changes required to achieve sustainability as a species. Political movements such as the Arab Springs, Idle No More, and political corruption are referenced, but also with hope that these issues can be resolved. The musical style is a heavier rock than the previous efforts and more consistent with this genre, with the exception of the closing 'Three Cups of Tea' which serves as an anthem track," explains Jim.

The album producer Ben Leggett (Juno award nominee) met with the band at Jim's rural home and was inspired by the acoustic potential of the open concept floor plan and cathedral ceiling. "Shortly afterwards arrangements were made to have the producer's mobile recording studio set up in the home and six weeks of recording followed," says Jim. The material was then mixed at his permanent studio location and the final mixed product was sent to Lacquer Channel Mastering in Toronto to complete the mastering process. The entire project took the guys about six months to complete including the development of artwork and reproduction.

One of the things that set this album apart from previous releases is the time and effort spent from start to completion and Jim feels the song writing has improved, as the content has become more intricate. "The band has grown more cohesive as time goes by and the album is also more thematic than previous efforts with more emphases on production and overall sound. It is an album that is the result of a continued effort to achieve something closer to what was imagined at the onset. Also the inclusion of guest musicians Cameron Armstrong on keyboards and JT Beauchamp on trumpet and flugal horn was a great addition to many tracks," he explains.

Playing music live as any musician will attest to will offer an endless supply of anecdotes, but a recent gig on a cruise ship offers an occurrence that stands out for Jim and the band. "The cruise was in June at the height of shadfly season and the shadfly is a local phenomenon in which millions of larvae hatch from the lake and take flight toward the nearest light source. We were playing on the top open air deck and once the sun had set, we had to turn on our stage lights. We immediately became covered with these large, although thankfully harmless flies and then proceeded to play one of our favourite crowd pleasers from our first CD known as the 'Shadfly Shuffle'. The song choice could never have seemed more appropriate, to the delight of the crowd," he smiles.

For the future, the core of the band will continue to rehearse regularly and Jim will endeavour to write new material based on whatever the muses of life presents. "The opportunities for the band appears to be ever increasing which means there seems to be no slowing down for the group in the near future, the future is positive," he concludes. Check the band out at www.jhoustonband.com

From Spain, we find rock band **THE ELECTRIC BUFFALO**, who have a groovy hard edged new eight track CD out now called 'Keepin' It Warm' that runs in at just under thirty five minutes long and is the band's second full release and is an album that surges with energy, swagger and groove coupled with a little funk for that classic rock blues vibe

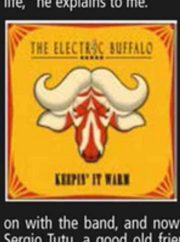
Having dealt with band member tragedy already at this early stage in their career, with the sad loss of original bass player Alejandro Espina, the lads find themselves pressing forward with deep heavy hearts, these guys live for music and when you listen to the album you will hear that The Electric Buffalo are a fun passionate band, they love what they do. The guys are: Alvaro Bárcena - guitars and vocals, Alejandro Blanco - bass guitar, Wilón DeCalle drums and baking vocals with recording guests José Ramón Feito - keyboards and Angel Ruiz - banjo. Sergio Tutu has also recently joined the band on bass guitar.

Guitarist and vocalist Alvaro Bárcena has always loved the music as an expression vehicle, and of course as an amusement and he finds that having fun is the principal reason to play music, that's absolutely true for me. "People who care about money or prestige don't last too long in the business 'cos it's very hard to maintain a band's life, especially if it's not a cover band," he tells me. "And we must not forget about the ladies," he adds with a smile. . Alvaro started playing guitar trying to be

more successful which did not work out for him in teenage years. At the very beginning, guitar was a r obsession for him and he could play for hours and ho every single day, and when he wasn't playing he was j talking about music, instruments, bands and so with friends. Alvaro started playing when he was fifteen a somehow, his life changed in so many ways.

Alvaro got into rock music at the age of thirte and he used to listen to Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, E Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, and a long list of all those g rock names and legends. He remember that he w a little die-hard at that time and he used to say th that the music he listened to wasn't 'his music' was o waste music. "I think that happened to all of us, we w just stupid teenagers," he tells me. "Of course, late opened my mind and now I'm a very eclectic person. T fact is that nowadays, I'm usually looking to the ot side of the Atlantic Ocean, I mean, American music, only southern rock, but rock, folk and, even sometin classic country music. I love 'Gov't Mule' job, they m a perfect mix between classic and modern rock, they incredible musicians, but they are not boring and it see to me that they always give priority to the songs bef his virtuosity. On the other side, one of my favourite gu players of all times and one of my greatest influen was in this side of the ocean, Rory Gallagher," he add

Alvaro is a full time musician and performs in seve bands or so, sometimes as a creator and sometimes j as a guitar player. He now has two children which le him with little time for other activities. "I really like play with the children, maybe because I'm still one them, and love having some beers with my friends a seeing live shows. The other things are just the thi that everybody likes to do, I'm a quite common guy, go to the cinema, reading a good book or so, nothing out the ordinary indeed, rock star times are far away fr me! I love what I do until the point that I don't know can do something apart from music, it is simply a way life," he explains to me.



