

Jack Hirschman in Vegas!



Above: Jack Hirschman by Marco Cinqu



At the Cafe Trieste, North Beach, San Francisco, 1975. Left to right: Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Minelte Le Blanc, Peter Le Blanc, Allen Ginsberg, Harold Norse, Jack Hirschman & Bob Kaufman. Photo by Diana Church.

On January 21, with the Jewish Film Festival, we will screen *And When I Die, I Won't Stay Dead*, a life of legendary beat poet Bob Kaufman. Former SF Poet Laureate, Jack Hirschman, will moderate a discussion directly following the film. Jack Hirschman is one of American poetry's most prolific translators & activist poets. Hirschman was a friend to Bob Kaufman and is also a fascinating poet. He will also read from his work at Winchester Cultural Center on January 20.

Film Screening & Discussion
Friday, January 20th
 1 - 3:30 p.m.
 Nevada State College
 1300 Nevada State Dr.
 Building 200
 Henderson, NV 89002

Jack Hirschman Reading
Friday, January 20th
 7 - 8:30 p.m.
 Winchester Cultural
 Center
 3130 McLeod Dr.
 Las Vegas, NV 89121

Film Screening & Discussion
Saturday, January 21
 7 - 9:30 p.m.
 Adelson Educational Campus
 9700 Hillpointe Rd.
 Las Vegas, NV 89134





FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

EVENTS: --Reading by poet **Jack Hirschman**, as part of the Poets of National Stature series, and
--Screening of a film based on the life of legendary poet **Bob Kaufman** as part of the
LV Jewish Film Festival, with discussion moderated by **Jack Hirschman**.

WHO: **Jack Hirschman is one of the leading poets of his generation.** A former Poet Laureate of San Francisco, Hirschman still lives in the city's North Beach neighborhood and has been a community activist and poet for over forty years. He has published over 50 books, mostly in limited editions with small presses, as he eschews the modern media machinery. He has been active as a member of the Union of Street Poets. He is one of America's most prolific translators, including Russian, French, German, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Albanian, Yiddish, Vietnamese, Creole, and other languages. Jack is about to release Volume II of *The Arcanes*, a work of longer poems totaling some 1,900 pages that has been compared favorably with Pound's *Cantos* or Joyce's *Ulysses*. He first attracted literary attention when Ernest Hemingway wrote *A Letter to a Young Writer* to Hirschman, then a 19-year-old copy editor with the AP in New York. He was a popular professor at Dartmouth and UCLA until he was fired for anti-war activism in the 1970s.

Bob Kaufman was a major beat poet and activist who died in 1986. Sometimes known as the **Black American Rimbaud**, Kaufman was born to a German-Jewish father and African American mother. A master of surrealist imagery, his writing is lyrical, humorous and full of social commentary. The word "Beatnik" was coined to deride his activist poetics. He was an organizer in New Orleans, Greenwich Village, and in SF's North Beach in the 1950s & 1960s. He was later subjected to involuntary electro-shock in New York and was targeted by a specific police officer in San Francisco for repeated beatings. Bob Kaufman published notable collections during his life, including *Solitudes Crowded With Loneliness* (New Directions), *Golden Sardines* (City Lights) and *The Ancient Rain* (New Directions). The film, *And When I Die, I Won't Stay Dead*, is a journey into Kaufman's life and work created by legendary L.A. Rebellion director, **Billy Woodberry**.

WHEN: **Film Screening:** Friday January 20, 1:00-3:30 p.m. Nevada State College, 1300 Nevada State Dr., Bldg 200, Henderson NV 89002.

Reading by Jack Hirschman: Friday January 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Winchester Community Center, 3130 McLeod Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89102.

Film Screening: Saturday January 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Adelson Educational Campus, 9700 Hillpointe Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89134.

COST: NSC screening, reading, + all students & educators, free. Adelson School screening per LVJFF.

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