

LAIZY.

Interviewed by **The Silver Age**, July 31st, 2024

laizy. is the solo project of Liz Baginski, a student and musician based in Glassboro, NJ. They are working on their forthcoming EP, tentatively titled *who am i, where am i going?* laizy.'s music is available on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube. For information about releases and upcoming shows, follow @laizy.music on Instagram.

ALICIA LOPEZ: I guess we'll just start by confirming social media info. Obviously, I know your Instagram, @laizy.music. I also know the @laizyday account.

LAIZY.: Yeah, that's, like, my jewelry/merch kind of account. I don't really know what I'm doing with that. It's just the name that I release my merch and my jewelry stuff under.

A.L.: Awesome. And then I've got your Tik Tok and Facebook.

LAIZY.: Hell yeah. Yeah, that's all I have right now. I don't think I have anything – I mean, to my knowledge, I don't have anything beyond that.

A.L.: There's some fan account somewhere.

MICHAEL AUBLE: An impersonator. With "laizy." spelled correctly.

A.L.: So then, do you want to go through your name, age, where you're based, and what instruments you play?

LAIZY.: Of course. Okay. So my name – I don't want to do the whole legal name, so we'll do Liz. And then my last name's Baginski. And then where I'm based and what instruments I play?

A.L.: And your age.

LAIZY.: And my age. Okay. My age is 20. And I'm based in Glassboro, New Jersey.

M.A.: Ah, okay.

A.L.: That's Michael.

M.A.: Hi. I'm from New Jersey as well.

LAIZY.: Hell yeah. Well yeah, you guys are in Philly, right?

M.A.: Yes. We are, yes.

LAIZY.: I'm like 20 minutes away from Philly.

M.A.: That's great. I'm from Egg Harbor Township.

LAIZY.: Oh my gosh, no way! I just played at Renault¹, if you know – I don't know how big Egg Harbor Township is, but I was just there the other day for that show.

M.A.: Nice.

LAIZY.: That's so cool. Yeah, New Jersey is, you know... it's Jersey, but...

M.A.: I agree.

LAIZY.: The goal is to get where you guys are eventually, once I graduate.

M.A.: Very nice.

LAIZY.: And then instruments that I play: piano, guitar, ukulele, and, I mean, my voice is technically an instrument. So it's your call what you want to do with that, but yeah, that's everything.

A.L.: So then what music do you play, if you had to pick a genre?

LAIZY.: I guess I would say indie. Like, if I had to put it into one word, I would say indie. That's probably the best genre I could put it into. A lot of people say R&B, R&B/pop, kind of... I don't even know what it would be. But I'm going to say indie.

A.L.: Great. Name origin?

M.A.: Like what inspired you to choose that as your name? Also, even like the spelling of the name...

¹ Renault Winery, 72 Breman Ave, Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215

LAIZY: Okay, so the reason that I chose it is because it's my name, "Lizzy," and my favorite flower, "daisy," together. And they made laizy. And then I just added a period at the end because I just felt like being fancy with it, I guess. That's where it came from.

M.A.: Do you remember the band fun. by any chance?

LAIZY: Yes!

M.A.: One of my favorite bands of all time, fun. with a period at the end.

LAIZY: Yes, maybe I subconsciously did that because I love fun. too.

M.A.: Awesome. Big respect, I love that band.

LAIZY: So maybe I made it subconsciously. But yeah, I don't know, I just felt like "laizy" on its own was, like, boring, so I just added a period to make it more original, and also so people wouldn't have the same name as me. Because duplicate names do happen.

A.L.: Okay, so how long have you been playing music?

LAIZY: Oh, under the name?

A.L.: Under the name and also just in general.

LAIZY: Oh shit, since I was like seven. It's been a long time. I've been into it since I was a wee one.

M.A.: And then how about since using the name?

LAIZY: I'd say, releasing stuff, like two years, about. Actually, "romeo," one of my songs, came out – the first one I ever released – it came out two years ago on the 27th. I can't believe it's been two years. So yeah, I'd say two years. I really only started playing shows in like April. So I'm trying to just get on that now, because I was too scared to before. I was terrified people are just gonna, like, throw tomatoes at me and boo me off. So I avoided it.

A.L.: Are you self-taught or musically trained?

LAIZY: I would say self-taught, because I took piano lessons for like a year when I was seven. I hated being taught it. I was like, "I'm gonna do it myself." So then I taught myself by ear as I got older. But origin-wise, yes, someone did teach me piano.

A.L.: You said you're in school?

LAIZY.: I am.

