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Provincetown Magazine

Vol. 34 Issue #22 September 15-21

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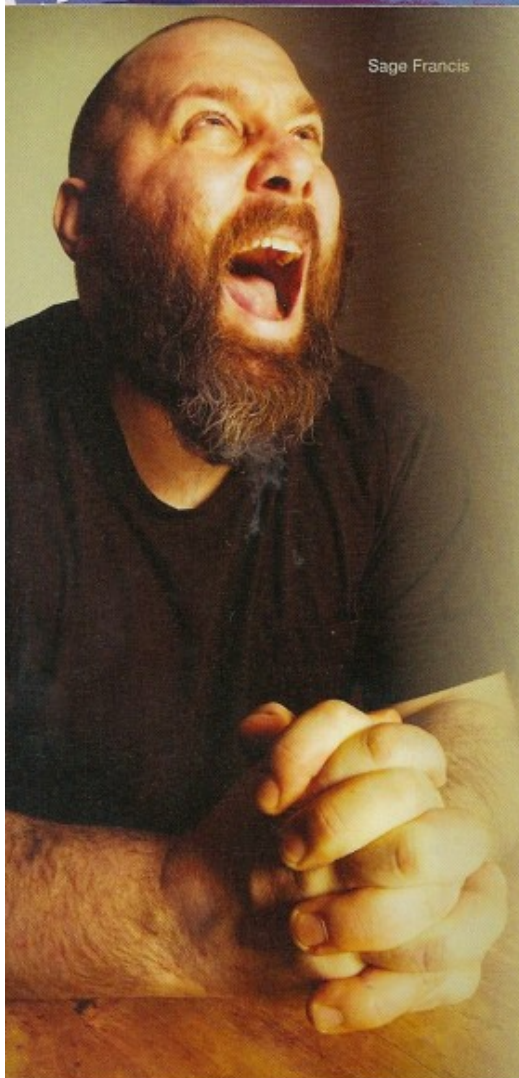


**Afterglow: The 1st Annual Provincetown
Live Performance Arts Festival
Simply Barbra!**

plus...

The Ding Dongs or What is the Penalty in Portugal?

Your Guide to Dining, Arts, Entertainment, Shopping



Sage Francis

Ever since Charles Hawthorne founded the Cape Cod School of Art in 1899, giving birth to the Provincetown art colony, there has been a robust exchange between the far tips of Cape Cod and Manhattan. A steady stream of visual artists who came for the famous "light," complemented by droves of writers, actors, and musicians, created a scene in Provincetown that gave birth to some of the most influential artistic, literary, and theatrical movements in America. The town is both a crucible and an incubator of creative thought reliant on the infusion of new ideas blended with the traditions of free expression and experimentation.

Basking in the famous light is the new Afterglow Festival, a creation of John Cameron Mitchell, of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* fame, and Quinn Cox, half of the famed astrological duo Starsky and Cox. Over five days in mid September, the festival presents 12 of the edgiest performers from New York's downtown performance scene (as well as Los Angeles and Providence) to Provincetown, while also introducing the art colony to these acts, inviting them to form a creative and personal relationship with the town.

"Most of these people have never been to Provincetown before," says Cox. "It's going to blow their minds."

It is one of the great hopes of the festival to widen the pathways between Provincetown and

In September,

New York. This summer marked the performance debut of Justin Vivian Bond, who performed several shows at the Crown and Anchor in July. A legend of downtown New York, Cox said that as the two strolled through the streets of Provincetown after the closing night show, Bond said, "I want to be a part of this place." Bond is now a member of the board of the Afterglow Festival.

"The response is the same whenever a performer or artist arrives in Provincetown for the first time, 'Oh my God! This is paradise. That a place like this exists is amazing! How come I didn't know about this!,'" says Cox.

The first decade of the new millennium was a tough time for creative communities. Prior to the economic crash, runaway real estate prices drove many artists away from traditionally supportive enclaves, including Provincetown and Greenwich Village in New York. The very creative spirit that made these locales such a desirable place to live was being driven out. Clubs, small theaters, and performance spaces in New York closed due to pressure from real estate developers. And slowly, the flow of artists from New York dwindled as young and emerging performers couldn't find a place



Jay Brannan. Photo: Sandor Lubba

Jay Brannan

Texas native, NYC resident, *Shortbus*

actor, and Internet sensation Jay Brannan presents his own melodic folk songs with a sprinkling of covers in an intimate and casual setting. Acoustic singer/songwriter fare that bridges the gaps between

hope and bitterness, courage and insecurity, honesty and denial.

Bridget Everett - Let's Get Pregnant

Bridget Everett is *Time Out New York's* Top Cabaret Performer of 2010. She hits the stage with a live one-man band and a bottle to sing all her favorite love songs and share the stories of the lovers who made her ... feel?

Cole Escola - Young, Gifted and Black

Best known for his oeuvre of YouTube videos and the anti-legendary TV show *Jeffery & Cole Casserole* on the Logo Network, Escola brings his broad showmanship and sweetheart charm to the stage in his underwear and works out a few daddy issues.

