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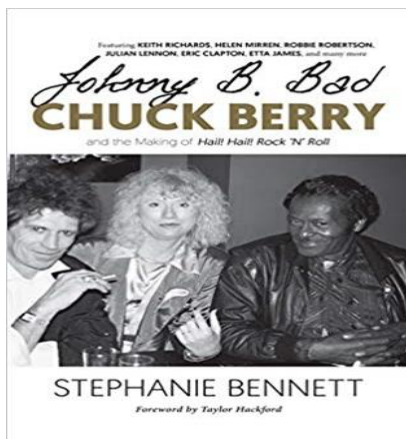
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**New Book Details the Incredible Behind-the-Scenes Story of the Classic Rock and Roll Documentary “Chuck Berry: Hail! Hail! Rock and Roll”**

*Author Stephanie Bennett Recalls Her Outrageous Encounters with a Rock Legend in Johnny B. Bad: Chuck Berry and the Making of Hail! Hail! Rock ‘N’ Roll*

LOS ANGELES, 2019, Ca., Mar. 1, 2019 - In her new book, *Johnny B. Bad: Chuck Berry and the Making of Hail! Hail! Rock ‘N’ Roll*, author Stephanie Bennett pulls back the curtain to reveal the complete story of the making of 1987’s seminal music documentary *Chuck Berry: Hail! Hail! Rock ‘N’ Roll*, which followed the legend during two star-studded concerts celebrating his sixtieth birthday.

Set to be released on March 18, 2019, the book (\$20.72, hardcover, Rare Bird Books, available on Amazon.com), combines interviews from the film’s participants, including its music director—Keith Richards. These unique interviews and accounts paint a vivid and multifaceted picture of the artist.

*Johnny B. Bad: Chuck Berry and the Making of Hail! Hail! Rock ‘N’ Roll* reveals in unfiltered detail, a man who was at once a witty, articulate genius, now widely considered the godfather of rock and roll; a shrewd businessman, who had no trouble endlessly renegotiating contracts and refusing to perform until additional cash was gathered up; and also a convicted criminal, who in

addition to serving time in prison for transporting a minor across state lines for “immoral purposes” had also been accused of sexual assault and sued in civil court for installing cameras in the restroom of the Southern Air, a restaurant he owned in Wentzville, Missouri.

Bennett, a founder of Delilah Books, the first publisher of rock and roll books, including the bestselling biography of Bruce Springsteen's early career, *Born to Run*, has produced many critically acclaimed music and concert documentaries, including *The Compleat Beatles*, the first rockumentary on VHS to sell over one million copies. However, she admits working with Chuck Berry presented unexpected challenges. “Nothing prepared me for this. After making this film, we all said nothing could ever be as difficult as making “Hail! Hail! Rock and Roll”.

One particularly disturbing and revealing incident captured in the book, describes a visit Berry and the production team made to Alcoa State Prison, where at the age of 18 he served three years for robbery and auto theft. [Bennett describes what happened](#) when female members of the team came under violent attack after Berry drove his car into the middle of the prison yard.

*I don't remember seeing any guards at that point, which is very strange. What happened is that, at the same time I think we realized, “holy shit, we're in a prison, and we are basically completely vulnerable,” so we started running. They caught up with us and two of these prisoners grabbed me. One had one arm and another had the other arm, and there was a hand on my crotch, and literally I felt like I was being tugged apart by these two men”. Berry brushed off the attack admitting, Well, I know what it's like for prisoners who've been in jail without seeing a woman, so I figured I'd give them a treat.*

Bennett also describes Berry's frustrations over her refusal to give in to his sexual overtures:

*I was flattered he chose me as his producer but later came to realize he thought I was part of the deal and if he couldn't have me then he would get as much money as he possibly could”.*

You can view clips of Stephanie talking about the book at [www.johnnybbadbook.com](http://www.johnnybbadbook.com). In addition, below are selected clips of Stephanie discussing the book.

[Nothing Prepared Me for This Movie](#)

[How Would Chuck Feel About This Book](#)

[Made other films / No once could have predicted this would be such a nightmare](#)

**About Stephanie Bennett**

Stephanie Bennett's association with the music business started in the 1970s with the creation of Delilah Books, the first publisher of rock and roll books, including the bestselling biography of Bruce Springsteen's early career, *Born to Run*. In the early 1980s, she created Delilah Films, where she produced many critically acclaimed music and concert documentaries, including *The Compleat Beatles*, the first rockumentary on VHS to sell over one million copies, *The Everly Brothers Reunion Concert*, *Roy Orbison: A Black and White Night*, *Joni Mitchell: Woman of Heart and Mind*, *The Beach Boys: Endless Harmony*, and *Chuck Berry: Hail! Hail! Rock 'N' Roll*. In total she has produced over thirty films. She resides in Los Angeles.

### **About Rare Bird**

Founded in 2010 by former independent booksellers, Rare Bird is a Los Angeles–based independent publisher of fifty books a year, specializing in fiction, nonfiction, memoir, entertainment, humor, politics, and current events. Rare Bird authors and books have won the PEN Center USA Fiction Award, the Pulitzer Prize, the 800-CEO-READ's Best Marketing Book of the Year Award, and have been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Guardian*, and *the Los Angeles Times*, among many others.

For interview requests please contact:

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