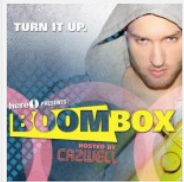


OUT SPOKEN NYC



← E3 2011: The Highlights



Cazwell Blares His 'Boombox' on here! TV

by JON on JUNE 8, 2011 · LEAVE A COMMENT



If you live in the city, you've heard of him, ogled him on YouTube, and probably dropped your pants on a bar top to get his attention at the club. Just me? Club-kid nation, Cazwell, the "It" gay rapper known for massive YouTube sensations 'Ice Cream Truck', 'I Seen Beyonce at Burger King' and 'All Over Your Face' will be premiering *Boombox*, a no-holds-barred music video series this Friday on here! TV. He is often described as one of America's leading gay hip hop artists, but Cazwell has famously said he turned his back on it when the industry rejected him on account of his sexuality; on top of saying "I dont think of myself as hip-hop at all." But why talk politics, when we can talk music process, something that is his main focus, accidental advocacy being second. He's a cartoon character of sorts, with an eye for pop-out fashion, an ear for solid rhymes and a knack for making his audience chuckle. Upon hearing his earlier singles, I for one, went straight to his page to see what else I could hear or get my grubby little paws on.

Boombox is just the latest offering the artist has in store for us. Joined by David LaChapelle darling, Amanda Lepore and MEN front man J.D. Samson (formerly of Le Tigre), we're going to get a taste of some cutting-edge music that has been kept from the mainstream. Should we be expecting something along the lines of the VH1 Pop-Up Video series or TRL? Doubtful. This guy is comic gold and definitely has some killer taste; ain't bad lookin' either....am I right? With his electric energy and magnetic charisma, his upcoming performance at [Highline Ballroom](#) June 25th, where he'll be opening for Amanda Lepore at her album release party, is sure to give us a taste of what's in store for his future endeavors. He served as a producer and co-writer on Amanda's album, proving he's not holding himself in his own creative box. In a digital era where you could garner millions of hits or less than 10, I commend him for his strong desire to cross promote himself and interact with his audience; something mainstream performers have difficult doing.

Here we talk about everything from future plans, Beth Ditto, MEN (one of my favorite groups), his upcoming series and Burger King.

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WHAT EXACTLY IS OutSpokenNYC?

OUT SPOKEN THE CONTRIBUTORS



T.J.
Energetic. Frank. Riot-causing. Ginger. Outspoken.



STEVIE
Loyal. Sarcastic. Determined. Learning. Outspoken.



JON
Leader. Imaginative. Fashion-savvy. Pop-cultured. Challenging.



TOMMY
Opinionated. Individual. Dancing-machine. Warm. Unapologetic.



TYLER
Loving. Impatient. Bold. Absurd. Brunette.



DAN
Nerdy. Fun-loving. Kind-hearted. Silly. Cheerful.

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS

CHECKOUT

ANDREW WERNER'S NIGHTLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY



Nightlife Photographer, Andrew Werner is always at the best, most exclusive, and fabulously outrageous parties in the NYC scene. While capturing every moment on camera.

TWEETOUT

WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW



[jonathan_bender](#) Interview with @Cazwellnyc is up & running y'all <http://bit.ly/kvllQo> 2 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



[jonathan_bender](#) Photo: Cazwell is gettin' hinner and hinner

Jonathan Bender: Where are you right now? In NYC?

Cazwell: Yeah, taking in this hot day – strolling down 8th Avenue on, what corner...55th . Heading to the Time Warner Center.

JB: The heat has been pretty overwhelming lately. You'd think with the success of the Ice Cream Truck video with over 9 million views on YouTube, you would have your own flavor or endorsement deal by now to cool off...

C: (laughs) You're right, but you never know... you should keep an eye out this summer.

JB: When you were a kid, everyone had their ideal future career picked out from veterinarian to astronaut...did you always want to do what you're doing?



C: I've always seen myself on a stage performing, so yes. I can't sing, so I shifted towards rapping. Performing is such a religious experience, and with DJ I keep getting better. When I first started, for a good 3 years I was awful – but I think I'm improving.

