Of course Lizzo is Time’s Entertainer of the Year

By CHRISETTE D’ZURILLA
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Lizzo, who’s Toilet eight shiny Grammy nominations with her as she heads into 2020, is Time’s 2019 Entertainer of the Year. The “Truth Hurts” singer’s honor came in one of four subcategories under 16-year-old actress Greta Thunberg’s selection as the youngest-ever Person of the Year. This year’s choices are different from Time’s traditional practice of a winner and runner-up.

For more than 90 years, the magazine has selected the “man, woman, group or concept” — OK, for most of those years it was the man of the year — that has been the most influential over the last 12 months. This time, the subcategory selections are the people who “dominated” their fields, rather than the runners-up.

‘Rare feel-good story”

“ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?” Lizzo tweeted Wednesday morning with a cover from the magazine, echoing Russell Crowe’s angry “Gladiator” line but accenting it with a joyful starry-eyed emoji instead of rage.

“Lizzo is the rare feel-good story in the music business. Six years after her first album, steadily winning over audiences with empowering, musically delicious records celebrating her Black skin and ample curves, she has finally cracked the zeitgeist,” the Times’ Gerrick D. Kennedy said in his review of one of her October shows at the Palladium.

“Being a black woman is pop ping, but right now in mainstream culture we’re finally getting a little more respect and getting our dues,” said Lizzo, 31, born Melissa Jefferson. “I’ve always been singing about the same (things). I just think that people were ready to hear it and they’re also ready to receive it from someone like me.”

‘Evolved thinking’

While her ubiquitous hit “Good as Hell” came out in 2016, Lizzo’s dominance in 2019 comes on the back of “Cuz I Love You,” her third album. She’s up against Bhad Bhabie and Lil Nas X, among others, for best new artist, weirdly enough at a January’s Grammy ceremony. “Truth Hurts,” originally released in 2017, with its meme-inspired line: “What you take away from (‘Cuz I Love You’), though — what makes Lizzo, beyond merely her lack of big success in the past, feel like part of something genuinely new — is her evolved thinking about beauty standards and the nature of feminity and how a power imbalance can affect the way a relationship proceeds,” The Times’ Mikhail Wood said in an examination of the Grammy-nomination success.

Proud of body

Lizzo is a proud champion of people loving their bodies, and she shares pictures of her own.

“Seeing the beauty in your naked body is really important. I think that naked bodied are artful. They’re masterful. You are a work of art,” Lizzo told Time. “So, I take nudes.”