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By [Rob Phelps](#)

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Zachary Quinto guest of honor at Provincetown Williams fest benefit

Most recently, Zachary Quinto starred in a multiple Tony Award-nominated production of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie." This Saturday evening, May 31, he joins David Kaplan, curator of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, for what Kaplan calls "a candid conversation" up on Provincetown Town Hall stage. This live interview is the main event of the Williams fest's annual spring dinner, where guests also have a chance to mingle and chat with Quinto during the cocktail hour, starting at 6:30 p.m.

You may know him best as Spock in the 2009 and 2013 "Star Trek" updates for the silver screen, or as a super-powered serial killer or sadist psychiatrist in "Heroes" and "American Horror Story: Asylum," respectively, on TV.

Zachary Quinto is a sexy chameleon. The "out" gay actor, who at once makes no big deal about his sexuality while strongly supporting his GLBT brothers and sisters, has played scores of roles on screen and stage. He's something of a shape shifter, seemingly moving without effort from good guy to bad guy, on shows ranging from "Touched By an Angel" to "Six Feet Under."

But what remains a constant, what you remember about all of his portrayals, is the consistency with which he finds complexity and compassion in his characters — yes, even for the famously emotionless Spock — and for those eyes. Those deep, dark pools of intensity that make it so easy for audiences to get lost in.

Most recently, Quinto starred with Cherry Jones (basically Broadway's version of Meryl Streep) in a multiple Tony Award-nominated production of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie." This Saturday evening, May 31, he joins David Kaplan, curator of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, for what Kaplan calls "a candid conversation" up on Provincetown Town Hall stage. This live interview is the main event of the Williams fest's annual spring dinner, where guests also have a chance to mingle and chat with Quinto during the cocktail hour, starting at 6:30 p.m.

To whet the appetite for what promises to be a smart and somewhat saucy talk with Kaplan, Quinto recently spoke with the Banner. His latest Broadway turn in the Williams play, he says, "was one of the highlights of my creative journey so far. I've had lots of great opportunities and experiences and this one's at the top of the heap. It was such an incredible production. It opened up the world of Tennessee Williams to me."

The character of Tom Wingfield, he notes, "is the clearest distillation of Tennessee Williams. It was a great opportunity to understand him as an artist more than I did before, to understand what he was trying to capture in his work and trying to escape, how he was inspired by, and at the same time haunted by his family throughout his creative life. It made me wish I had known him."

Quinto calls stage work "the purest representation of the creative experience." Working for film and television, he says, "can be isolating. You're on a soundstage for 12 to 15 hours a day and your performance and story doesn't take shape until post-production. On stage, it happens immediately, surprisingly, and there's something about that that's endlessly exciting, that keeps me coming back."

In fact, his best memory from doing "Menagerie," he says, is "the whole process of how we [he and the other three cast members] made the play, how we came together spending time in Cambridge," where the production was developed early last year at the American Repertory Theater, "when all four of us spent nights huddled together in the winter, when we really bonded and connected."

That kind of connection is the theme of this year's festival — "Tennessee Williams: Circle of Friends."

"Williams orbited the world among a constellation of friends," Kaplan explains, "mainstream celebrities in the 1950s and '60s at the height of their artistic powers. Each of them led a secret life. This year's program invites our audience to join that circle of friends."

Kaplan also promises to reveal at the dinner the program for the ninth annual Williams theater festival (Sept. 25-28) in Provincetown.

The dinner also features a live art auction, highlights of which include a sketch by the famous sculptor Gaston Lachaise and a painting looking out across Provincetown Harbor by Joan Cobb-Marsh. Tickets can be purchased for just the cocktail hour or the complete evening at www.twptown.org, where you can also follow the latest updates on the upcoming festival.



PHOTO/ PHOTO MICHAEL J. LUTCH

Cherry Jones and Zachary Quinto on Broadway in "The Glass Menagerie."

Just the facts

What: Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival annual dinner
Where: Provincetown Town Hall, 260 Commercial St.
When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31
Tickets: www.twptown.org

<http://provincetown.wickedlocal.com/article/20140529/NEWS/140526736>

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