat Era Poets in an homage, an invocation of spirits, and a rousing night of live poetry.

In a loose re-enactment of the historic [1955 Six Gallery poetry reading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Gallery_poetry_reading), ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six\\_Gallery\\_reading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Gallery_reading)) a group of local LA poets read favorite poems by Beat Era icons. As they read, they take on the personae of the various poets.

A dramatic situation takes shape as they comment on poetry and political issues of the day. They drink wine, joke around and take swipes at one another, all the while awaiting the arrival of "Jack" (Kerouac), who is always late, and may not show up. Finally, he appears—but not quite in the way anyone expects—bringing the evening to an emotional climax.

Very much like a jazz performance, the 90-minute piece is partly scripted and partly improvised.

The setting is a cool re-creation of the Beat ambiance and the play begins with long time L.A. poets Michael C. Ford and Rex Weiner seated at a café table with a bottle of wine. As they introduce the poets in turn, they also interject commentary while the reality of the present shifts back and forth to the past. As the evening progresses, improvisations add dramatic tension in the display of the poets' intellects as they express disdain or praise of past or current events.

The effect is a shamanistic evocation of the Beat Era, and homage to its heroes, as well as an entertaining night of live poetry.

Waiting For Jack started as a conversation between [Michael C Ford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael>) and [Rex Weiner](http://REX_WEINER_-_The_Local_East_Village_Blog_-_NYTimes.com) ([http://REX WEINER - The Local East Village Blog - NYTimes.com](http://REX_WEINER_-_The_Local_East_Village_Blog_-_NYTimes.com) [eastvillage.thelocal.nytimes.com/tag/rex-weiner/](http://eastvillage.thelocal.nytimes.com/tag/rex-weiner/)) about the [Beat Generation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_Generation) ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat\\_Generation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_Generation)). They thought to make the conversation public and have the work of these writers read by local spoken word artists. They invited writer/director/producer [Eve Brandstein](http://evebrandsteinproductions.com) (<http://evebrandsteinproductions.com>) to join them and help develop the theater event. Two years ago 3 shows were performed at the Short Stop bar and to a full house at Tommy Landau's loft space in Santa Monica.

Since it's beginnings the productions of Waiting For Jack stars a cast that rotates, as do the poets that are conjured up.

This is a must see poetry event - Catch it two nights only! Friday, November 1, 2012 and Friday, December 7 2012 - [TICKETS NOW @eventbrite - \(http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4085810770/efblike\)](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4085810770/efblike)

Scheduled to Appear on November 16:

- SA Griffin as Lawrence Ferlinghetti
- Eve Brandstein as Diane Di Prima
- Peter Harris as LeRoi Jones
- Cheryl Feldman as Hettie Jones

- John Harris as John Thomas
- Richard Modiano as Gregory Corso
- Lisa Thayer as Anne Waldman
- Doug Knott as Charles Bukowski
- Theida Salazar as Bob Kaufman
- Yvonne de la Vega as Janine Pommy Vega
- Dave Alvin as Jack Spicer
- Mark Salerno as Robert Creeley
- Mark Olmstead as Ginsberg

Many of these performers will reprise their roles on December 7, and new poets and performers will be added.

Get your tickets now! Catch it two nights only! Friday, November 16, and Friday, December 7 2012 at Beyond Baroque in Venice, CA.

### We recommend



“We took a healthy baby who came into this world well, and we made him sick.”  
[\(Health & Fitness\)](#)



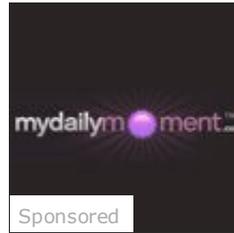
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[?]



#### **Yvonne de la Vega, LA Poetry Examiner**

LA Poet Yvonne de la Vega 's literary works embody the very spirit of the city. Her voice is one of social consciousness, compassion and humor, which often hails the beauty she finds in most every aspect of life. ...