

All Over Cazwell

The N.Y.C. Homo-Hop star plays L.A.

BY MATTHEW C. POE



THE GAY BLOG QUEERTY calls N.Y.C.'s Cazwell "hip-hop's highest-ranking homo." The downtown scenester has earned a name in Gotham for his forthright rhymes, as well as his too-hot-for-Logo music videos featuring transsexual icon Amanda Lepore. The lead single from his debut album *Get Into It* is "All Over Your Face," a hip-hop reworking of the Loose Joints disco classic "Is It All Over My Face." In the midst of preparing for his biggest show yet, at Radio City Music Hall, Caz talked to *Frontiers* about

drag Rockettes, homo-hop, and the importance of sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope when requesting underwear from your favorite artist.

FRONTIERS: So, Radio City?

CAZWELL: Yeah. I'll just tell you, I'm never nervous. ... I know how to do my thing, no big deal. But this, 'cause it's Radio City, I can't just jump on stage with a mike and just be me. So I have a total of 25 dancers, plus Amanda. Fifteen of those 25 dancers are going to be like the drag queen Rockettes that come out and dance around for "My Hair Looks Fierce." So it's a lot to organize. There's not a lot of time between my sound check and when I go on. These drag queens need a lot of time to get ready, and Radio City is not giving us a dressing room, so we need to go to a bar that's three avenues away.

Is talking about condoms in your music a conscious choice? Is that a message that you care about?

It's certainly not planned out. I think that condoms just represent the fact that I do have sex. Like in "14th Street," when I'm like, "condom wrappers on the floor," that just tells a story right there. So condoms are a regular part of gay sex, as far as my sex goes. ... I don't think about it. I'm not trying to make a statement. I'm just trying to keep it real.

Is there a homo-hop, or gay rap, scene? Can it have longevity?

I think it has longevity, 'cause I think that rap will be around forever, and gay people will be around forever, and there will always be gay people that rap. But how

much attention they get—and for how long—is in question. I think the only thing that truly lasts is talent. ... Just being gay and rapping is kind of boring. You really have to be good, and you really have to have a new style, a style that people can connect with—people that are gay and straight.

Is there a difference between objectifying men in rap and objectifying women?

No, there's absolutely no difference.

Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

I think it's a great thing. Isn't it a good thing that everyone has the opportunity to get objectified once in a while? And I don't think I've ever objectified anyone I haven't had sex with. Anyone I've objectified wanted to be. ... Don't we all treat the people we have sex with like a sexual object to a certain degree at some point anyway?

Any particularly strange fan e-mails or requests?

I had a guy request my underwear before. And I don't have a problem doing that, but I'm just too lazy to go down to the post office. Put in an envelope with a stamp, I'll do it, but if I've got to box it up? He should have sent me a self-addressed, stamped envelope if he really wanted my underwear. Whatever. I'll do anything to keep a fan, if they're going to buy a record.

Are you working on anything new, or focusing on the tour?

I'm not really focusing on the tour. I just show up where I'm supposed to be, and I am trying to get together as many dates as I can. My main focus is on Amanda Lepore's full-length album that's going to be out in the fall; I'm finishing up those songs. ... I have a video for my song "Watch My Mouth" that will be out [soon].

Cazwell will perform three upcoming shows in Los Angeles: Wed., July 11, at Weapons at MJ's, Thurs., July 12, at Big Fat Dick at Fubar, and Sat., July 14, at Hot Dog at Dragonfly. All shows begin at 10 p.m.