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LIVE
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THE WEEK
p.6

SHIREEN AMINI BREAKS FREE ON NEW ALBUM

Album release show set for Friday at Volcanic Theatre Pub

BY DAVID JASPER

The Bulletin

Shireen Amini has been a major part of the Central Oregon music scene for the past decade, known for her work leading the Latin-funk group ¡Chiringa!, as a guest artist lending her talents to others' recordings and, last but not least, through her solo efforts.

Now, Amini has emerged from with a highly personal artistic statement in the album "Break Myself Free," also the album's namesake second track and first single. Amini will celebrate the album's release, as well as the premiere of the video for the album's namesake tune, "Break Myself Free," Friday at Volcanic Theatre Pub.

"A lot of these songs came during a time when I was really just starting to come into my own authenticity, in a number of ways — a lot of which are counter-cultural — but which are just deeply true to my being," she said.

In recent years, Amini has taken a deep dive into her beliefs and values, embracing the fact that she is queer in sexual orientation as well as gender identification, she said, and the wisdom gained emerges in her songs and lyrics.

As she sings on "Let Go For Now," the first of seven tracks on the album: "Holding on to where you've been is just keeping the magic from flowing in, to carry you where you're meant to go and the grace of this moment a chance to show / This reality, so hard to face, all you want is to fill the empty place in your heart, but I believe it's true / You are not giving up the love in you, you are just giving way for something new."

"Break Myself Free," the album, also finds her doubling down on her primal love of the natural world that brought her to Central Oregon in the first place. That feeling is

If You Go

What: Album release party and video premiere for Shireen Amini's new album and single, "Break Myself Free," with Matti Joy

When: 9 p.m. Friday

Where: Volcanic Theatre Pub, 70 SW Century Drive, Bend

Cost: \$10

Contact: volcanictheatre.com or 541-323-1881

embodied by the nearly five-minute "Hippie Deep," an upbeat ode to Mother Earth full of bluesy horns and back-up singing.

PRE-PANDEMIC WRITINGS

The majority of the album's songs predate the COVID-19 pandemic, although most of the recording took place during it. She'd dabbled in beginning to record at a local studio in October 2019, but within a month, she came across an ad for Plaid Dog Recording in Boston.

"Funny enough, it was a Facebook ad that I found," she said. "It was intriguing because it was a studio based in Boston that if they accepted you as an artist, would help you create a crowdfunding campaign, and then raise the funds and be able to record at their

Continued on next page



Shireen Amini will release her new solo album, "Break Myself Free," Friday at Volcanic Theatre Pub in Bend. Gary Calicott/Submitted photo