



9 March 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago, IL—A Political, Genre-Defying Road Album, Recorded in a Library

Chicago-based post-country quartet Liz + the Baguettes announce the release of their second full-length album, *Highway Gothic*, on March 29, 2019, from local independent label ButterBean Records. iTunes preorders will be available starting March 15.

The band will play a release show at Montrose Saloon, 2933 W Montrose, on March 29.

Highway Gothic begins in the suburbs and ends in the Badlands, sharing the journey with a variety of people betrayed by the American dream, each struggling to escape the daily grind in a place where “every road’s a cul-de-sac.” The songs grapple with social media and isolation (“Subourbon”), failing marriages (“The Age and the Ache”), joblessness (“Badlands”), and environmental collapse (“Teflon,” “Gen X”). A raucous bit of hope arrives near the end in the rule-breaking feminist yawp of “DGAF,” whose lyrics match its chords. The album, which takes its name from the font on highway signs, was recorded in part in the audio booths at Arlington Heights Memorial Library.

The band released the album’s first single and video, “White Flag,” in 2018. An elegy for dreams deferred, the song features an aching French horn line from guest artist Scott Cupper. The video was shot on the cabaret stage at the Den Theater in Wicker Park.

Lead singer Liz Bagby, a multidisciplinary artist, also created a series of paintings linked to the album’s songs. These are on display at Logan Parlor, 3251 W Fullerton, through the end of March. Two (“Lost in America” and “Badlands”) appear inside the CD jacket’s gatefold.

The band’s sound combines the folk/post-punk tradition of the Replacements and the Pretenders with the experimental pop of St. Vincent and LCD Soundsystem.

Previous releases include the 2018 Record Store Day single “Candy” (also on ButterBean) and the 2015 album *Everything I Think I Know Is Wrong*.

Bio: Liz + the Baguettes are the project of singer-songwriter Liz Bagby, working closely with multi-instrumentalist/producer Charlie Crane (the Dyes, the Parasites), bassist Thomas Zeitner, and drummer/guitarist Zachary Sigelko. Multi-instrumentalists Julie Jurgens and David Chervony sometimes join the live act. The band grew out of Chicago’s storefront theater scene, with band members serving as musicians or actors—or both—in various productions with Strange Tree Group. Bagby wrote music for Strange Tree’s Jeff Award-winning *Three Faces of Dr. Crippen* (Steppenwolf Garage) and continues to compose for other productions.

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