

SENTINEL

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'Bitch! Dyke!
Faghag! Whore!'
an unmissable
Festival hit
Galway Arts Festival

You approached this show with a feeling of uncertainty, discomfort even. What would it be about? What would the audience be like? Would it be over the top or in bad taste? Upon arrival, you were greeted by erotic dancers and pulsating loud music, and you did not know what to expect over the following two hours.

Then we met our host for the evening, Penny Arcade. A truly charismatic middle-aged woman, who seemed totally comfortable with her own sexuality, she guided her nubile young dancers through a brilliant show which earned a standing ovation at the end.

It's been one of the secret successes of this year's Arts Festival. This truly amazing, charismatic New York woman brought us through her own turbulent life story, as her life began to mirror the entire history of American sexuality since the 'sixties. And the show was brimful of sexual energy throughout.

Virtually no-one is spared from this woman's stunning deliveries, from gays and lesbians or Galway drinkers to right-wing fundamentalists, who

received the most scathing attacks of all. Few in the audience could ever have witnessed such a show, from a "feminist" who includes prostitution and go-go dancers in her routine.

Penny had an uncanny ability to bring the house down with laughter, yet her stories about her friends who died of AIDS almost had the audience in tears. And the sexy dancers, instead of lowering the tone of the show, just added to her positive anti-censorship message.

Penny must have had a tough time attempting to bring such a radical routine to an Irish audience — yet she went down a storm. By the time she finished this warm, sincere woman had earned a thunderous standing ovation and her message — to do your own thing and not to be judgemental of others — had obviously hit home. You left feeling a beautiful, warm glow. Unmissable.

—C.T.

"Bitch! Dyke! Fag-hag! Whore!" continues until Friday at the Setanta club, Salthill, nightly at 8.30 p.m.