

While Armand worked with the **Mambo Kings** he gave an interview to **GQ Magasin**, it's written by **Stephanie Mansfield december 1991**.

She write detailed about every thing that meets her eye on her way to Armands farm and while she interviewing him. She talks to co-female-star in that very movie: **Cathy Moriarty** and try to work herself around the mistery-man with the long list of performance and still no fame, in despaite of a tremendous talent for drama.

She tells there is a long dusty road leading up to "The Lone Oak Farm" and she spots a sign along the road saying:

TRESSPASSERS WILL BE DISMEMBERED BY PACKS OF WILD ANIMALS...

She meets an (42 years old) Armand with hands of a workingman with halfmoons of dirt under his fingernails.

He drinks decaffenated coffee and says he stopped smoking, still he snaps a cigarett tares the filter off and smoke it.

They talk about the chock Armand got 4 years ago, working with his role in "Jack the Ripper" in England, where his workstyle and lifestyle made him finally brake down, end up in a wheelchair and on a flight back to New York. His sister Denise says, he learned from that and changed the way he lived and had another perspective of his work.

Armand say about this: "Having working so hard for so long, nearly destroying my health in the process, I'm not interested in perfection anymore. Being the perfect actor. The perfect husband. The perfect father. The perfect son. When that happens, and you're in that kind of profound pain and scared to death you may die, that's when I discarded it. I have no use for it now. That's what was self-destructive: *trying to get it right all the time*."

To the interviewer is the nagging question: why is'nt he at that A-list ?

Armand explains that from the beginning of it, he was refusing to become a willing participant in the celeberty-making mashine. Once he became *the nightmare of any interviewer...* willing to give an interview but having that demand ..he did'nt want to be on the frontcover of that magasin.

"I never marketed myself in any way" Armand says " I've only been an actor, but I've never fucked anybody over in that town, I've never wanted a nickel of anybody's money. I've never wasted anybody's time. I'm not obligated to any anyone there, I don't feel they are obligated to me. They've been great to me. They did 'nt have to give me *shit*."

They talk about **Cesar in Mambo Kings**, and Armand says:" Somehow I understood that charachter more than I undestood any other charachter I've ever done. I don't know where that comes from.? ! To me, that guy is such a tragic figure. My closest freinds were all Cesars. Some of theme are dead. But they were all Cesars. Cesar has the ability to take *shit* and making something out of it.

The one thing I love about Cesar is that he know's he is a failure. In his heart of hearts, he knows he's over the hill.

That he missed the boat. In some ways, I feel it myself. I'm not a failure, but I know in the way I approached everything as a young person, with such impetuosity and such arrogance, as I look back on it - yeah, in some ways I did fail. 'Cause I did'nt listen to my father, who always said to me: `You're too impatient` I was always jumping to the next thing. Never waiting for anything, in that sense, I understood Cesar very well. In a way it's like being a fool".

There's a special feeling about this film, both **Antonio Banderas** and Armand Assante hopes ..this will be it..

Armand still works hard at this set...he does it over and over..but "**He allways got it perfect on the first one, anyway**" says co player **Kathy Moriarty**...and she also think's "...that man, is to die for !"

"Armand is an unbelievable worker" says **Banderas** "**Sometimes I could'nt follow him**. I was exhausted. Armand wached me like an older brother. I was using him. Sorry, I have to tell him. He helped me in every scene and his spirit of sacrifice is incredible"

Armand declares laiter in the interview: "I was never offered any extraodrinary roles. My work accumulated. If I have made any mistakes in my life. I'll tell you, I just wanted to work. And I just kept working. There was nothing premeditated. Now, when I look back on it, some of it, saddens me becuae I spent so many years in the company of pojects that just were not well-realized. As an actor you're as good, as your last job."

Glimcher the director of "Mambo Kings" says: "Armand is very smart, and extraordinary shy. It's why he does'nt like Hollywood" Armand Assante brought a kindness to the charachter Cesar . Hiluelos says: "He's dark and brooding and has a certain controlled elegance about him "

Kathy Moriarty means: "Cesar is so fare form Armand, but he got so close to the charachter it's frightening, Armand is shy and very funny, Cesare is the complete opposite. I'm sure it was a real challenge to him."