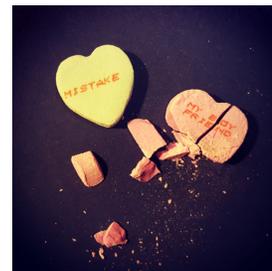


# LIZ + THE BAGUETTES



## Liz + the Baguettes | EPK

“Nice girls don’t go there. Nice girls go nowhere.”

Venn diagram: **post-punk** (Replacements, Talking Heads), **experimental pop** (LCD Soundsystem, St. Vincent), and **alt-country** (Brandi Carlile). The post-country sound of Liz + the Baguettes is dead center—crunchy, sharp-witted, and twangry.

Watch the video for “[White Flag](#)”

Listen to [Highway Gothic](#)

Listen to [Everything I Think I Know Is Wrong](#)

The band is the project of songwriter/lead singer **Liz Bagby**, working in close collaboration with **Charlie Crane** (guitar/drums), **Thomas Zeitner** (bass), **Zachary Sigelko** (drums/guitar), and **Julie Jurgens** (backing vocals/trumpet). It grew out of Chicago’s storefront theater scene, with band members first playing together in productions with Strange Tree. The band’s name came about as a joke on *Chicago Acoustic Underground*, and it’s too late to change it now.

Guest contributors have included **David Chervony** (bass), **Sarah Scanlon** (keyboard, vocals), **Liesl Downey** (vocals), **Scott Cupper** (French horn), and **Andy Miles** (drums).

Liz + the Baguettes joined Chicago indie label ButterBean Records with the release of the 2018 Record Store Day single “[Candy](#)”/“Midway.”

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## The Baguettes

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## Highway Gothic

ButterBean Records released *Highway Gothic* on March 29, 2019.

This is an album of and about the American road, with its false promises of escape. The album's name comes from the font used on highway signs. The protagonists of *Highway Gothic* are in various stages of discovering they have been sold out by the American dream. An unemployed oil worker, in thrall to pornographic images of vigilante justice, plots a mass shooting ("Badlands"). A social media addict loses her grip on real life ("Subourbon"). A pair of lovers snatch at an hour of happiness ("The Age and the Ache"). Together, the songs depict individuals coming to grips with a world ordered against them, a society in which "every road's a cul-de-sac." A raucous bit of hope arrives in "DGAF," whose lyrics match its chords.

Found noise permeates *Highway Gothic*, from playgrounds to semi trucks. For "Teflon," Crane created a percussion track of modem scratches and whines.

## Discography

The Baguettes released their first studio [album](#), *Everything I Think I Know Is Wrong*, in late 2015. They put out a Record Store Day double single, "Candy"/"Midway," in 2018. ButterBean released an expanded, remastered *Everything I Think I Know Is Wrong* in September 2019.

Albums are available on Spotify, [Bandcamp](#), [Soundcloud](#), and [iTunes](#).

## Press

"The quality of Liz Bagby's songwriting stands out most...The band are as comfortable with the garage rock of 'Get Out' as they are with the country of 'Whiskeyboots.' It's this variation that makes the album so listenable and the band so hard to label. ...*Everything I Think I Know Is Wrong* was already a splendid album. This remastered version makes it even better." (*I Don't Hear a Single*)

"'The Age and the Ache' is a beautiful country song, the kind of real country music sung by real people who know the human condition." (*Reverb Raccoon*, Song of the Day)

## Band Members

**Liz Bagby** ("a real Chrissie Hynde feel," "a similar voice to Aimee Mann") has performed in about fifty productions and composed music for a dozen. She was one of twenty-seven artists to take part in the 2014 Arctic Circle Arts Expedition, a residency aboard a tall-mast ship exploring the fjords and glaciers of Svalbard. She spent two months of 2019 living in an Airstream to direct the roots music for *Ballad of Romeo*



✂ *Juliet* with Asheville's American Myth Center. In 2020 she will head to Taos, NM, for a residency with the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation.

**Charlie Crane** drums for the Dyes and has played almost every instrument on tour with the Parasites. His alter ego Charlie O'Brien is one-third of the Unswept. He hosts the music podcast *Stereo Hysteria*, and works in the AV section of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, where some of *Highway Gothic* was recorded. Apart from guitar and drums, on the album he plays bass, modem, and bourbon bottle.

**Thomas Zeitner** met Crane on a TMBG fan site, and shortly thereafter the two began playing (with Bagby and Ryan Gatenby) as the Loudness War. He plays bass and claims not to be a multi-instrumentalist despite also playing accordion.

**Zachary Sigelko** missed most of the recording sessions for *Highway Gothic* because he was working on Ameya Pawar's gubernatorial campaign (the band does not take "political music" lightly). He plays drums, guitar, and mandolin and works as a video artist (*Battle Flag*).

**Julie Jurgens** sings backup and plays trumpet and miscellaneous percussion in live performances. She also performs with Julie & the Drug Squad, who recently released *Lovetaker*—a song-by-song response to Ryan Adams's *Heartbreaker*—as a benefit for Girls Rock! Chicago.

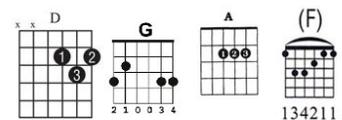
## Images



Credit: Johnny Knight



Credit: Johnny Knight



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