

# Afterglow fest: 12 acts in four days

By **KATHI SCRIZZI DRISCOLL**  
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**PROVINCETOWN** – When Quinn Cox moved into a small cottage earlier this month, then discovered that playwright Eugene O'Neill had stayed there nearly a century ago, it seemed like a "signpost" that he was working in the right direction.

The "spirit of experimentation" in theater that Provincetown has long been known for, starting in O'Neill's time, was a main influence for Cox – an astrologer, entertainer and author – to create Afterglow, dubbed "the first annual Provincetown live performance arts festival." The event runs Wednesday through Sept. 18.

Cox knew Provincetown was the birthplace of American theater in the early 20th century, but he learned from longtime residents that a variety of experimental acts had played there in the 1960s and '70s, too. The idea to newly bring in cutting-edge acts from New York – of having Provincetown "reclaim its birthright of being where artists are creating alternative work for the stage" – was hatched over brunch between Cox and writer-director John Cameron Mitchell ("Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "Rabbit Hole").

Cox has put the festival's schedule of 12 acts together, but says Mitchell has been invaluable with advice and influence; he will also perform a "greatest hits" night with Amber Martin. But while Mitchell has become familiar with the town, Cox says, most of the other artists are new to the area.

"These are people who are making waves in New York and doing international festivals, but (people) here don't know about them," Cox says. "And they don't know Provincetown. ... So we get to say, welcome to paradise, really."

Mid-September seemed the perfect time for such an enterprise – because so much summer entertainment had stopped, and townies would have more time to be able to get out and enjoy the acts themselves. That off-season timing inspired the festival's name.

The slate of who's performing came together from people Cox and partner Stella Starsky know from performing in New York themselves, and others suggested to him.

"We've got (award winners) yet



NIALL WALKER

Taylor Mac will present "Comparison Is Violence," a dissection of "the darker side of comparison" that includes Tiny Tim songs and selections from David Bowie's glam-rock music about Ziggy Stardust, on Friday as part of the Afterglow performance arts festival.

they are still sort of underground, and that's the point," Cox says. "They're big names in terms of their circuit, yet not widely known outside of New York and festivals.

"We want to get the audience to understand that you'd have to go to New York for a month and run around to all of these places" and pay for a hotel, cover charges and drinks to see these acts, he says, "but I'm bringing them all here in the course of four days."

Cox says he aimed to find "anything interesting that's being done on the stage that's going to make us think while entertaining us." He acknowledges that it's ambitious to start a new festival with 12 such acts, but notes he already has a list of other performers he hopes to schedule for next year.

Cox's own act, Starsky + Cox, kicks off the festival Wednesday night with a \$100 per ticket festival benefit performance at The Crown & Anchor (247 Commercial St.) in a "Meet the Stars" show. Featured will be the duo's "comic insight, cosmic inspiration and original songs," along with previews from several of the other festival acts.

There are then three performers for each of the next four nights, spaced in two-hour intervals, with 7, 9 and 11 p.m. shows at Provincetown Theater, 238 Bradford St.

The eclectic lineup of performers includes: Penny Arcade, a writer and performance artist with

## ON STAGE

**What:** Afterglow performance arts festival

**When:** Wednesday through Sept. 18

**Where:** Provincetown Theater, 238 Bradford St.

**Tickets:** \$30 per show plus various packages

**Reservations:** www.afterglowfestival.org or 508-487-4569

a storied career, including being part of Andy Warhol's Factory, presenting "Old Queen, When No One Was Famous," described as "a queer coming of age during 1967's Summer of Love in Provincetown and New York's East Village"; Jay Brannan, an acoustic singer-songwriter who plays folk music; cabaret performer Bridget Everett with "Let's Get Pregnant"; Drew Droege, a Chloe Sevigny impersonator, in "Good Evening, America"; cabaret star Lady Rizo in "Unescorted – Entertainer, Chanteuse, Dream-maker, Superstar"; Taylor Mac in "Comparison Is Violence," in which he "dissects the darker side of comparison while singing Tiny Tim songs and selections from David Bowie's glam-rock album 'The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust'; and Cole Escola, a comedian of YouTube videos and Logo network's "Jeffery & Cole Casserole," doing "Young, Gifted and Black."

Then there is two-time Obie Award-winning singer and performance artist John Kelly, using his three-octave voice on "Songs

of Wanderlust," a collection of songs by such artists as Lou Reed, the Bee Gees, Donovan and Joni Mitchell "seen through the eyes of a velocity-addicted, globe-trotting man"; Michael Cavadias and Rob Roth's "The Mystery of Claywoman," which is part movie, part live lecture about Claywoman, a 500-million-year-old mysterious figure that, according to legend, can cure anyone of their deepest pain; Sage Francis, offering a one-man show of hip-hop, poetry, comedy, social commentary and "random spurts of confrontational banter"; and Enid Ellen dueting with singer-songwriter Greg Potter in a show of alternative ballads, a cappella and glam, featuring songs from their debut album, "Cannibal Disease."

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LATE SHOWS SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY

CONTAGION (PG-13)	12:00	2:25	4:50	7:15	9:40
THE DEBT (R)	11:55	2:20	4:50	7:25	10:00
CREATURE (R)	12:20	2:45	5:00	7:05	9:15
SHARK NIGHT 3D (PG-13) (ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR 3D)	12:10	2:25	4:40	7:00	9:25
APOLLO 18 (PG-13)	12:10	2:25	4:30	7:05	9:30
ONE DAY (PG13)	11:55	2:25	4:55	7:25	9:55
OUR IDIOT BROTHER (R)	12:00	2:10	5:10	7:20	10:00
SARAH'S KEY (PG13)					