

## Nancy Atlas Shares The Stage With The Gamut Of Local Talent

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Nancy Atlas ROBERT D. COMES

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Like a force of nature, Nancy Atlas takes center stage, smiling widely at enthusiastic fans that hoot and clap from dimly-lit tables. Alongside the lithe blonde songstress, a ready ensemble of musicians waits to start their jam. And so begins another Tuesday night of “In The Round” at Stephen Talkhouse in Amagansett.

As the host of “In the Round,” Ms. Atlas brings together a different group of musicians every Tuesday night, through December 21, at the Talkhouse. Whether beaten on bongos, plucked on an upright bass or jammed on a guitar, at “In the

Round” each musician has a chance to play his or her original songs and explain the stories behind each melody, with the night’s collaborative coup de gras being the all-star jam finale.

The music industry veteran, who has been performing for years and knows practically every professional musician on the East End, is the tuning fork for the “In the Round” sound.

“I pulled from my years playing in the clubs in downtown New York,” she said. “I have wanted to do a collaboration thing with other talented musicians I have met along the way ... Every musician that plays ‘In the Round’ is a pro; this is not an open-mic night for amateurs, but a jam session with awesome local talent.”

Each week Ms. Atlas chooses new musicians for the event. As a result, the miscellaneous minstrels have jammed out on everything from rock-n-roll, folk, bluegrass and blues to an occasional jazz tune.

“You never know what’s going to happen here on Tuesdays,” she said with a laugh. “Within a few hours, the crowd can hear heavy rock or something a little more mellow. It’s always spontaneous and fun.”

Though a headliner in her own right, Ms. Atlas easily and graciously shares the stage with her fellow musicians. Singing backup for her friends is just one way she shows her support for the East End arts community, she said.

And for those looking to hear her turn-it-out solo on occasion, they won't be disappointed. Having been compared to loads of successful artists—from Norah Jones to Gregg Allman—Ms. Atlas's sultry sound commands attention with a musical style that drifts somewhere between the ethereal lilt of Margo Timmins of the Cowboy Junkies to the country/rock growl of Neil Young.

Aside from rocking it out here in the Hamptons, the Long Island native has spent every summer of her life on the East End, enjoying its bounty of surfing, clamming and paddle boarding. She's even known to gather beach plums along the shore for her special wintertime jelly.

The busy mom, musician and producer finished her sixth album "It Ain't That Way Now" in August, which took her out of the water for awhile. But she was able to hit the surf again in mid-November, she said, adding that the East End's landscape and swells are an inspiration for her music, regardless of the time of year.

"I don't mind if I have to put a little Vaseline on my face to catch some pretty winter waves," she said. "I may wince the whole time till I actually get in the water, but then I am always happy I went in."

Danny Kean, Andy Aledort and Beth Trollen will take the stage with Ms. Atlas at "In the Round" on December 7. Next up, it's George Breakfast, Neil Surreal, Bruce Martin Brett King and the holiday Revelers on December 14. The last show of the year will feature Gene Casey and friends. "In the Round" will return to the Talkhouse on April 5.

Tickets for each show are \$10 at the door. For more information about Nancy Atlas, visit [nancyatlas.com](http://nancyatlas.com).

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