

# JAMES MAZZEO



**APRIL 30, 1944 - AUGUST 2, 2022**

*November 23, 2021 - Jim wrote the following to his Campbell High classmates:*

“I’m so very grateful for my family, my up bringing, and Mr. Quigley who recognized a spark of creativity within me; he ignited a burning fire of inspiration and self-belief for me to create a life of dancing with my Muse all these years. My life has been wonderfully full and continues to lure me with a very strong belief that the glass is only half full, the best is yet to come.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!”

Jim

Born in 1944 in the east Bay of Oakland, California, Mazzeo attended the California College of Arts and Crafts. The first day of the New Year, 1967 brought Mazz to Chicago with the 1<sup>st</sup> traveling one-many psychedelic lightshow and band, The West Coast Pop Art Experimental Band. His lights were first called the “American Dream” which changed to the “California Spectrum”.

The major reason behind the change was more booking with California on the posters! Later in '67 he moved to Boston where he designed the lighting and décor for the popular club, “Cross Town Bus”, which served as the prototype for “The Electric Circus,” New York City’s most popular night club for the mid 1960’s. Jim also performed light shows for the most progressive bands of the period, including: The Doors, Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, Moby Grape and Buffalo Springfield. He and Andy Warhol melded their light shows, in a montage, for The Velvet

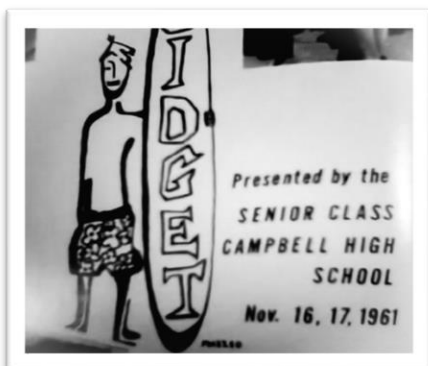
## Underground and Nico.

As a student, Mazzeo was invited to participate in The Living Arts Program at Harvard University's Fogg Museum, under the direction of the Phillip Hoffer. As the culmination of 18 months in the program, Mazzeo executed a series of abstract pen-and-ink drawings. Returned to California in 1969, he resumed his art studies at Canada College, in Woodside.

In 1971 Mazzeo joined the musical force of Neil Young to design and construct sets and costumes for Neil's first feature film, "Journey Through the Past". Mazzeo subsequently has been commissioned by Neil to create many other artistic works, including paintings, sculptures, chandeliers-and metal sculpted fireplace for the singers California ranch. Neil is the largest single collector of Mazzeo's works.

In the late 70's and early 80's, Mazzeo lent his talents to managing bands on world tours, and in 1986 played the "visuals" for Neil Young w/Crazy Horse. His participation in the high energy and intense creativity of the rock music world have honed Mazzeo's creative expression. In this first public showing his work reminds us of nothing that is ordinary or common.

"Mazzeo was befriended and inspired by cultural heroes such as Bill Graham, Ken Kesey, Alan Watts, Varga, Roger Sommers, Gary Synder, PigPen, Steve Mann, Mose Allison, Melvin Belli, Paul Kressner, Lenny Bruce, Lawrence Ferlingetti and others." 1966: "Mazzeo joins his first rock and roll band from Los Angeles. They were called The West Coast Pop-Art Experimental Band. In the process Mazzeo becomes the first one-man psychedelic light show in the United States." - from Mazzeo's website. Mazzeo has befriended and performed with: Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, Paul Butterfield, Jim Morrison and the Doors, the Velvet Underground among others. His long association with Neil Young started in 1971.



In high school he was in the senior play "Gidget" and he designed the Playbill with a drawing of a surfer on the cover (1962) This was Mazzeo's first public art. (Mazzeo also played Malibu Mac in the play).



### **Jim Mazzeo with Neil Young**

James (Jim "Sandy") Mazzeo is well known as the artist for several Neil Young album covers, in particular - **ZUMA**.

Neil Young posted the following on his website

<http://neilyoungnews.thrasherswheat.org/2022/08/james-mazzeo-1944-2022.html>

**UPDATED:** Statement by [Neil Young via NYA](#):

8-4-22

The artist Mazzeo, my old friend of 52 years, passed away Tuesday morning August 2nd. He was my life friend.

A great artist, Mazzeo defined what it is to be dedicated to your work. We had so many wonderful times together in our 52 years of friendship. Mazz was one of the first friends I made after moving to Broken Arrow Ranch in September 1970, settling there for years, and raising a family.

Mazzeo created the album cover for Zuma, the Greendale sets and internal artwork for both the Greendale live and film productions as well as countless other projects we did. He played Earl Green in the Greendale film.

‘The Artist Perspective,’ one of the many things we did together, will continue in the Times Contrarian. The latest piece I recently acquired from Mazz will be hanging in our new home down in the Southland. Always the artist, Mazz was dedicated,

continuing to paint throughout his time here on Earth. He was wonderful in the way he approached his art and life!

Love you Mazz and we will all really miss you.

love

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Jim's good friend Jack Schraub class of 61 passed away July 26, 2022, seven days before Jim's passing. Someone commented that Jack was saving Jim a seat next to him at the bar...

Jack's obituary is below and

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/santacruzsentinel/name/john-schraub-obituary?id=36217360&fbclid=IwAR0zFIL329FIjzAmVsZI5iREeyRbzmFZ9GhD6vbxVNiWZ57wJ2BlvJ6sEc>