

VegasBeat

Stern warning: Howard on approach

Joey's in

It's taken a little while, but "Zumanity" has found its footing, says show star **Joey Arias**, the Mistress of Seduction in the adults-only Cirque du Soleil show at New York-New York.

"A flower doesn't open up the minute you put it into the ground," Arias told us. "In the last couple of weeks, the element of cabaret that we have been aiming for with the show has taken root."

Arias said that no one in the show was discouraged after its early lukewarm — and worse — reviews.

"Nobody was freaking out. Critics are critics. Most of us don't read the papers — and some of us can't!" Arias cracked.

Arias also said that he is starting to feel like a part of the fabric of Vegas.

"Before I came here I knew nothing about Las Vegas besides Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Elvis and **Siegfried and Roy**. Now, I know a lot more and I really love it here — except for the weather. The desert air is a killer, though I have learned to adapt. I have humidifiers and



VEGASBEAT
Timothy McDarrah

ionizers all over the house. "But this city is really a hotbed of new things that are bubbling up everywhere."

Before coming to Vegas, Arias was an enthusiastic night crawler and scenester in New York City for many years. Much of the debauchery he encountered was chronicled in a column he wrote for Paper magazine.

On Thursday, Arias will be hosting a book signing in the Zumanity Theatre for "The Art of Conversation," a book featuring celebrity interviews and other writing he did for Paper (see Jerry Fink's story about the book on page 11E).



COURTESY PHOTO

Joey Arias is the Mistress of Seduction in "Zumanity" at New York-New York.