

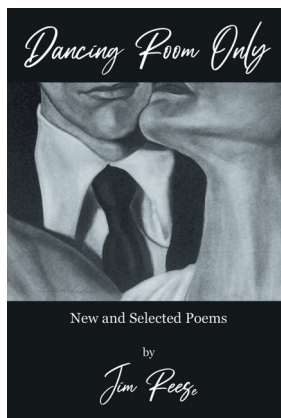
# Press Release

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**NYQ Books™ Announces the Forthcoming Publication of**

***Dancing Room Only: New and Selected Poems***

**by Jim Reese**



August 30, 2023 - Beacon, NY - *Dancing Room Only* is a wild romp into the forgotten center of our people. With his signature rollicking style, a keen sense of humor, and an acute ear for dialect and voice, Reese archives the sinners and saints that haunt the Midwest and beyond. Author Kent Meyers writes of Reese's work: "In these poems, ordinary life with its children and neighbors crackles like a mirage, and shifts and opens, and we find we've been all along in San Quentin prison. What is it we just saw?—a five-year-old child swinging on the monkey bars, or a tattooed convict, crying? Reese's eye is the eye of a father, and he finds his world both alien and comforting. These are poems of praise and poems of warning, infused with love and latent violence. Reese makes us feel the threat throbbing inside the song." In *Dancing Room Only—New and Selected Poems* Reese is a well-traveled troubadour with Midwestern sensibility, and as the author of three widely-praised books of poetry, he knows how to blow our hearts sideways.

Previous Praise for Jim Reese

Jim Reese... He's our Mark Twain of this century... —Grace Cavalieri, from the Poet and the Poem at the Library of Congress

We call it the heartland but we seldom drop by for a visit. Jim Reese catches the dying fire of the small town wasteland that staggers on with meth, desire, and neglect. These loving poems open the door to the real little house on the prairie. Time to step inside and finally have one honest moment with the forgotten center of our people."

—Charles Bowden, author of *Murder City: Ciudad Juarez and the Global Economy's New Killing Fields*

...Reese is an eloquent tour guide, a smart, soft-hearted, wise-cracking Virgil in a land of lonely miles and piercing beauty.

—George Bilgere, author of *Imperial*

No other poet I can think of captures the Anglo-American Midwest dialect like Jim Reese. The ambling, sometimes hesitant cadences, the clever self-deprecating sayings, the gentle inflections, the pitch-perfect, barely smiling comic take... To enter this book is to be quietly swept into an existential imagination that's modest, wry, agrarian—and of our time.

—Kevin Clark, author of *Self-Portrait with Expletives*

Jim Reese finds poetry everywhere—in emails; on bumper stickers; on skin; in bowling alleys and bars; in classrooms; in prisons; and in classrooms in prisons—and we're lucky that he's sharing it with us in this wry, compassionate collection...

—Jim Daniels author of *Having a Little Talk with Capital P Poetry*

He is the quintessential American poet, one to be admired and read again and again.

—Maria Mazziotti Gillan, American Book Award winner

Jim Reese is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota. Reese's poetry and prose have been widely published, and he has presented at venues throughout the country, including the Library of Congress and San Quentin Prison. Reese's awards include a 2022 Distinguished Teaching Award from Mount Marty University, First Place Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award, a Distinguished Achievement Award from Mount Marty University, and a Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of his exemplary dedication and contributions to the Education Department at Federal Prison Camp Yankton. His books include *These Trespasses*, *ghost on 3rd*, and *Really Happy!* His first book of nonfiction, *Bone Chalk*, was published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press in 2019; paperback released in 2021.



by Saralyn D Photo