A.L.: What are you going to school for, and where are you in school?

LAIZY.: So I go to Rowan University in Glassboro, lovely Glassboro, New Jersey. And I'm a music industry major, with a concentration in music technology. And then I have a minor in theatre. I went into school as a theatre major. And then I was like, "no, I don't want to do this... performing." It was not my thing. And then I just switched to music, but I kept the minor because, it's like, all my friends are in it, and I'm on the E-Board and stuff. So, you know, it worked out.

M.A.: The Rowan music industry major is teeming with a lot of talented people.

LAIZY.: I love it. Like, I did not even know that Rowan had that major. I just feel like all of it was just fate, like I was meant to find that school, because I went into it not telling anybody – I was so private about it, I went into college and nobody knew that I made music. I kept it all to myself because I just thought it was bad. So, like, it's so sad, but I didn't tell anybody. And then I ended up, you know, telling people about it eventually. But I just feel like it all lined up, that I didn't even intend on going to school for that, and it's, like, one of the best programs I could have found.

M.A.: That's really true. You're in a really good music scene.

LAIZY.: It's so good! And I'm so close to Philly. I'm literally like 20 minutes out of Philly. It's like the best situation I could have gotten. Yeah, the Rowan scene is great.

A.L.: Awesome. Do you act, or do tech, or... what do you do with theatre?

LAIZY.: I do a bit of all of it. So, like, I do musical theatre. I mainly act though – like, I mainly do straight plays, but I do musical theatre. But yeah, I was an assistant stage manager. So I also work with stage management, stuff like that. And I'm on my E-Board. So I'm in a fraternity situation. It's like a national theatre honor society. So I make the merch for that, which I really love doing.

M.A.: Do you have a favorite production, either musical or straight? Either one you've done or not done. Do you have any favorites?

LAIZY.: That's a really hard question. Oh my God. I mean, I have to, it's just like – that is such a difficult question, but there has to be one. One that I don't get sick of. My God, this is so hard.

M.A.: If it springs to your soul at any point during the interview, let us know.

LAIZY.: Yeah, I mean – oh God, one that I can never get sick of... oh my God. Probably – I was just singing it today – probably *Grease*.

M.A.: Fair.

LAIZY.: It's, like, not even that good. It's not even one of the best, but it hits so close to my heart for me, because I was obsessed with it from like the age of 12 to like, you know, now.

M.A.: I'm more of a *Hairspray* kind of guy, but...

LAIZY.: I love *Hairspray*. I love that musical too. I did this arts program in high school, and I was in this showcase, and we did a bunch of songs from *Hairspray*, and I was Amber. It was very fun.

A.L.: Awesome. Do you have any pets?

LAIZY.: I do. I have a kitty cat. She is my life. Her name is Millie. She is, like, actually my life. I love that cat more than anything, and I talk about her 24/7. Like, everything just revolves back around my cat at the end of the day. I'm a proud cat mom.

A.L.: What would you say are your comforts? Sources of comfort?

LAIZY.: Some of my comforts? Like things in life that just make me feel comfort?

M.A.: Yeah, simple joys. Things that you might engage in to relax or wind down.

LAIZY.: Okay, I have some. Candles – I love candles. Thrillers... painting... thrifting... I love a good face mask. I love going for walks. And I love reality TV, unfortunately. And baking. I love baking. And I have a gluten and dairy allergy, so it's, like, taught me to really get good at baking too, because a lot of stuff – I gotta make it myself if I want it. It's pretty fun. I enjoy it.

A.L.: Okay. Who are your musical influences?

LAIZY.: Okay. Direct influences to me... this one girl, her name is Alice Phoebe Lou. Not a lot of people know her, but I do a cover of hers pretty often that I absolutely just – I love her. She's fantastic. And I try to write like her. There's this other band that I love, they're called The Lemon Twigs.

A.L.: I know them.

LAIZY.: Oh my God. I worship them. I found them when I was 16, and I like – they changed my life, and I love the songwriting style of the one guy, his name's Brian. He's like my idol. Like, I wish I could write like him.

A.L.: Yeah. I saw The Lemon Twigs open for MCR.

LAIZY.: Oh my gosh. They are so – I love them. That's amazing that you saw that, because that was something I was thinking about going to, but I'm seeing them in October, so I'm very excited about that.

A.L.: That's awesome.

LAIZY.: In Philly. Yeah. I'm seeing them in Philly at the Fillmore I'm pretty sure. They're great. And then probably the Beatles.

M.A.: You said the magic word.

LAIZY.: Yeah, literally my favorite band of all time.

