

Entertainment

LIFESTYLE AND ARTS LISTINGS

We welcome your submissions. If you would like Niagara Frontier Publications to list an event, send it to josh@wnypapers.com, or mail to 1859 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY 14072.



Lizzy Greene and David Giuntoli (ABC photo by Darko Sikman)



Brooke Williamson (Food Network photo)



Samantha Fish (Photo by Kevin & King, courtesy of Devious Planet Media)

LIZZY GREENE, 'A Million Little Things'

Lizzy Greene has achieved something many of her contemporaries have not: a second act.

Having started as a child actor on Nickelodeon – one of the stars of "Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn" – Greene has successfully transitioned into an adult role, that of Sophie Dixon on "A Million Little Things."

In the pilot, Sophie loses her father, John, who takes his life when faced with crushing guilt over financial concerns and the loss of a friend on 9/11. Soon after, Sophie learns her mother, Delilah, had an affair with her guitar teacher and family friend, Eddie.

Sophie turns her attention to MMI, the music school she hopes to attend. But at a tryout, she's told her music lacks presence. Her auditioner, Peter, offers to train Sophie. Just as she's starting to find her voice, he steals it by assaulting Sophie.

Fighting back, Sophie arranges a new tryout at MMI – and asks Maggie to record a podcast where she names her attacker. The recording serves as a warning to future students, and it buoy's Sophie's spirits. But that feeling doesn't last long.

When Delilah goes to France to see her ailing father, Gary is tasked with watching Sophie and her younger brother, Danny. It was on his watch that Sophie met Peter, and Gary can't handle that – particularly when the Boston police decline to file criminal charges. He pays a visit to Peter, who winds up in the hospital. You do the math.

Peter agrees to "forget" Gary's break-in, but only if Sophie pulls the podcast – which she does. In the meantime, Delilah returns ... intent on moving the family to France.

Seeing her friends off at college – and realizing the most important adults in her life constantly and spectacularly disappoint her – Sophie turns to partying.

An unexpected pep talk from Eddie leads to a mending of fences. Sophie returns to her guitar, knocks a new audition out of the park, and finally finds a little happiness along the way.

Did I mention the person bringing forth all of these emotions and shouldering the weight of this character started on Nickelodeon? Or that she's only 18?!

On a show full of TV titans, Greene is establishing herself as a formidable on-screen talent. She not only holds her own, of late she's stealing scenes and making good episodes great.

•Read the full Q&A at www.wnypapers.com. "A Million Little Things" airs at 10 p.m. Wednesdays on ABC (Channel 7).

BROOKE WILLIAMSON

Food Network's 'Tournament of Champions III'

With double the contestants and double the challenges, who better to win Food Network's "Tournament of Champions III" than B Dub?

"Top Chef" alum and season one titleholder Brooke Williamson leads a field of 32 culinary masters looking to win host Guy Fieri's meat-grinder of a competition and take ultimate bragging rights.

"I feel like this is a competition that we've seen for the last two years, but has never been quite like this before. So, I think it's going to be a really exciting season," Williamson said.

Following the success of season two – 11 million viewers tuned in to watch Food Network's highest-rated series of 2021 – it's not surprising the number of entrants expanded.

No. The shock comes later, when these chefs enter the arena and look upon the dreaded five-wheeled "randomizer." The spinning device determines which protein, produce and equipment the combatants must use, as well as cook style and time.

If that wasn't enough pressure, each competitor's dishes will be judged by a panel of super-successful chefs, restaurateurs and foodies who will decide which person advances deeper into the tournament.

While this might sound daunting to most, for Williamson it's another opportunity to show her Liam Neeson-like special skillset. The California culinarian has shined on TV's most prestigious food fight, Bravo's "Top Chef," finishing as runner-up on season 10 and then winning season 14.

Williamson made her Food Network debut on season one of "Tournament of Champions," defeating fellow "Top Chef" alums Michael Voltaggio and Antonia LaFaso to win the "West" side of the bracket. In the final, she edged "Chopped" judge Amanda Freitag.

She returned to defend her title in season two. Williamson triumphed over a third "Top Chef" entrant, Nyesha Arrington (cohost of the FOX series "Next Level Chef"), once again got the best of Voltaggio, and took down Jet Tila before squaring off with "East" victor and "Chopped" judge Maneet Chauhan.

The "randomizer" provided the two with langoustine and fresh wasabi. They were tasked with preparing the langoustine three different ways in 50 minutes – and liquid nitrogen was the required equipment. Chauhan would take the gold belt, defeating Williamson by a score of 93-90.

•Read a full Q&A at "Tournament of Champions III" airs at 8 p.m. Sundays on Food Network.

SAMANTHA FISH, Live in concert

Samantha Fish should consider hiring Maxwell Jacob Friedman as her hype man because, as he might say, she's better than you – and you know it.