The band is n recovering from a big lo their original bass pla Alejandro Espina, sa passed away two we before the album relea "We were almost b brothers so it was v hard to assume for u he says with emptine After a prudential ti the guys decided to on with the band, and now they have a new memb Sergio Tutu, a good old friend of the band. "The o thing that I can say about the band is that is a hon band, we play every note with the whole heart and are always serving the song, that means that for us song is the most important thing, and each note we p is just looking for a final result on that direction. I kn that we're not going to invent the wheel, but we alw do our best," he enthuses.

The band's new album 'Keepin' it warm' is th second album and their debut 'Hidin' from the butch was a very 'low cost' album which has since sold out. someone is interested he can find it on our bandca site," says Alvaro. This new album is full of rock, Americ rock, but it's quite diverse in this style, you will find ei tracks full of riffs, blues based guitars and classic soun but with a quite modern production. "I think that peo who like that kind of music will appreciate it, I wo like to stress that all the album artwork was made Wilón, our drummer! yes! Even some drummers ha their sensitive/artistic side," he tells me.

The album was recorded at two different locations the bands hometown of Oviedo. First of all they recor drums and bass guitars simultaneously in Ecli Studios. The reason is very simple, drummer Wilón re loves the sound of the drums in this studio and Ecli Studios is also the band's rehearsal place, so it felt l home for them during the recording process. All the r of the instruments were recorded at Distrito Federal wonderful studio in an inspirational place on a hill n the city. "Dani Sevillano was the producer; he is the m we trust! All the process took us a lot of time; I can't you exactly how much it was, but several months. It w complicated because all buffalo members we have a of bands and are always up and down and it's difficult us to be in the same place at the same time, but we ha been always convinced of what we had in our hands a we put efforts to bring it to light," he explains.

Alvaro remember's that the band once played a above a track trailer, for a bikers party. "That was fun," smiles. "I remember myself, younger than now, playin fantastic guitar solo on my knees on the floor, and wh I raised my head all the girls in the place were staring the other guitar player…. and yes, he was much m handsome than me. Once we recorded a promotio video in a real brothel, with all the girls just wonder what the fuck we were doing there, dressed w

expensive suits and with briefcases full of fake money…. that was very funny too! But I prefer to tell you all these stories, and more, with a beer in front of us," he smiles.

The band are recovering from their loss and will carry Alejandro within their hearts. "Once met by the challenge we will try to continue with our lives and hit the road, do what we love and defend our new brand album in live shows as far as we can get. Of course I'm already planning to concentrate as soon as possible and start making new songs, fresh material, because is what we need to feel alive. I like to think that Alejandro is somewhere, drinking a beer with his eternal smile and encouraging us to continue with the band under the threat of kick our ass. I'm sure there will be 'buffalo steak' for a long time," he concludes.

Check The Electric Buffalo out at www.facebook.com/TheElectricBuffalo// http://theelectricbuffalo.bandcamp.com

From Dubai we find groove rockers **BULL FUNK ZOO** who have recently released a catchy hard rocking, grove based eight track CD out now called 'Dangerous Radio', which runs in at just under thirty minutes long. Bull Funk Zoo is: Assaad Lakkis aka: Bull Funk Zoo – vocals/lead and rhythm guitars, who recorded, wrote, produced and performed all the parts on the new album 'Dangerous Radio' and his current live band line up: Assaad Lakkis aka: Bull Funk Zoo – vocals/lead and rhythm guitars, Alan Short – bass, Josh Bannister on drums.

Singer and guitarist Assaad Lakkis loved music since he was really young, it was all the sounds, melodies, rhythms and sonics that triggered something in him. Somehow he unconsciously knew that he wanted to be a part of it. There was a lot of motown, James brown, Earth Wind & Fire, blues playing around the house which rubbed off on him. One day, during that period of his childhood, a Kiss concert came on TV which blew Assaad away. "The whole aspect of playing the living hell out of the guitar turned me on, and that it is where it really started," he explains to me.

