

Erik Estrada  
stands like an idol  
in the doorway  
a rubberized lava  
good luck charm  
with rhinestone eyes  
and a mane of tamed hair  
he smiled  
his Erik Estrada smile  
while waving bad spirits away  
and welcoming customers.

Erik Estrada  
stands like an icon  
in the doorway  
smiling warmly  
at those who recognized him  
even more so  
at those who should.  
There ought to be a disco ball  
or some Donna Summer playing  
but the 21st century  
wouldn't allow it.  
Instead perhaps  
a green screen  
so Erik Estrada  
could stand  
before the Ponderosa  
or the four-oh-five

Erik Estrada  
stands in the doorway  
monumentally  
like an anachronism  
a celebrity father  
accepting his role  
greeting passers-by  
between "Daddy can I"s  
and "Sure sweetheart"s  
a polyester amalgam  
of Easter Island  
and Vidal Sassoon.

He could have been  
Captain Kirk  
if Star Trek

# ERIK ESTRADA

was ten years younger  
or he could be Governor  
if he was ever discontent.  
But Poncherello  
stands in the doorway  
unaffected by time  
or disappointment  
making purchases  
with the tab of his smile  
yes  
his teeth have their own credit score  
and it's good.

Erik Estrada  
erected a force field  
kind of like a bubble  
once he decided to leave.  
You just wanted to touch him  
or shake his hand  
or just say  
"aren't you that guy?"  
but they would bounce off him  
like Superman  
if Ma and Pa Kent  
lived in Rio Piedra

Erik Estrada stands  
there in the doorway  
a totem of nostalgia  
impervious  
as a cigar store indian  
allowing disco balls  
and Donna Summer  
bell bottoms and gold chains  
to come in from the cold  
before putting the seventies  
back in his pocket  
like a dayglo rabbit's foot  
he rubs to erase  
the gray of the now  
leaving in the wake of his presence  
the scent of Robert Stigwood  
strawberry mousse and sequins.

# JAMES MAVERICK



A former victim of cult-leader jokes and quips, James (Jim) Jones looked to resuscitate his acting and stand-up aspirations by using a stage name. Since then, James (Boomer!) Maverick, from his roots in stage work and improvisational comedy, found an appreciation and love of poetry that has fixed him within the Southern California poetry community for over twenty years. His readings in Hollywood, the San Fernando Valley and Redondo Beach have been featured in the Los Angeles Times, the LA Weekly and Los Angeles Reader, as well as the Hollywood Reporter and W Magazine. James has been a contributor to the arts publications Next... and (Sic) Vice and Verse, and regular guest poet in the Upward Bound program at Occidental College. Currently, James is co-curator (with Dori Marler) of the Poetry Fix, a reading series in the San Fernando Valley, and producer/host of The 9th Level, an internet radio talk show promoting and nurturing independent music, spoken word and the visual arts. James' work has been published in Onyx: Spoken Word and The Moment. His second book of poetry, Heretic, is scheduled for release in summer 2012.