

## Afterglow: beyond the spotlight

By: Jeannette de Beauvoir, September 13, 2011



**Ves Pitts** - Combining dramatic flair, searing satire, and plenty of glitter, Taylor Mac dissects the darker side of comparison in his latest show, featuring Tiny Tim songs and selections from David Bowie's 'The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust.'

The first annual Afterglow Festival is coming to Provincetown this week, bringing together cutting-edge performance artists together for what organizer Quinn Cox hopes will become a shoulder season tradition.

Cox and co-founder John Cameron Mitchell want to “renew the centennial artistic bond between Greenwich Village and Provincetown.”

And they’re doing it by bringing alternative acts from the Village to our favorite village by the sea ... perhaps bringing back Provincetown’s one-time nickname of “Greenwich Village North.”

“You’d have to spend a month in New York City and many, many dollars to see all this talent that’s making headlines and selling out houses in New York,” says Cox, who makes up half of **Starsky and Cox**, sextrologists with a weekly show on WOMR.

**Under the radar *crème de la crème***

Emphasizing new artists and innovative approaches, the festival aims to go beyond the tried-and-true, familiar names in Provincetown's theater community.

"The performers we're bringing here are internationally renowned, alternative artists," says Cox. "They're either critically acclaimed and award-winning—or under the radar but already creating a buzz in the performance world."

The first Afterglow is slated to present a roster of live performers that include Obie-award winner **Taylor Mac** and **John Cameron Mitchell**, a Golden Globe-nominee and Sundance Film Festival and Obie Award-winner, who is perhaps best known for directing *Hedwig and the Angry Itch* (2001).

**Sage Francis, Penny Arcade, Jay Brannan, Michael Cavadias, Drew Droege, Enid Ellen, Cole Escola, Bridget Everett, John Kelly, Lady Rizo, Amber Martin, Matt Ray, Rob Roth**, and of course Starsky and Cox round out the performers.

"What we're doing here—we're bringing the *crème de la crème* of this world of talent here to Provincetown, in celebration of Provincetown's birthright as the home of creative, new, evolutionary vanguard performance," Cox says.

### **Bask in the Afterglow**

Cox says the intention of a September festival is to give the locals something to look forward to, while also giving visitors a reason to stick around.

"The atmosphere is more decompressed, the light's more diffused. It's a romantic time of year. Everyone's had their pockets filled. They're enjoying the friendships and social interaction they've perhaps had to put on the back burner while it was so busy and so chaotic through Labor Day," Cox says with a smile.

"They can bask in the afterglow of summer!"

It's true that Provincetown performances—and especially theater—can fall into some well-used and familiar categories; Afterglow shatters those categories and by bringing new, fresh, and unexpected talent to town.

"My hope is that artists will think of performing in Edinburgh in August and then in Provincetown in September," says Cox.

*The first annual Afterglow festival takes place at the Provincetown Theater, September 14-18, 2011. For tickets and more information, visit the [festival website](#).*

*The Afterglow Festival operates as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c)(3) organization serving the arts community-at-large.*