She would be the last one to make that claim – and with MJF previously committed, let me be the one to say this: Fish is an amazing talent who should be on the radar – if not the playlist – of music fans.

Known as a premier guitarist, Fish has also proven to be an elite vocalist and hitmaker with her latest offering, "Faster." The artist is often described as having a hybrid blues-rock-folk/americana sound – and that's true with this album. But the thought on the minds of those listening to the 12-song compilation won't be, "What genre is this," as much as "Wow, I want to listen to this again."

"Faster" is catchy – and that might be a dirty word to today's more-sophisticated musicians. But consider it this way: If you took the sounds and substance of your favorite albums from the '70s, '80s, '90s and today – minus all that boy band stuff – and combined them with sizzling guitar licks and sultry vocals, then, yes, the result would be "catchy" – something you want to put on repeat for a few straight days.

It is, as one of Fish's songs is called, "Hypnotic."

"Faster" was produced by Martin Kierszenbaum. It is Fish's sophomore release for Rounder Records. The album landed atop the Billboard blues charts, while charting at No. 2 on folk/americana and No. 10 on rock albums charts.

The world's No. 7-ranked guitarist – so says Guitar World – Fish will share her new material when she visits the Town Ballroom on March 9.

"We're gonna have a lot of fun, man," Fish said. "We've always had great audiences up there. The music fans, I mean, they're incredibly dedicated. You have to be, like to go out and see shows in the wintertime."

Speaking of "Faster," Fish said, "It was the middle of 2020, kind of summer time. I started writing songs on my own. Just sort of, you know, doing what everybody was doing, which is like, I'm inside, under strict kind of isolation-type orders. New Orleans was particularly bad at that time. I knew touring was off the table, and I started writing. And, yeah, it was a lot of kind of dismal (stuff). ..."

"Sometime in the summertime, I met Martin and we just started talking. Really, nothing started happening for a couple months, and then once we had the discussion, like, 'Hey, I think you should be the producer of the record' – you know, he's worked with Lady Gaga and Sting, and kind of this different direction that I really wanted. I wanted to test the waters and see what I could bring in, and what he could bring in."

"We started co-writing together. And, I mean, these were just the riffs I was coming up with, and so the subject matter sort of followed. I think I just wanted to write songs about how I wanted to feel. I think I felt really locked down and lonely, and I think we all kind of felt bleak. It was a very depressing time. So, I wanted to write songs that made me feel good, thus making other people feel good."

When she returns to Buffalo, Fish said, "We're gonna have a lot of new songs off my new album, 'Faster.' I'm just gonna keep that energy up. I want people to come out and dance and have fun. I want the weight of the world that's been riding on all of our shoulders for the last few years, like, I want people to walk in the room and be able to forget about it, and have a good time. And that's my job, is to try and provide that. Rock 'n' roll and high energy and lots of guitar."

•Read a full Q&A at www.wnypapers.com.

Youngstown Lions Club CASH BASH 2022

Drawing held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM
22 Drawings: 2 of \$500, 4 of \$300, 8 of \$100 and 8 of \$50

Tickets are \$20 each / results posted to:

Facebook - www.facebook.com/youngstownNYlionsclub
Website - www.youngstownlions.org

NO IN PERSON EVENT

For Tickets Contact One Of The Following Lions:

Lion Suzanne DeJoseph at (716) 807-8875 or sdejoseph9@gmail.com

Lion Richard Allen at (716) 870-9722 or allen14174@roadrunner.com

OR Any Youngstown Lion displaying a lawn sign in Youngstown

OR Any of these following Youngstown businesses:

The Village Diner

Victoria's Hair Salon

Hill of Beans Coffee Shop

PROCEEDS BENEFIT YOUNGSTOWN LIONS PARK, YOUNGSTOWN LIONS LEW-PORT SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND MANY OTHER CHARITIES

St. Patrick's Day March 17

St. Patrick's Day Take Out Dinner to Support
Historic Lewiston Old Stone Church

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Pickup at Church Social Hall Entrance

Dinner will consist of Corned Beef, Boiled
Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots and a festive Dessert

Pre-order dinners are for sale for \$15 and can be reserved by
Friday, March 11th. Please call the church office at 716-754-4945
and leave your name, phone # and # of dinners you wish to reserve.
(You will not get a return confirmation call unless you request)

Full price dinners at \$17 will be available at the door and will be on
a first come basis until 6pm or sold out.

Cash only payments please.

Proceeds from the dinner will go towards much needed preservation projects on the Old Stone Church, one of the oldest buildings in Lewiston. The first church built in Lewiston, it was founded in 1817 and played a key role in many Village milestones. Prior and during the Civil War it was involved in the safe movement of escaped slaves across the river to safety in Queenston, Ontario, Canada.