Lady Rizo - Unescorted - Entertainer, Chanteuse, Dreamaker, Superstar



Lady Rizo. Photo: Kevin Kauer

Lady Rizo is here for an unchaperoned evening of song and decadence. Her seamless mix of bawdy humor and elegance has been likened to Mae West, but it's her distinctive neo-retro vocal chops that have garnered recent attention and a Grammy – in her collaborations on albums this year with Yo-Yo Ma and Moby.

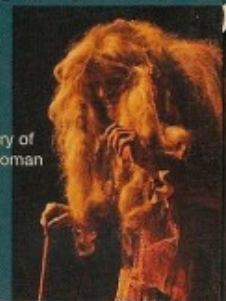
Taylor Mac - Comparison is Violence - The Ziggy Stardust Meets Tiny Tim Songbook

Combining dramatic flair, searing satire, and poignant honesty and—of course—plenty of glitter, Mac comes in a flourish of sequins with his newest show in which he dissects the darker side of comparison while singing Tiny Tim songs and selections from David Bowie's classic glam-rock album *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust*.

The Mystery of Claywoman

The Mystery of Claywoman, performed by Michael Cavadias and Rob Roth, combines the forms of a documentary screening and lecture to actualize the

The Mystery of Claywoman



they could afford in Provincetown. Both places took a creative beating as a result. But while not necessarily easier, Cox says artists he's spoken with are finding that the pressure has eased. The Afterglow Festival is in part an attempt to show that there is still a place for the new artist in Provincetown amongst the more established.

While Provincetown's past is certainly a motivating factor for the creation of the event, so, too are other performance arts gatherings like the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. What began in 1947 as a "guerilla" type festival is now the world's largest arts festival, bringing over 2,000 shows to the Scottish city where over one million tickets are sold each August over the four weeks of "the Fringe." In addition, the festival made Edinburgh a creative capital for performers from the world over. It's a place where artists go to meet other artists – a reputation that Provincetown used to have globally as well, when the *Boston Globe* declared it the "world's largest art colony" in 1916. Almost 100 years later, that energy has diminished some.

"When you look around Provincetown, performance wise, we are so lucky that we have the crème de la crème of drag performers here," says Cox. "There is room for more varied types of performances. As the birthplace of American theater it's Provincetown's birthright."

Cox is noticing a creative renaissance in both New York and Provincetown, and points to performance venues along Commercial Street for more local evidence. Mark Cortale and Seth Rudetsky producing the Broadway at the Art House series and Rick Murray's diverse programming at the Crown and Anchor inspire Cox

Bridget Everett.
Photo: David J. Martin

The Light Changes

By Steve Desroches



as he sees the two venues as bringing new and exciting acts to town, while supporting mainstays of the creative engine of live performance in town. It is his hope that the performers coming for the Afterglow Festival will secure future bookings elsewhere in Provincetown, contributing to the growth of creative talent in town.

"In every generation there is the energy of experimentation," says Cox. "That energy needs to be represented. We hope this festival is a mechanism for these artists to find their way to Provincetown, for these artists to feel at home here."

The Afterglow Festival runs Wednesday, September 14 - Sunday, September 18. A special benefit with Starsky and Cox and nine of the festival performers takes place Wednesday, September 14 at 9 p.m. at Paramount at the Crown and Anchor, 247 Commercial St. From Thursday, September 15 through Sunday, September 18 there will be three different shows each evening at 7, 9, and 11 p.m. at the Provincetown Theater, 238 Bradford St. Tickets for each show are \$30. An all access festival pass is \$300. Tickets will be available at the box office or at www.afterglowfestival.org.

story of Claywoman, a 500-million-year-old enigma who, legend has it, can cure anyone of their deepest pain.

on earwolf.com. A wild exploration of performance art, reverence, and parody.

John Kelly - Songs Of Wanderlust + The Escape Artist

Kelly brings his three-octave voice to a collection of songs seen through the eyes of a velocity-addicted, globe-traipsing man, dragged through dark times, a weathered sage returned solid. This concert includes songs by Lou Reed, Charles Aznavour, The Bee Gees, The Incredible String Band, Donovan, Kurt Weill, Joni Mitchell, as well as original songs.



Amber Martin

Penny Arcade - Old Queen, When No One Was Famous

Penny Arcade, international performance star presents *Old Queen, When No One Was Famous*, a queer coming of age story set during 1967's Summer of Love in Provincetown and New York's East Village.

Sage Francis

This will be a one-man emotional roller coaster fueled by hip-hop, poetry, comedy, social commentary, and random spurts of confrontational banter.

John Cameron Mitchell and Amber Martin - Greatest Hits

Mitchell teams with his pal vocalist and performance artist Amber Martin, whom Mitchell calls "the result of a three-way between Lily Tomlin, Reba McEntyre and Andy Kaufman."

Drew Droege - Good Evening, America

Drew Droege is known on the Internet as the guy who plays Chloe Sevigny, Tanya Roberts, the voice of Feathers on *Planet Unicorn*, and the host of *Glitter in the Garbage*, his weekly podcast

Enid Ellen with Greg Potter - Loving Cannibal Disease

Channeling Mother Nature, David Mramor is Enid Ellen. Duetting with singer/songwriter Greg Potter on piano, they bring a raw intensity to their performance, mixing alternative ballads, acapella, and glam.



Enid Ellen with Greg Potter