In his teens he was introduced to Metallica, Megadeth, Anthrax, Rage Against the Machine, The Chili Peppers and the whole grunge movement, and he decided to put his skateboard down and take music seriously. He was always intrigued by song writing, singing melodies and re arranging existing; it was something he always did. "There were so many ideas and melodies through my head, that I needed a medium to express it on, and what more of an amazing instrument than the guitar," he says. At sixteen he bought his first axe, working mad hours pumping gas and being a grease monkey in a petrol station to earn enough money to get that piece of wood with strings which later changed his life.

Assaad's musical inspirations have been varied throughout the years and he loves Frank Zappa, James Brown, Steve ray Vaughn, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Rage Against The Machine, Tom Waits, Steve Vai, The Police, Megadeth, Miles Davis, John Scofield and many more. The inspiration behind the album and the songs are about what the state of the world is in socially. "I really needed to say something about that in this album. We are so caught up in this rat race; the false information media feeds us, and consumerism. A lot of us have lost our sense of direction, what we as individuals are all about and what we can achieve," he explains to me.

Outside of music Assaad love's the ocean, and he does a lot of scuba diving and travelling. Marine life is of high interest for him especially shark conservation. He also enjoys skateboarding whenever he gets the chance which was always childhood passion for him. "I love film making, the videos for my songs, I have actually produced and directed with my production partner Hadi Sarriedine. Researching topics on history, politics and social psychology are important for knowledge expansion. With today's at your finger tips modern library (Google) there is so much to learn and I also do some design work and painting," he tells me.

What makes Bull Funk Zoo sound different is the actual music, and Assaad has always strived to be as original and unique sounding as he can. "I'm always putting together, rhythm sections from different musical backgrounds, but first and for most the attitude of the musicians themselves and of course they need to be proficient on their instrument. For the region I'm in, I have Alan Short on bass and he comes from a punk rock and rock background and he is the funniest guy ever which translates really well in the formation. I also have Josh Bannister on drums, a killer drummer from a multitude of musical backgrounds and he has such a positive approach to everything and did I mention he is such an energetic individual that needs to be tamed.

Imagine a big bad bull rocking out, fornicating and wildly stomping the blues to rubble. Picture Hendrix having' a drink with Tom Waits and Rage Against The Machine decided to tear the place up, this best describes the band and their album as it is in your face, high energy rock and roll with twists and turns, based on funk grooves with a punk rock attitude. "There are songs on the album like the single 'Would You' that has a high energy rock vibe and a tender melodic side, it is about people not finding what they are passionate about, and have the fear of failure. 'Burnin' is about today's media and its false manipulation. 'Wish You're Mine' simply is about lust and our wildest dreams. 'Losing Control' a heavy Ozzy Osbourne vibe song, which is about addiction. 'Turn It Around' a high energy blues driven song about you as an individual, turn your own luck around and no one else will do it. 'Hangover' as the title depicts, it is a parody on how you feel the next day after a big night out. The rest of the songs have messages relatable to everyone or not," Assaad explains.

The album was recorded at his home studio and Assaad wrote and performed all the parts of the music. He also produced and mixed the album. "The process of writing the music is scattered throughout a six month period for this particular album, and the recording and mixing process took about three months. There was blood, sweat and tears put in to this, especially knowing that it was all on me," he marvels.

Assaad challenged himself to do it all and at times the pressure of that was exhilarating and scary. "There were times and I'm sure a lot of you have experienced this, a whole session would suddenly disappear because the computer decided to shut down and I would have to redo all the work again or a great take would not be recorded, there were some frustrating situations. I decided to do the whole record from a to z, simply for the fact that I had a particular sound in my head I wanted to get it out, not depend on anyone and I work very long odd hours," he says.

Besides his typical rock and roll debauchery, stage antics and the usual stories from on the road, which he will not get into, Assaad has always thrown in a couple of parody tunes on his records, "Does humour belong in music," he asks. "Frank Zappa, yes indeed. There has to be a balance of seriousness with a bit of a cheeky humour and here is an obscure incident that happened to me which I have managed to turn into a song. I was driving one day and next to me on the road was this fancy red car with and old well dressed woman probably in her fifties looked like a bourgeoisie upper class uptight slag, and she was just digging away deep inside her nose like she was going for the nose picking Olympics, I mean she was on a mission," he tells me.