JB: Is your family supportive in your career as an openly gay artist?

C: Well, when I first started off my dad was all "My kid has a dream, whatever he wants to do," but when I started making money he was like "Oh, WOW!" My mom however is very much a mom. A M-O-M. She doesn't like the 'Ice Cream Truck' video because it's too sexy. She bakes cookies, but I think she's looking at it as if she has a good kid that she isn't bailing out of jail and I'm not hurting anyone then she's supportive.

JB: How long have you been working on releasing the album?

C: The compilation of older singles or my upcoming album?

JB: You have an upcoming album you're releasing?



C: Well, if all goes according to plan the dance album I've been working on will be looking at a release this fall. As an artist I've focused more on getting the singles out, pushing my image and keeping the machine running.

JB: Amanda Lepore has been one of your muses, how long have you known each other for?

C: About 7 years, in the club scene. It started off with small chatting and champagne then emerged into a friendship.

JB: I heard you're opening for her performance (*I...* Amanda Lepore) at the [Highline Ballroom](#)? Sounds

pretty sweet – Kat Deluna, Joey Arias, the House of Field...big night!

C: Yeah! I just came from a dance rehearsal actually, so I can say it's going to be magic. Doing some outfits changes, I'm excited about it, pulling out the stops.

JB: And she'll be featured on your upcoming show *Boombbox* which premieres on here! TV this Friday. Tell me a bit about it.

C: It's a music video series that features upcoming artist that you pretty much haven't heard of yet, mainly indie artists. Like for instance, Beth Ditto's *I Wrote The Book*, awesome stuff that I think might be cool that people haven't seen too much of and isn't the latest Lady Gaga video. It's not easy for people to get their stuff seen, I know.

JB: Are you going to be really hand's on in choosing what's picked for the series?

C: I'll definitely be more hands on than you think. I have a lot of friends in San Francisco and NYC who will be featured and interviewed, along with getting the word out there on their music. [Hunx and His Punx](#) from the group [GravyTrain!!!](#), [MEN](#), they'll be on along with other artists that are touring and of interest. Like, [Crystal Waters](#) – she's such an iconic figure, I'd love to feature her. I think it's important to get people on the show who are underrated and need more [mainstream] exposure.

JB: So, dumb question. Did you really see Beyonce at Burger King?

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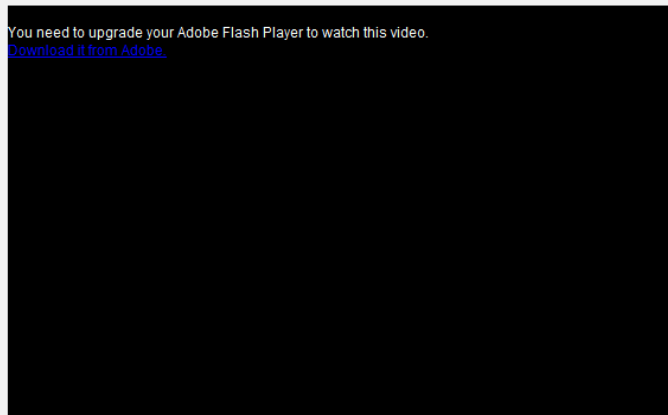
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C: Maybe...

JB: Wait, really?

C: (laughs) No, but I heard she saw the video, liked it and laughed at the part where she's surrounded by food. I wrote it after talking to my friend [Jonny Makeup](#) who has this drawn out monologue about how he was shopping at American Apparel and saw Beyonce shopping for herself. I don't know if it's true but who knows. I mean, Beyonce is the personification of beauty, right? She thanks Jesus when accepting an award, when Britney is seen out stuffing her face with junk food and barefoot you just don't see Beyonce doing these things. I just thought it was funny thinking of her stuffing her face with a big, greasy burger.

Check out Cazwell latest effort, 'Get My Money Back' and hop onto Google to find where you can score a sick monkey hate just like the rest of his gang.



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