

In may 1998 I found a page in the internet from **1992 (?) while Armand was doing "Mambo Kings"** with Antonio Banderas. The place is called: banderas-mall.com and still exists although these words found then, has been taken down.

(Note: Antonio Banderas has had a racketier career ever since his performance in this film, he was already a wellknown actor in his homeland: Spain and married (with children) his fans understood how to promote him, as shows this banderas-mall. Armand was always just focused at his art and not a buissnismen at all *webmaster)

Armand Assantes comment's on Antonio was then: "He's one of the most gifted actor's I've come across, let alone worked with. He has that kind of sensitivity that Montgomery Clift had---vulnerable"

The interviewer who's name is sadly not mentioned, says that he(or she?) *could't find much material about Armand Assante*, but an article was found where Armand declared that he was actually introverted. All different from his almost always extroverted characters. Armand says that Antonio on the other hand, will be the life of a party, which was interesting considering Antonio's problem with his English at the time. It's clear here, that Armand finds that Antonio's character (In Mambo Kings) is so much more his own, musy, dreamy self and his character (**Cesar**) far more expresses Antonio's real personality, they like swapped identities !

Armand suggests that the story of these two Cuban brothers, "-in some Shakespearean way, transcends ethnic boundaries "

"I always felt very intimidated about doing it" he says "because I'm non-Cuban. But I don't think the film is trying to be the last will and testament about Latin culture at all. I think it's just trying to deal with the story, which is an universal story" and Armand adds that he only speaks subway Spanish !

It's mentioned here that ethnic typecasting has been a staple of his career as well as hindrance....the man has a knack for accents and Armand complains that none of these accents ever served his career. "They've help my work, but they haven't really served my career." (it's mentioned that his black Porsche is 13 years old here) The interviewer doesn't get the impression that it's time to ease up the situation with a couple of jokes and Armand's tight but saggy in the seat (at the moment 3-days in row worn jeans) catches his (or her) attention. Armand is in his dark period here ...ever wearing black !

Armand insists he is always in a miscast. "In real life I'm more like the painfully brooding Nestor than the swashbuckling Cesar."

To tell the truth, Antonio is more Cesar and I'm more Nestor. I'm much more withdrawn, in a way, afraid. He is much more extroverted. Watch him at the party. He's a wonderful performer. He can jump up and just go. I had to rehearse"

and Assante repeats on the work and the story based on real life Cuban brothers, trying their fortune off in New York:

"I want to do roles that are frail. I think life's real fragile. It's a tragic situation. It's hopeless. That's why I love the story so much. To me that's like life !"