



Joey Arias plays a dominatrix emcee in "Zumanity" at New York-New York.

ERRY METELLUSPECIAL TO VIEW

Talk of the town

"Zumanity's" mistress of seduction releases a book compiling years of celebrity conversations

page

2AA

'ZUMANITY'S' JOEY ARIAS

Dominatrix dialogue

Performer's book features his chats with celebrities

By ELLEN ZIEGLER

VIEW STAFF WRITER

"Zumanity's" mistress of seduction will now be beguiling audiences with a book. The emcee for the show that set a new standard for the exotic at New York-New York, aka Joey Arias, recently created a compilation of conversations he's had with celebrities as a monthly columnist for Paper Magazine.

Arias' persona off the stage is full of as much charisma as the one on stage. He has a voice that's been compared to Billie Holiday, and a love for jazz and partying, although when he's in Las Vegas, "Zumanity" is the only celebrating he partakes in.

"I don't go out here. I save myself for the show, and make

► SEE ARIAS PAGE 3AA



SHILLY DONAHUE/VIEW

Joey Arias, who portrays a dominatrix in the "Zumanity" production at New York-New York, signs a copy of his new book "The Art of Conversation" for Licemar Medeiros, left, and her sister Luciene at the resort.

► **ARIAS:** *Book's conversations were conducted by phone*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2AA

the party 'Zumanity.' When you come to the show, I am ready to party with you," Arias said.

Despite his undeniably diva-ish character in Zumanity, Arias preferred to write his book as a collection of banter between himself and another person instead of a more self-promoted, one-sided account of his experiences.

"The book is about being around people, it's a conversation," Arias said. "I wrote for Paper Magazine in New York and was asked to write a column with Elvira once a month. I did that for 13 years. I discussed products, TV shows; we talked about something casual. It's conversational."

Through the conversations he has with other people, readers get to learn more about the real Arias.

"It's kind of autobiographical," he said. "I get to really share myself with people, but not by just telling them about things I've done or people I've met."

Among the list of celebrities Arias has conversed with are Engelbert Humperdinck, Donny Osmond and author Quentin Crisp.

Mixed among the

"My life is very spicy, and the book is easy reading."

JOEY ARIAS
ZUMANITY PERFORMER

interviews are little-known and unexpected references to Arias' past and upbringing, such as the fact that he was schooled as an artist.

"Everyone wants me to do a book about my life," Arias said. "I was groomed to be a painter, but instead of painting canvases, I painted myself. In the book you sort of get to know me and another person so it doesn't become boring. My life is very spicy, and the book is easy reading. You could pick it up in the middle and you're not going to lose anything."

All of the conversations in Arias' book were conducted over the phone. He said there is not as much of a tendency to be pretentious when people aren't face to face.

"When people talk to people to people in person they start to act," he said. "I always got people out of the shower, or just coming in from working in their garden. I prefer to do them naked."

Arias said he has received tremendous support for the

book, entitled "The Art of Conversation," from upper management at New York-New York. They've even allowed him to sell it in the Zumanity gift shop. Arias plans to do book signings in the theater lobby after some of the shows.

"People in 'Zumanity' have other interests," he said. "Some are working on an album, but people are all doing things. The creative process is never stopping. 'Zumanity' isn't just what you see on stage, it's a lifestyle for us. It's a garden of vines that's growing, and a real life show. It's about real people, that's why it works so well."