



PEOPLE

Cool people are precious commodities. Thanks to their pioneering spirits, sense of innovation and bold hearts, Long Island is one of the greatest places in the world. So great, that some of the greatest people come here to live (or play), multiplying our cool to the Nth degree

1. Johan Santana

Even in a lost season for the Mets, Santana's starts brought excitement to Flushing not seen since the days of the Doc in the 80s.

2. Julian Schnabel

Brooklyn-born artist, filmmaker, director and Golden Globe winner is an east end part-timer.

3. Adrienne Esposito

One of the coolest women on the Northern Seaboard not just because she started the Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), but she had the moxie to be a leader in beating back Broadwater (aka Shell Oil LNG terminal). Thanks to her leadership The Sound is NOT mired by a permanent giant supertanker full of gas and CCE continues to protect our environment through six offices across the state.

4. Joe Colao

There are very few Long Islanders as green as this guy. He's been selling surplus electricity generated from wind turbines and solar panels on his property to LIPA for years. Colao also works with organizations such as Real Goods and the Sierra Club to spread info about renewable energy at school lectures and allows tours of his home and property.

5. Derek Jeter

Other than being the Yanks' all-time hit leader and earning four World Series rings, he's also launched the single greatest conquest of the Maxim Hot-100 list of beautiful women.

6. Sheppard Brothers

This family band has been touring on Long Island and NYC for the past three years, and they're not even old enough to drive. Kenya Sheppard (14) and Camara Sheppard (12) along with Ryan McCloskey (16) and Angelica Franzino (16) are dedicated to playing blues, jazz, rock and R&B classics.

7. Chuck Close

Most people can't paint. This guy has been doing it with a brush taped to his hand (since becoming disabled). Oh, and he is the father of Pixelated Photorealism.

8. Vic Skolnick

9. Charlotte Sky

Founders of the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington—by far the coolest movie theater on Long Island.

10. Jon Stewart &

11. Stephen Colbert

'Nuff said.

Photography: Chuck Close by Olga Karpovsk; Julian Schnabel by Ben Ackerly; Johan Santana by Brian Kruger; Stephen Colbert by Joel Jeffries; Jon Stewart by Kevin Fitzsimmons

HOW TO BE COOL

Get a dog. It starts there. Cats don't count, unless they're one of those cat-dog breeds. Or Obama. Love him or hate him, he is one cool cat. Think about it, this guy became President of The Free World largely because he never lost his cool. Not like Joe Pesci, who most people admire but few would actually call cool. Being cool is something else. It's Zen except it's too cool for that new age wannabe old school mystic nonsense. It's a state of mind kind of thing. People can see it on you, like a cloak, or a cap. Elvis knew this. That's why when he lost his cool, he started wearing capes. Eddie Murphy looked into entirely different costumes when he lost his. People think fantasy is cool, but it's dangerous. Henry Winkler, who is not cool, got to play Fonzie. That's the difference between life and art. Sometimes you get cheated. Rod Stewart is not cool, but Robert Plant and Iggy Pop, who borrowed from Stewart, got to be cool. Rod Serling and Jon Stewart, totally cool. Sometimes you just get lucky. The Beatles were cool but Ringo, eh, not so much. Neither are Beatles cover bands. People do covers because music is universally cool and they want a piece of that. But you can't be a follower. You don't have to be the first at something, you just have to be able to do it your own way. Like at Frank (Sinatra). You can't be a fraud.



5 TELS OF UNCOOL:

1. Use words you don't understand. Or can't pronounce. Or blatantly misuse.
2. Bigotry.
3. Talking with your mouth full.
4. Honking your horn (unless it's to warn of danger).
5. Faking something (like an interest, or a hobby, or, um, enjoyment of something).