M.A.: Fully agree.

LAIZY.: Yeah, they're my favorite band ever. Like, literally ever.

M.A.: Oh man, I can go – yeah. We could derail this interview very quickly.

A.L.: Early Beatles or late Beatles?

LAIZY.: All. Like, is "all" an answer? Like, every single bit.

M.A.: Correct.

LAIZY.: Because a lot of the ballad-y stuff that I write, I like to take from the Paul kind of side of it. But then a lot of the more upbeat, catchy kind of things that I write, I try to take from their earlier albums. Like, the White Album is like – that's what I try to make my sound sound like.

M.A.: White Album girlie. Okay, okay. Respect. I'm a *Revolver* girlie.

LAIZY.: Oh, I love *Revolver*. That's – The White Album is, like, what I take inspiration from the most, but *Rubber Soul* is my favorite album by them by far.

M.A.: Ooh. Okay, great choice. That's my second favorite.

LAIZY.: *Revolver's* my second favorite, though. *Revolver* and *Rubber Soul* are just, like, the best era in my opinion. Like, it's just where they were finding themselves, but it wasn't too crazy psychedelic yet. It's just perfect. I love it so much.

M.A.: I fully agree. I think George Harrison was on record in the Anthology saying that like *Rubber Soul* and *Revolver* are like side one and side two of the same coin. Love it.

LAIZY.: I love – George Harrison is my favorite Beatle. I love that man's solo career too. He's just like – I love him.

M.A.: Best solo career. I'm a John Lennon – I'm sorry. I like John Lennon.

LAIZY.: No, it's fair. It's fair.

M.A.: Songwriting, oh my God, he can't be topped.

LAIZY.: I know a lot of people that like John Lennon. His solo career is great too. Like, it's – you know, you gotta like all of them. I love all of them. It's just – George takes the cake for me. Like, just a little bit more than Paul. They're about the same though.

M.A.: That's a very fair answer.

LAIZY.: Yours is too.

A.L.: Great. So what does your music writing process look like? How do you write music?

LAIZY.: Okay, so it's usually either a song melody just comes to me, and then I write something from it, or I put it in a voice memo and forget about it. Or lyrics come to me, and then I end up writing it down. But the best kind of songs that I write is when I'm, like, truthfully having a mental breakdown, or something really impactful just happened to me, and, like, I have so much emotion and so many thoughts that I just throw it up in a song. So like, those are the best songs that I've written in my opinion, because I get the lyrics, and I get the melody, and just something in my head, like – I can just write songs in one sitting that way. And those are my favorite ones. Or, like, a melody and lyrics will just happen to come to me at the same time. But when I write a song, and I'm really into it, I could be sitting there for hours, nitpicking and figuring out the way that I want it to sound. But then there are times when it takes me like 15 minutes because I hear it exactly. I love writing. I love songwriting. It's this really, like, magical process for me. I struggle sometimes with sitting down and forcing myself to write something though. I kind of just let it come naturally to me, like, when it feels right.

COLE GABORIAULT: How do you specifically approach writing lyrics?

LAIZY.: So when it comes to writing lyrics, I usually think about something that personally is resonating with me at the moment. Like if I'm going through a certain – if I have a certain melody that feels more like a ballad kind of thing, I usually will think more about, like, love songs and stuff like that, or, like, songs about my personal growth. And then I kind of go from one lyric. I usually do like a verse at a time, or the chorus comes first, and then I try to make things rhyme, or at least sound kind of cohesive, rather than, like, just a bunch of stuff. I always like rhyming, or just having the words sound pretty together. But it takes some time. I definitely think I'm more melody-based than lyric-based – like, melodies come very naturally to me, but lyrics take a little time for me. I hope that makes sense.

M.A.: Oh yeah, of course. Okay, so just to kind of put a cap on the writing process: what would you say are some themes that you explore in your writing? What are some common themes you find yourself returning to?

LAIZY.: Okay. Love and relationships, like, 100%. And heartbreak; but also falling in love. Those are important things to me. Self-love and self-identity and discovery; dealing with, like, sexuality and gender identity are also very important to me, because those are directly related to me. And also just mental health, and dealing with the struggles of just... life, and then also navigating mental illnesses and stuff like that are very important to me too. Yeah, just things that I directly resonate with and feel and things that other people could also relate to is really important to me.

A.L.: Awesome. So, I know you've released "mr. green eyes" in February, right?

LAIZY.: I did. Yes.

A.L.: What are you working on now?

