



## Andreas Loven *Nangijala*

### Bio Andreas Loven

Andreas is a composer and pianist born 28.10.1981 in Tromsø, Norway. He grew up in Oslo, and his grandmother fed him pancakes and taught him to play the piano since he was 6 years old.

In 2005, 23 years old, he finished his master's in engineering (NTNU, Trondheim). However his career as an engineer was short. Whilst attending a concert with the Tord Gustavsen Trio he clearly remembers a special moment during that concert when he surrendered to his inner voice. A voice that commanded him to pursue music with full devotion. Later, he even managed to get some private, inspirational lessons with Tord, and there was no looking back.

He studied jazz at the South African College of Music, and currently resides in Cape Town, South Africa, where he has performed with musicians such as Shane Cooper, Lwanda Gogwana, Mandla Mlangeni, Spha Mdlalose, Clement Benny, Buddy Wells, Tumi Mogorosi, Lance Herman, Lee Thomson, Chris Engel, Peter Auret and many others.

*Nangijala* is his debut album, and during 2014 the music has been presented at some venues such as the *National Jazz scene (Oslo, Norway)* and seminal jazz clubs the *Orbit* and *Straight no Chaser* in South Africa.

### Bio Buddy Wells

Based in Cape Town, the South African saxophonist, composer, and arranger Buddy Wells has had the pleasure of performing and recording with many well-known South African and international music legends. He has performed at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival every year from 2000 to 2014, and is a regular performer at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown and at the Joy of Jazz festival in Johannesburg.

International performances include several North Sea Jazz Festivals in the Netherlands; the Swedish Jazz Celebration, Stockholm; and the National Jazz Scene in Oslo, the Nehru Center in Mumbai India, and the Festival d'Automne à Paris.

Buddy has performed live with Feya Faku, Judith Sephuma, Moses Mololekwa, Manu Dibango, Miriam Makeba, Bheki Mseleku, Louis Moholo, Simpiwe Dana, Freshly Ground, Bokani Dyer, Shane Cooper, Joe McBride, Musa Manzini, Melanie Scholtz, Carlo Mombelli, Africa Mkhize, Hassanadas, Marcus Wyatt, Andre Peterson, Rahul Sharma, Ibrahim Khalil Shihab, Victor Ntoni, Voice, Interzone, Dondo, Gerald Veasey, Loading Zone, Flat Stanley, Vusi Khumalo, Ernie Smith, Thandi Klaasen, Abdullah Ibrahim, Gloria Bosman, Tucan Tucan, Tina Schouw, Alou April, Babu, amongst many others.



### **Bio Spha Mdlalose**

Spha Mdlalose was born in Durban in the township of Umlazi, and studied Jazz vocals at the South African College of Music. She has performed extensively with artists such as Bheki Khoza, Kabomo, Lwanda Gogwana, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Sibongile Khumalo, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Grammy nominated Josh Groban, Grammy award winning gospel artist Isreal Houghton and many others.

### **The making of the NANGIJALA album**

I am drawn towards music that plays an integral part in cultures and in life's smaller and bigger occasions. Hence, growing up in Norway, Nordic folk and lyricism have become strong influences.

Back in 2007, my Norwegian wife (also an engineer) wanted to swap her corporate environment for the development sector. I love to surf, and Cape Town had a jazz college, so off we went. The South African musical legacy did not play a role in the initial move. However, as my musicianship developed and I got a continuous exposure to the African music scene, it all changed. The rhythms, the way they used pentatonics, the harmonic progressions with references to ancient Zulu grooves...

One night I stumbled into a gig with famous bassist Herbie Tsoale with his African Time music, an album I barely knew about at that time. His music is based extensively on traditional, African elements and I had this clear sensation: I have arrived. I am home. That experience led me to write the tune Ekhaya ('at home' in Zulu), with a specific, rhythmic allusion to Herbie's famous song 'Hamba no malume'.

I eventually felt that the folk and lyrical music I grew up with in Norway and the African traditional music stood in some complementary relationship. Then I met Buddy Wells, and it all fell into place right away.

Buddy. He is one of the **most humble** guys I know. As I discovered the late, South African piano legend Bheki Mseleku, I kept talking about him for months. One day Buddy eventually mentioned that he had actually performed duets with Bheki at Robben Island for Nelson Mandela and others at a special millennium ceremony...

Buddy has got dinosaur ears and an organic musicality that, in my opinion, is very rare in this world. He is sensitive and melodic. His soprano playing is exceptionally lyrical, while on tenor he creates more of an African sound. In all, he was an amazing match, to join me in creating a sound that moves between and blends Nordic and African music traditions. A place we have come to name our own Nangijala world. Because, at least to us, it does indeed feel like we have arrived somewhere really special.

*Andreas Loven*

**Andreas Loven** - piano

**Buddy Wells** - sax

**Spha Mdlalose** - Vocal on two tracks

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