

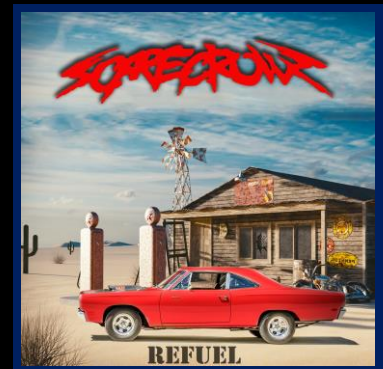
SCARECROWZ, are an alternative hard rock trio from Ontario, Canada. They have a new fourteen track CD out now called 'Refuel' which runs in at just under an hour long and is the bands sixth release.



Scarecrowz are: Ger Madden - lead vocals/rhythm guitar, Julian Leblanc - bass guitar, vocals, and Francis Gregoire - drums, vocals. There was always music in the house when vocals/rhythm guitarist Ger Madden was growing up. "I believe I picked up on that at an early age unbeknownst to me. It was gradual that I wanted more of an identity for myself and that was through this forum," he says. Madden started writing lyrics when he was thirteen and he then learned to play guitar when he was eighteen. "I practiced my craft before joining any bands and that was key to determining which way I wanted to go musically. I grew to have a passion for Hard Rock and Heavy Metal with bands like Kiss, Judas Priest and Led Zeppelin. Once I was comfortable with my guitar playing and singing, I applied for bands. It took me a few auditions before I found the right fit. Since then, I have played with a few groups over the years. I have been the founder, rhythm guitarist, lead vocalist for eighteen years with Scarecrowz and I'm one half of the duo, GASM, for the past twenty-one years. 'Refuel' is culmination of efforts, and it was written, produced, mixed and mastered entirely by the band, over a three-year period. "We're really proud of

not just the songs on it, but the collective of everyone pulling together to make it happen. We had some obstacles (studio changes, technological challenges and band line-up turnover), but were able to persevere through this adversity. We are very happy with the results and it was cool to prove we could do this all by ourselves. I would have liked to have seen it taken a little less time, but these are sometimes the things that people face. Bottom line, we got it done! I think we have a good mix of hard rock and metal material on this album. 'The Disciple Principle' and 'ABC's of Death' are pretty intense while we have good old rockin' tracks like 'Octane', 'Chicks in White Pants' and 'Rollover'," Madden tells me. 'Refuel' is the first album Scarecrowz with new members Julian and Francis recording in the band. "Actually, this was the first time we didn't have a permanent lead guitarist in the band on the finished product. JL Bourgie did a great job helping out on that part. When we lost our lead guitarist during the beginning of the recording process, Francis connected with JL at a family get together. Just so happens he was looking for something to do, so it just worked out well at least as far as timing went," enthuses Madden. "Also the fact it was entirely a band release was another example. Julian and I wrote most of the material together and that hadn't happened before on such a level on previous efforts." Madden's musical inspirations vary. As mentioned, he loves Kiss. "They were the biggest influence on me. Getting 'Destroyer' for Christmas one year and then watching their TV-Movie a few years later sealed to deal," he says. He loves many other artists, but

it depends on the scale. Ger is a huge 'sugar pop' fan of Seventies music. Bands like Bread, America and even Neil Diamond have affected him greatly. As for instruments, he is most influenced by Paul Stanley, Roger Hodgson, and Lindsey Buckingham. "Vocally, it's Paul too, but as well Rob Halford, Vince Neil (in the early days) and Robert Plant. When I played bass on the last album, 'Uprising' I was influenced by Gene Simmons, Chris Glen and Glenn Hughes. 'Refuel' itself was probably inspired by one of the first songs Julian and Ger wrote together. That was the song called 'Octane'.



From there, the guys combined to write songs about misguided devotion 'The Disciple Principle'; tenacity 'Rollover'; vengeance 'Blunt Force Trauma' and; a film 'ABC's of Death'. "With 'Octane' being a strong song, we decided to carry that theme to the artwork. The fact the band needed time to reload since our last album; 'Refuel' is the reason for its title," he explains to me. When is not writing or performing Ger loves hockey. "It's in every Canadian's blood pretty much. I used to play when I was a kid, but it's very competitive so I decided to focus on music and leave that sport to the professionals. I do like soccer, swimming and a good game of tennis too. I like watching movies. A great

source for inspiration. I like all kinds, but Science fiction and historically based ones are what I prefer. I am a history buff, so I do like to read up on that stuff including music artists sometimes. Oh and board games. I don't get to play them very often, but they are great for social settings. We had a riot playing Risk, Trivial Pursuit and Monopoly with friends and family," he tells me. Scarecrowz was formed in the year two thousand, and they have released six recordings. "The idea was to form a band that was moving on from what came before (mainly twelve bar blues and standard tunings). We started writing songs and found that Drop C really hit the mark on what we wanted to achieve sonically. I was trying to write songs that were inspirational and filled with hope," enthuses Madden. "What I believe makes us different from other artists is our brand of playing modern rock with a classic rock feel. We're kinda lodged between Metal and a hard rock place. I didn't want to sound dated, but I did want to retain a familiar rock sound. I think it was a good compromise never mind the fact I find it easier to sing and play in that key." Madden is proud of the collaboration between everyone involved with the making of 'Refuel'. "Everyone pulling together to make it happen. Each of us brought something to the table that others couldn't do more easily. Some were better mixers, and some did better at mastering," he marvels. "An example was the artwork. The first draft we couldn't use because of copyright issues, the second one too problematic to convert for online distribution so I hired the same person who did the 'Uprising' cover to do this with my concept." Because Scarecrowz were

concentrating on the album, Julian Leblanc's availability was limited, and they were looking for a new band member, so the shows haven't been many as of late. "We've had some great shows though. We opened for Anvil in twenty sixteen. Killer Dwarfs in twenty fourteen. What we're hoping to gain is more fans and more awareness on the international scene. This interview for one (Laughs). More exposure just leads to more opportunities and along with it more chances for revenue," he says with spirit. 'Refuel' was recorded at Triole Studios, Le Cave Studios and Studio 45. They are all local to the Ottawa area. It was produced by Scarecrowz, and Julian, Francis and JL did the mixing. Francis and JL did the mastering. It took two years to record from January twenty sixteen to December twenty seventeen. A lot of the writing and demos happened in twenty fifteen, and the band took their time this time because it was solely them alone making the album, so not tight deadlines to meet. They started at Triole, but about third way into recording we switched to the other two studios after losing our guitarist. They were less costly to use and adequate for this recording. As mentioned, they had some challenges using software so that was another reason it took longer for them to complete the album than usual. 'Uprising' for example only took nine months to complete. Scarecrowz have just made some shirts to sell, and they have some auditions to setup for the lead guitarist spot. "Once we have our full complement again, we'll be booking shows to promote the new album. We hope to be ready for the summertime. The idea is to support Refuel for the rest of

twenty eighteen and nineteen. We've already started the writing process for the next album, but it will be sometime before we're ready to record again. We have a few demos of ideas so far. I expect we'll be looking at a twenty-twenty release which ironically will be our twentieth anniversary of the band's inception," concludes Ger, bringing an end to our conversation. 'Refuel' is currently available online, with a short run of CD's for purchase at shows, check it out folks. Check Scarecrowz out at www.facebook.com/scarecrowz/ / www.twitter.com/scarecrowz/ / www.reverbnation.com/scarecrowz/