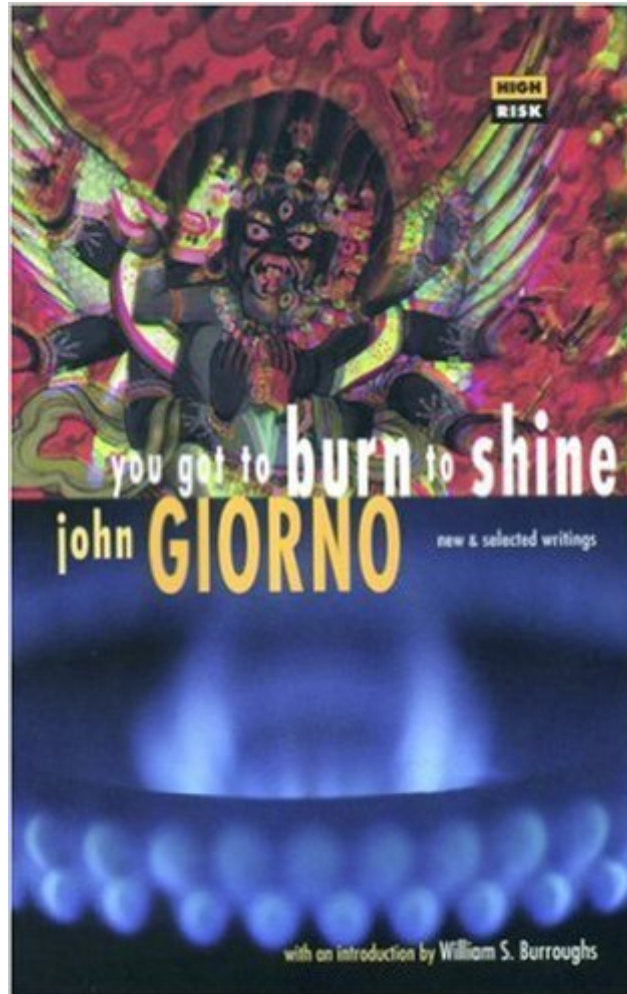


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You Got To Burn To Shine: New And Selected Writings (High Risk Books)



Synopsis

The originator of Spoken Word and performance poetry, John Giorno is one of the most influential figures in the world of contemporary performance. *You Got to Burn to Shine*, his first book in many years, collects intensely rhythmic, sexual and philosophical poetry spanning two decades. Here, too, are deeply personal memoirs, including the story of his friendship with Andy Warhol (Giorno had an occasionally sexual relationship with Warhol, met his mother, and starred in Warhol's first film *Sleep*); an anonymous sexual encounter with Keith Haring, an aspiring painter who recognized Giorno in a subway station toilet; and notes toward a Buddhist understanding of death in the age of AIDS.

Book Information

Series: High Risk Books

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

John Giorno is one of the finest spoken word poets in New York City. He is also quite adept at getting the word down on paper, too. *You Got to Burn to Shine* is a great collection of poems. It even includes an introduction by William S Burroughs. Giorno writes poetry from the gut. It is free verse that swings with intensity. if you like a snifter of realism in your poetry then this book is for you. Giorno writes with a hard nosed frankness that is both poignant and refreshing without being overbearing. Poems like *Stretching it Wider* and *(Last Night) I Gambled With My Anger and Lost* are classic free verse. I read this collection with great delight.

I found this book to be powerful and truthful. The context and the language were delicate machines portaying the life of the author. It should not be read by anyone with a closed mind.

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