

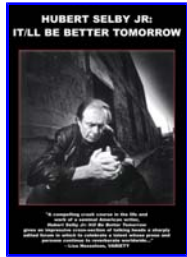
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“It’s not a matter of who’s going to let us, it’s who’s going to stop us?”

[DVD Review - Hubert Selby Jr.](#)

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DVD Review – Hubert Selby Jr.

It'll Be Better Tomorrow

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A scream without a face is an apt title for an article on Hubert Selby Jr. as the *Scream* is his novels and short stories in which he unleashed his demons on the world. He even authored a novel called *Demon*, which is classified in the horror genre.

Like all great writers who challenge literary traditions and devices, Selby is mainly admired as a writer and also as a person; an admirable trait in someone who the system abused for years by such rebel rousers as author Richard Price, and other notables such as Lou Reed, Henry Rollins, Nick Toches and actors Robert Downey Jr., Jared Leto and Ellen Burstyn.

This recent documentary *It'll Be Better Tomorrow* encapsulates and demystifies a man who seems easy to categorize as just another writer who is writing about such human vices as drugs, whores, booze, and life on the mean streets. In real life, most writers who have experienced life's crushing blows would perhaps be, cynical bastards, but not our Selby. According to his contemporaries, he was in a nice guy and a real gentleman.

Selby, like Cormac McCarthy, another favorite of mine, turns literary tradition on its ass as he eschews grammatical conventions such as periods, commas and typical sentence structure for example, in contractions, he never used apostrophes, instead using the slash - very symbolic of his life. Selby through his insight, kindness and dramatic use of language can change lives.

They changed his life.

By [William Roberts](#)

Hubert Selby Jr. On Film:

- *Requiem for a Dream*
- *Last Exit To Brooklyn*

DVD Extras include: Over three hours of interviews with Hubert Selby Jr., literary critic Michael Silverblatt and “*Last Exit To Brooklyn*” director Uli Edel

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