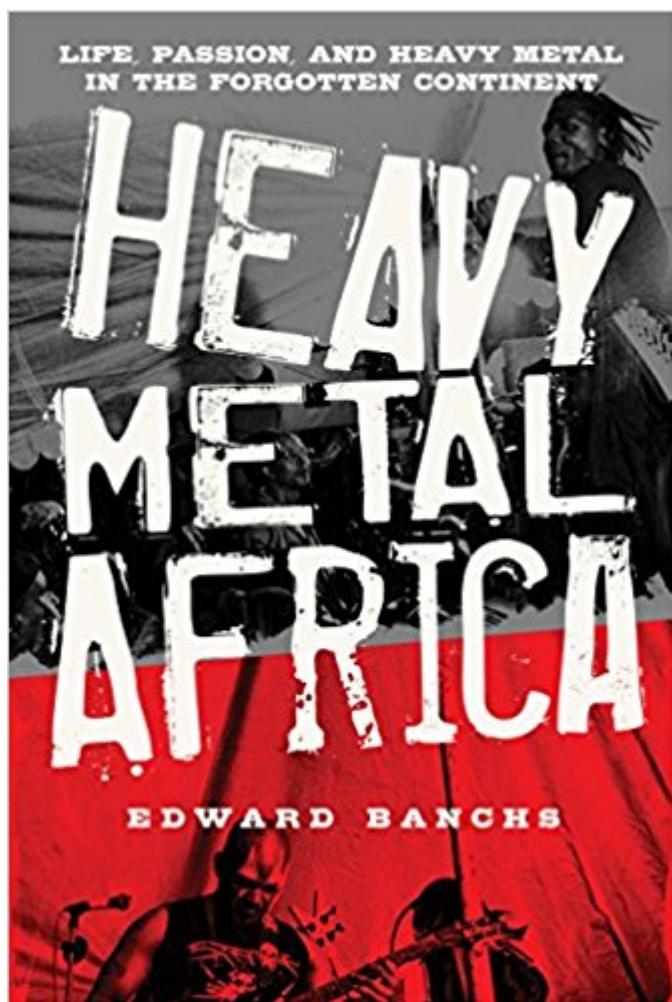


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# Heavy Metal Africa: Life, Passion, And Heavy Metal In The Forgotten Continent



## Synopsis

A sightseeing trip in southern Africa in 2007 opened the author's eyes to an uncharted music scene in an unexpected place: rock and metal, alive and raging in the forgotten continent. Sparked by his own love of heavy music and an insatiable wanderlust, Edward Banchs travels throughout South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion and Zimbabwe meeting the musicians and fans who, working with varying degrees of infrastructure and resources, pursue this music with a drive and passion recognizable to metal fans anywhere in the world. From cafes in Madagascar to quiet, dusty towns in the middle of the Kalahari, Edward seeks to understand exactly how the musicians live and struggle while experiencing the passion of rock and metal in Africa for himself. Along the way, he discovers the Africa he never learned about in books, leaves one country in tears, avoids fisticuffs with someone convinced he was spreading Satanism, visits Africa's largest slum, contracts malaria, and even makes a bit of history in the process. All in the name of heavy metal! With a scholar's curiosity and a headbanger's enthusiasm, Edward sheds light on the history, accomplishments and aspirations of African metal bands living their passions, and defining their generation the only way they know how: loudly.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Who knew that Africa had a thriving heavy metal audience? Edward Banchs knew. He's able to convey some of its messy, thunderous glory here." -Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "Heavy Metal Africa" is an easy-to-pick-up read with strong detail and impact. Its ability to open minds to a world many do not think about every day is not just powerful, it's important." -New Noise

Magazine" (Banchs') journey details a continent caught in a tug ofwar between its troubled past and an ambitious present." - Metal Hammer "A brilliant take on not just an overlooked metal culture but a continent that is often forgotten or marginalized." - Decibel.com "Heavy Metal Africa digs deep into what makes Africa's metal bands unique." -Noisey-Vice "Hard to put down." - Pittsburgh City Paper "A superb book. Heavy Metal Africa is a ground breaking and important work." - Metal-Rules.com "Heavy Metal Africa tells of unusual adventures in a most unusual place." - Medium.com "Banchs crafts a map of sorts, a deep dive into what the stories of the bands and fans feel like." - Afropunk.com "A fascinating and important book that delves into the metal scene in a place that most fans are not familiar with." - Heavy Music HQ.

Edward Banchs holds an MA in African Studies from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. His research on rock and metal in Africa has been featured in several publications, including The Guardian, O Globo, This Is Africa, and FactsMag. A lifelong metalhead, he lives in Pittsburgh, PA, where he is planning his next African adventure.

Edward Banchs passion for Africa emerges in the opening pages of Heavy Metal Africa. Banchs is classically trained and crosses into cultural commentary with verve and a compelling narrative thread. Banchs does not bury the reader in trivia. The concept of black leather and dog collars in some of the poorest, warmest, and wettest places in the world is riveting. Banchs first person narrative captures the commitment to art that organically links young people to like minded others in their society, across the continent, and around the planet. This commitment and these Heavy Metal communities are durable, as Banchs amply demonstrates. Public diplomacy in the 21st Century is marked by governments seeking influence, access, and support using the full array of tools available to them. Paying attention to important trends that originate in the West from milieu that encourage tolerance, liberalism, and free expression should be required of foreign service and ministry of foreign affairs officers from the liberal democracies. The West has a comparative advantage in Heavy Metal. This new book should be required reading for professional or aspiring Africanists, or anyone seeking to understand Africa.

Wonderful book! This book is for everyone, not only heavy metal lovers. It's a very well written book in which the author describes all his experiences lived while interviewing heavy metal musicians in different countries of Africa. It also gives the reader a picture of the different countries he visited, the

way people live and also a little bit on the historical side.

This is an outstanding book that takes the reader on a journey few would have had the guts to take. Banchs describes his visits to several African nations, during which he explores the impact of heavy metal and rock music on the cultures. The work is exceptionally well-written and is compelling regardless of one's taste in music.

Well written. Amazing, adventurous and self-reliant life experiences! So interesting that reader wants to continue perusing. Who knew Heavy Metal existed in Africa?

Just Awesome! We want another!

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