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Book Review - Capricorn Rising: Conversations in Southern Rock

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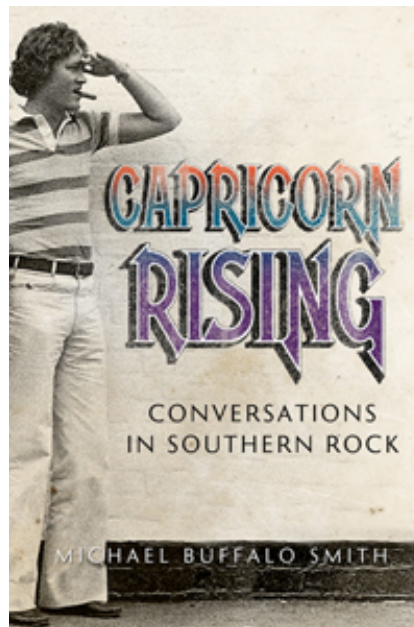
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Off the SHELF

Capricorn Rising: Conversations in Southern Rock by Michael Buffalo Smith; forward by Willie Perkins (Mercer University Press, 2016: ISBN 9780881465785, \$24.00)

Capricorn Rising is a nonfiction work transcribing a decade of interviews conducted by Michael Buffalo Smith. Smith is a musician and journalist who has spent years chronicling southern rock. He is author of *Rebel Yell: An Oral History of Southern Rock* and *Prisoner of Southern Rock: A Memoir*. Additionally, he was the creator and publisher of *Gritz Magazine* and currently publishes an online magazine named *Kudzo*. Throughout this career, Smith had the opportunity to have regular and close contact with southern musicians. This access is openly shared with the reader of *Capricorn Rising* without a filter of interpretation thanks to the transcribed interview format.



The book is organized around the Southern Rock label of Capricorn Records. Capricorn was in its peak in the 1970s. Capricorn represented The Allman Brothers Band, The Marshall Tucker Band, The Charlie Daniels Band, Wet Willie, and many more. The individuals interviewed represent many of these bands and their producers. The interviews are organized loosely by band allowing for plenty of crossover as the musicians flow through bands.

The book has a table of contents and an index to assist in researching particular topics. The foreword is written by Willie Perkins, tour manager for The Allman Brothers Band. In the introduction, Smith states that his intent is to

provide “education and appreciation of southern music, and maybe make you smile or even laugh.” The book achieves this goal of being both educational and entertaining. It is appropriate for those conducting research and also those who are interested in entertainment. Because the format is transcribed interviews, there is not additional context provided for understanding. The raw format of the materials further assists researchers in collection of information. This makes the book most appropriate for those with a general interest or experience in southern rock so as to already have a foundation. However, those with an interest will still enjoy the information with the benefit of some external research tools.

The value in the format is the ability to view significant events from a variety of perspectives. For example, there is a discussion about various band members leaving The Allman Brothers Band. In this instance, there is the description of the situation by the member that left as well as the remaining members. This gives the opportunity for fans to have an inside view of those events.

This book is appropriate for both public and academic libraries. It will be enjoyed by fans of music, southern rock, Georgia history, and pop culture. This year's summer reading theme for Georgia public libraries is Libraries Rock. This book would make a perfect selection to engage adults in summer reading.

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