LAIZY.: So, I'm currently working on recording an EP. When that will be released, I have no idea. My goal is that it will be released in 2024 – like, that it's not going to become a 2025 thing, because originally I was supposed to release it in 2023. So like, life happens, and it can be really tricky to get it done when you're also working/in school. But I'm working on an EP, probably shooting to have like six or seven songs on it, and I'll probably do like two – I don't know if I want to do all the songs I've released yet – maybe like one or two, and then entirely new ones that I usually play live. I have the songs picked out. So, yeah. I'm excited. And some new merch stuff. New merch stuff is something I'm working on too.

A.L.: Do you know what the EP is going to be called yet?

LAIZY.: Not exactly. I have a couple names, but not exactly yet. I'm kind of still figuring that out, because it took me a while to get "laizy.," so I kind of have to figure out what I want it to be. But, like, a hypothetical name is *who am i, where am i going?* And that's a song that I wrote, and it's all lowercase, because for some reason I love my lowercase. And that's a song that I wrote like a year ago and – maybe a little over a year ago. I don't remember. I really don't remember. But yeah, that would be like the last song on the EP. And then that would be the title of the album also. This is like one of my favorite songs I've ever written, and it's all about me finding myself.

M.A.: We're looking forward to it.

LAIZY.: Aw, thank you. I'm excited. I gotta get on that grind more of, like, recording and releasing and mixing and... cause I love doing it. It's just, I'm so terrible at time management already.

M.A.: Are you endeavoring to do the recording and mixing yourself?

LAIZY.: Yeah, I usually do. So a couple of good friends of mine are helping me record, but I typically mix and master it all myself, which I really enjoy doing. But the recording aspect of it – a lot of the time, with songs that I've done before, I use, like, instruments on Logic and stuff like that, like a mix of it. But like now I'm actually using live guitar, live drums, live bass, all that stuff. So it's, like, a little more planning, and I can't just sit in my bed, open my computer and do it. So it's a little more time and, like, managing when. But I'm almost done recording one of the songs. I'm actually pretty much completely done with it. So I might just say "fuck it" and release it as a single. And just do it. Yeah, I'm excited. It's one that I've been playing a lot at my live stuff. I'm probably going to play it at the show that I'm doing with you guys, which I'm really excited about.

M.A.: Okay. Now here is our last main question. It's the big one.

LAIZY.: Oh gosh, okay.

M.A.: Why are you a musician?

LAIZY.: Because without music, my life just isn't my life. Like, I'm not living without music in my life. It's just not possible. Music is what drives me, and it's what makes me want to wake up every day. And I don't know, it's just the most right thing that has ever been in my life. I just have known – it was like my first love – I've just known that it's the most important aspect of my life since I was a kid. It's just everything to me. And then making it a reality, like, you know, sharing it with people is also very important to me too, because I've been writing for so long, but it only really started becoming so meaningful to me when I started sharing it with other people and seeing how it, you know, helps other people and connects me to other people. It's a really great tool.

A.L.: Is there anything else we should be asking you about that we missed in our interview questions?

LAIZY.: I mean, I don't think so. Like, if there's anything else you feel the need to ask me, then I'm happy to provide it. But I guess not – there are little basic things about me that, like – they don't *need* to be shared, but, you know, favorite color, things like that, or gender identity or... yeah, you asked so much stuff that directly relates to me already. I'm just fine finishing it, you know, where we're at.

M.A.: What is your favorite color?

LAIZY.: Yellow. 100% yellow.

M.A.: It's on the record.

LAIZY.: Favorite color is very important to me with anybody I meet. It's more important to me than, like – I don't understand it. If you guys are into it – I don't really understand, like, horoscopes or star signs or whatever sign, like, I don't get that. But when people – if there's one question, a lot of people ask, like, “what sign are you?” But for me it's like, “what's your favorite color?” Cause it's very important. I feel like favorite color is so important to a person.

A.L.: Do you want to tell us about your gender identity?

LAIZY.: Yeah, I do. I am non-binary, so I use they/them pronouns, which is a really, really important part of my life. It was something that I couldn't really – like, I didn't really feel comfortable enough talking to people about, and it's still something that can be scary for me sometimes, just, like, in the world that we live in. And I'm very lucky that I have people in my life that, you know, support me and understand me. But yeah, it's super important to me, and it's really important to me and my identity as a songwriter and a musician as well. Because I feel that having that representation – like, no matter how far I go with this, people that see me and see, “oh, that person identifies this way and is making this music that I love,” and they're also feeling that way. You know, it's just something that's important to me, that – if I can connect with someone on that level too, that it's something that I want to share.