

HOMEGROWN

ON THE HORIZON



Local pros offer music festival tips



John J. Kim / Chicago Tribune
Lizzo performs at Lollapalooza on Aug. 3, 2018, in Chicago.

Lizzo rises from phenom to pop star

By Bethonie Butler
The Washington Post

Even if you've never heard of Lizzo, you've probably at least heard Lizzo.

Around this time last year, the singer, who also raps and plays the flute (we'll get back to that in a minute), established a ubiquitous presence in commercials and TV/movie trailers. Listen to her music, and it's easy to see why — her songs are catchy and self-assured, blending thumping bass and gospel riffs into infectious tracks that are undeniably hers. The Detroit native, who grew up in Houston, has described her music as "church with a twerk."

Lizzo, born Melissa Viviane Jefferson, has been an underground sensation for years. She performed in indie hip-hop groups before releasing her debut album, "Lizzobangers," in 2013, followed by another indie release and several EPs. But she's courting mainstream success with her latest album, "Cuz I Love You," released Friday on Atlantic, a show-stopping Coachella run and an ever-expanding catalogue of songs that speak perfectly to everything from a Netflix rom-com to a line of sparkling cocktails.

Lizzo is, as they say, having a moment. She just announced a second leg of her tour, dubbed "Cuz I Love You Too," to support her major-label debut.

Lizzo's songs feel like instant song-of-the-summer contenders. Her confidence is contagious.

Lizzo is, as they say, having a moment. She just announced a second leg of her tour, dubbed "Cuz I Love You Too," to support her major-label debut.

Lizzo's songs feel like instant song-of-the-summer contenders. Her confidence is contagious.

Lizzo is, as they say, having a moment. She just announced a second leg of her tour, dubbed "Cuz I Love You Too," to support her major-label debut.

Lizzo's songs feel like instant song-of-the-summer contenders. Her confidence is contagious.

Lizzo is, as they say, having a moment. She just announced a second leg of her tour, dubbed "Cuz I Love You Too," to support her major-label debut.

Lizzo's songs feel like instant song-of-the-summer contenders. Her confidence is contagious.

Lizzo is, as they say, having a moment. She just announced a second leg of her tour, dubbed "Cuz I Love You Too," to support her major-label debut.

Lizzo's songs feel like instant song-of-the-summer contenders. Her confidence is contagious.

Lizzo is, as they say, having a moment. She just announced a second leg of her tour, dubbed "Cuz I Love You Too," to support her major-label debut.

Lizzo's songs feel like instant song-of-the-summer contenders. Her confidence is contagious.

Lizzo is, as they say, having a moment. She just announced a second leg of her tour, dubbed "Cuz I Love You Too," to support her major-label debut.

Homegrown Music Festival is an eight-day event that features about 200 bands at dozens of venues in Duluth and Superior.

2015 file/
News Tribune



nostalgia is an outfit that cropped up just 'cuz. They aren't listed in the Homegrown Field Guide, the festival's official collection of schedules, band bios and kickball play-by-play, but the crew's formation is in the spirit of the event. "There are so many of us ex-high school band students from the area that terribly miss having a pep band," said Breanne Tepler, who played trumpet in Duluth Central's band and now fronts Breanne Marie and the Front Porch Sinners.

Tepler credits Kala Shepersky, tuba, with organizing the group that made its debut during last year's Homegrown kickball match. The musician, who is also in the punk polka band Winzige Hosen, started the Facebook group, got music and organized practices — one at the Rose Garden, one at Tepler's backyard fire pit.

Among the band's hits: "The Final Countdown" and "Crazy Train." They led the seventh inning stretch and tried to incorporate some marching band-style



Laura Sellner's Superior Siren plays Wednesday at Clyde Iron Works.

2017 file/
News Tribune

By Christa Lawler
clawler@duluthnews.com

Here is a Homegrown Music Festival lesson: Some of the best moments of the eight-day marathon of sights, sounds and glitter bombs aren't even, officially, part of the fest. Consider the curious case of the Wrong Notes Pep Band. This collection of musicians with marching band

Tepler credits Kala Shepersky, tuba, with organizing the group that made its debut during last year's Homegrown kickball match. The musician, who is also in the punk polka band Winzige Hosen, started the Facebook group, got music and organized practices — one at the Rose Garden, one at Tepler's backyard fire pit.

Among the band's hits: "The Final Countdown" and "Crazy Train." They led the seventh inning stretch and tried to incorporate some marching band-style

Tepler credits Kala Shepersky, tuba, with organizing the group that made its debut during last year's Homegrown kickball match. The musician, who is also in the punk polka band Winzige Hosen, started the Facebook group, got music and organized practices — one at the Rose Garden, one at Tepler's backyard fire pit.

Among the band's hits: "The Final Countdown" and "Crazy Train." They led the seventh inning stretch and tried to incorporate some marching band-style



Erin Tope as Miss Tallulah Creant does the splits during the Duluth Dolls' performance during last year's Homegrown Music Festival.

2018 file /
News Tribune

marching. "It was pretty epic," Tepler said.

This year, the group has grown to include more musicians, flags and batons. Homegrown Music Festival, in its 21st year, started as a modest birthday party for Scott "Starfire" Lunt of Father Hennepin and has grown to a more than week-long sample-pack of about 200 bands and other music-related arts at venues in Duluth and Superior. It starts Sunday morning with the Children's Music Showcase at the Lake Superior Zoo and ends with a set by Actual Wolf on May 5 at Canal Park Brewing.

HOW TO HOMEGROWN

A theme among tip-offering Homegrown-going pros: Go find something new. That's how Ryan Nelson landed on Cars & Trucks in the mid-aughts.

"I remember being nuts about them," said

MUSIC: Page C4

"The Beach Bum" is all it's cracked up to be

In "The Beach Bum," Moondog lives the hedonistic life smoking doobies, sexing and penning poetry sometimes. Matthew McConaughey is at home playing this character "from another dimension," who is as likely to fondle his future son-in-law as he is to play a piano concerto or quote Baudelaire. A turn of events forces Moondog to chase the muse, so he can bankroll his life of leisure. Along the way, he meets a cast of characters. Isla Fisher ("Wedding Crashers")



MELINDA LAVINE
Now Showing

NOTE
Last chance to see "The Beach Bum" at Zinema 2 is today; watch for it on streaming.

delivers the usual sexy, loopy performance as Moondog's wife, Minnie. Laughs come watching Moondog smoke a joint between her perfectly pedicured toes and perform cunnilingus as she gets said pedicure. Stefania LaVie Owen ("Krampus") is charming, freckled and grounding as their daughter Heather, forging her own path that's opposite her

NOW SHOWING: Page C4



imdb.com
Matthew McConaughey and Snoop Dogg star in "The Beach Bum," now showing at Zinema.

"The Beach Bum"
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Snoop Dogg, Isla Fisher
Director: Harmony Korine
Writer: Harmony Korine
Time: 1:35
Rating: R for drug and alcohol use, language, nudity and sexual content
Now showing through today: Zinema 2