"We all love a good nose picking but that was just knuckles deep into the black hole," he giggles. "Amidst her excavation of the internal booger caves, she did not realize I was driving by her until we both stopped at a traffic light and for some odd reason the colour red also meant for her to stop her activity. So cheeky I decided to experiment with this incident, I looked over, caught her attention, smiled, slowly and sensually stuck my finger up my nose and her delayed reaction was epic. She dropped down the window and disgustingly talked to me like some sort peasant 'Have you no manners? behaving obtusely in public?!' and I looked at her with a massive grin on my face, and said 'Would you like to scratch my nose?' in calm collected manner.

She was furious, what nerve I had, to say something like that. She huffed and puffed with frustration not knowing how to react. She decided to beep her horn continuously like I'm deaf or something, stuck her finger knuckles deep into the abyss of a nose she had, dug out whatever precious booger left in her breathing apparatus, moulded that disgusting thing into as ball and tried flicking at me. It kept getting stuck on her finger tips which made her even more frustrated and red in the face. She realized, it was not coming off of her finger for the life of her, looked ahead with her nose up in the air, slammed on the on the pedal and screamed off! I was in tears with laughter," he grins. So then Assaad had to write a song about his little social experiment, which later features on his first album 'Abstrakt Collision' and 'Would you like to scratch my nose?' was the eventual title of the humours song.

For the future he is constantly working on new material and he has a backlog of many compositions which will come to fruition in the near future. "Depending on what kind of album or project I'm going to do and there will be some collaborations in the near future, plus a lot of touring is also on schedule," Assaad concludes.

Check the band out at www.facebook.com/bullfunkzoo / www.instagram.com/bullfunkzoo / https://twitter.com/bullfunkzoo / www.youtube.com/bullfunkzoo / www.bullfunkzoo.com / https://soundcloud.com/bullfunkzoo/bu… / https://bullfunkzoo.bandcamp.com

From Montreal, Quebec, Canada we find eccentric o rockers **SUPER INTELLIGENT ROBOT MONKEY NG** who have recently released a catchy hard king, grove based eleven track CD out now called l Z', which runs in at just over forty five minutes long is well worth getting into. It's a solid catchy album a lot of diversity and character, there is a raw edge he bands style, and the songs are full of groove and gger, a strong electric classic rock feel if you like, right of the 70's, quirky and retro.

It's a extremely enjoyable record that grows on you, ou listen to each the song, each one pull you in, be it n the raspy vocals or the fiery guitar work, the band e something for everyone to enjoy, from the melodic sic rock vibe of 'Everything' to the funky retro Stones ove of '21 Days' and the catchy rocking retro Stones ets The Kinks vibe of 'Think Back'. These guys fire it on all ten cylinders and they have produced an album n tons of personality. Super Intelligent Robot Monkey ng are: Voss Arson - lead vocals, guitar, Daddy Oh - ar, vocals, Surge - bass, vocals and Crowbar on drums vocals.

Lead singer and guitarist Voss Arson (real name Jan nienksi) remembers the first time he held a Rolling nes album in his hand and suddenly a switch was ned on. He took guitar lessons at the age of twelve n a teacher who taught him Polish folk songs; vever Voss was into Zeppelin and the Stones etc… So quit lessons.

It wasn't until he was sixteen that he would pick up a guitar again, teaching himself his favourite rock classics, and soon after, writing his own material. "Once I looked old enough to get into bars, I played acoustic sets, trying out a friend's Gibson SG to play an AC/DC tune, I saw that the acoustic one-man gigs been fine enough, but it was a full rock n roll band I needed," he tells me. Voss met guitarist Daddy Oh drummer Crowbar working day shifts at a Quebec or store and they jammed in the backroom during aks, amid tall stacks of booze. "Daddy Oh had been a Iron Maiden enthusiast and played electric guitar his le life, learning from his father, with whom Crowbar also drummed in an earlier band," he says. Bassist ge was the last addition to Sir Monkey Thing and his ins are a mystery. "Rumour has it that he was born outh America with a bass in his hands," smiles Voss.

The list of people and artists who inspire the band endless…far too many to name. Life experiences, in eral, peace and love, etc…Are the central themes of ny of the band's songs. "The importance of essential, ple humanity in the face of material excess and ironmental carelessness is a recurring theme in this um," he explains to me. Music is a great way to rcise a positive influence on the world around you, vever, recording an album can typically be a long, ensive process, reserved for the few who can afford r those who get 'discovered' and the lads feel very y to be living in this era of technological marvel. owadays, musicians can record an album on their op, in any jam space, at their leisure and for better vorse, it has made the possibility accessible to many e artists, the very title of the album reflects this, he Ctrl Z function figured heavily in our recording