



My other review this week is a book review. Many blues fans are familiar with **Robert Mugge**, the filmmaker who's responsible for some of the best documentaries on blues, jazz, Louisiana music, gospel and soul in the past five decades. Among those works are *Deep Blues*, *Last of the Mississippi Juke*, *Pride and Joy: The Story of Alligator Records*, *Hellhounds on My Trail: The Afterlife of Robert Johnson*, *Blues Breaks*, *Blues Divas*, *A Night at Club Ebony*, *Deep Sea Blues*, *All Jams on Deck*, *Big Shoes: Walking and Talking the Blues*, *Deep Roots*, *The Art and Music of Bill Steber and Friends*, and *Elvin Bishop's Raisin' Hell Revue*. Mugge has also done films on Sun Ra, Sonny Rollins, and the formidable Creole and Zydeco music scenes in Louisiana, plus the moving *New Orleans Music in Exile*, about the city's musicians and music scene recovering from the double whammy of Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Mugge's latest book is [Quotes from the Road: The Wit and Wisdom of American Musicians](#) (The Sager Group), which features excerpts from 150 of the interviews that he conducted during the making of his films. Many of the discussions are items that were not heard in the films, so there's lots of new info if you've seen the films already. The book is divided into 25 chapters, each addressing a different theme, such as beginnings, family traditions, struggles with recording and touring, musical styles and techniques, favorite performances and venues, and songwriting. Other topics discussed include racism, politics, and dealing with adversity in daily life and with their careers.

All of the subjects are worth reading about, but blues fans will enjoy the interviews with Lonnie Brooks and his son Ronnie, Lil' Ed Williams, Koko Taylor, Katie Webster, Marcia Ball, Robert Lockwood Jr., Roy Rogers, Willie Coffee (friend of Robert Johnson), Vasti Jackson, Chris Thomas King, Bobby Rush, Little Milton, Willie King, Deborah Coleman, Denise LaSalle, Odetta, Ann Peebles, Irma Thomas, Mavis Staples, Otis Clay, Tommy Castro, Kim Wilson, Buckwheat Zydeco, Elvin Bishop, Ted Drozdowski, R.L. Hulsman, Larry McCray, Coco Montoya, Lee Oskar, Jimmy Thackery, Rev. Billy C. Wirtz, and other contributors. The interviews with Al Green, Willie Mitchell, Sun Ra and Sonny Rollins are also fascinating, along with artists like Boozoo Chavis, John Delafosse, Beau Jocque, Nathan Williams Sr. and Jr., Corey Ledet, Rosie Ledet, Lawrence "Black" and Sean Ardoin, and Major Handy, and the entire chapter on recovering from Katrina is recommended reading.

Mugge always brings the best out of his interview subjects. They always feel so comfortable talking to him and it actually feels like these artists are talking directly to you. I have to admit that I read this book in only a few sittings. It was that interesting and compelling. If you are a fan of these styles of music, then you will probably find yourself enthralled with its contents as well.