



STYLE MONTE-CARLO #21

...AN AFRICAN NIGHT OF EXTRAVAGANCE, SENSATION AND CAMEROON BUMP 'N' GRIND...!

THE BAL DE L'ETE... OUT OF AFRICA

interview by Johanna webb

music "the magic kiss of mama africa" by g.e.n.e.

Africa is a land of mystery, of magnificent animals, music, dance and of wonderful beauty. Vast and wild, Africa is full of enchantment and wonderment. This Summer Princess Catherine Colonna de Stigliano brought all of this to Monte-Carlo, a place renowned worldwide for hosting unforgettable and lavish parties, the *Bal de l'Été* 2004 was no exception...! Based on the theme of mystery, beauty and sounds of an African night this year's ball offered to its guests an invitation to uncover the wonders of one of the world's most exciting continents and marvel at the rhythm of the Cameroun dancers and Kenyan drummers. The spectacular evening was held at the Sporting Club in favour of the Sovereign Order of Malta and the A.M.A.D.E., under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Crown Prince Albert of Monaco. The event was sponsored by Christie's, who organised also an auction of 5 paintings by French and English wildlife painters and Elite Limousines.

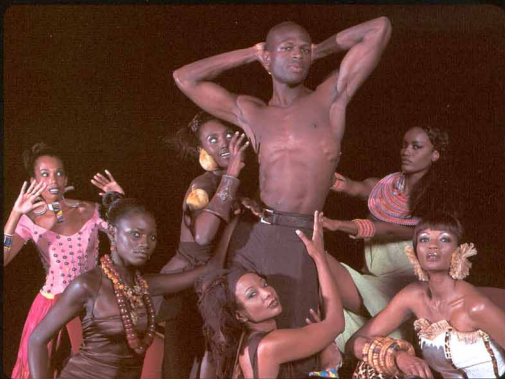
The multi-talented and creative Imane Ayissi was nominated as artistic director of the event which he hosted alongside some of the world's most beautiful women: Katoucha Curtiss, Rebecca Ayoko, Mounia, Kineec Diouf, Margereth Lahoussaye, Khadija and Debra Shaw, who were dressed in his creations.

Imane has made his name as a model, dancer and fashion designer so was an obvious and perfect choice to join Catherine in organising such a vibrant and exceptional event. With all his knowledge about fashion, the arts and design we wanted to find out what Imane's take was on today's styles, Monte-Carlo and Royalty...!



Monte-Carlo m'a beaucoup fait rêver avant que je m'y rende...!
Même si mon rêve, de rencontrer la Princesse Grace, était bien sûr une chimère,
...Monte-Carlo est très romantique
avec beaucoup de mouvement, d'énergie, et énormément de chic...!

- Imane Ayissi
for Style Monte-Carlo, the burlesque issue
Paris - september 2004



THE BAL DE L'ÉTÉ... OUT OF AFRICA

"...Style is about expressing the way we feel about things in the right way. Elegance is a large part of simplicity and seeing things for what they are. Elegance cannot be bought, it is innate, one is born with it. We could say that style can be bought when people buy clothes to compliment their figure, but that is a different way of looking at things. It is about associating the clothes with personality. Everyone can be elegant in their own way it just depends on the person's personality. Style is a way of living, a way of holding yourself... Firstly I am an artist touched by many things, modelling dancing... other than design. I am a designer who creates my collections in accordance with my imagination. Women who inspire me are full of life, always on the go, who work and above all who are chic. It is important to give life to a dress, a garment, which associates itself to the life of a woman, who makes it live in movement. It is great to see a person who becomes attached to a piece of clothing and considers it like a second skin. Style is different for everyone. Everyone sees things in his or her own way, and I propose clothing which will appeal to a variety of clientele, according to taste and trends. All that will be based on my own style. Soft pure lines, easy to wear but still couture, I use modern with ethnic influences to personalise my lines. All that is a way of mixing things, because the world today is a world of crossbreeding according to me. The dresses I make are for all women... Burlesque is the extravagance that I love, because I think in life you have to be daring. It all depends in the way it is done. When it is vogue, I adore it. The ridiculous can be funny, when we take life too seriously, it is no longer funny at all. The ridiculous has never killed anyone. It must also be said that the ridiculous can be sublime, I can't remember which author said the ridiculous is often close to the sublime... I see Monte-Carlo as very romantic. Lots of movement and energy and enormously chic! There is always room to dream, the proof is that Monaco was in my dreams before I even had the opportunity to go there. The world of Princes and Princesses is in some way no longer a real one as it is a world apart. Yet in a way it is real because they exist and because they also have their own daily lives..."

- Imane Ayissi
for Style Monte-Carlo, the burlesque issue
Paris - september 2004



Stylist: Imane Ayissi
Hair Stylist: Cédric Boscara
Make-Up: Rougo Boiser
Casting: Rebecca Ayoko
Accessories and jewels by: Imane Ayissi and Le Leon du Konia - Paris