

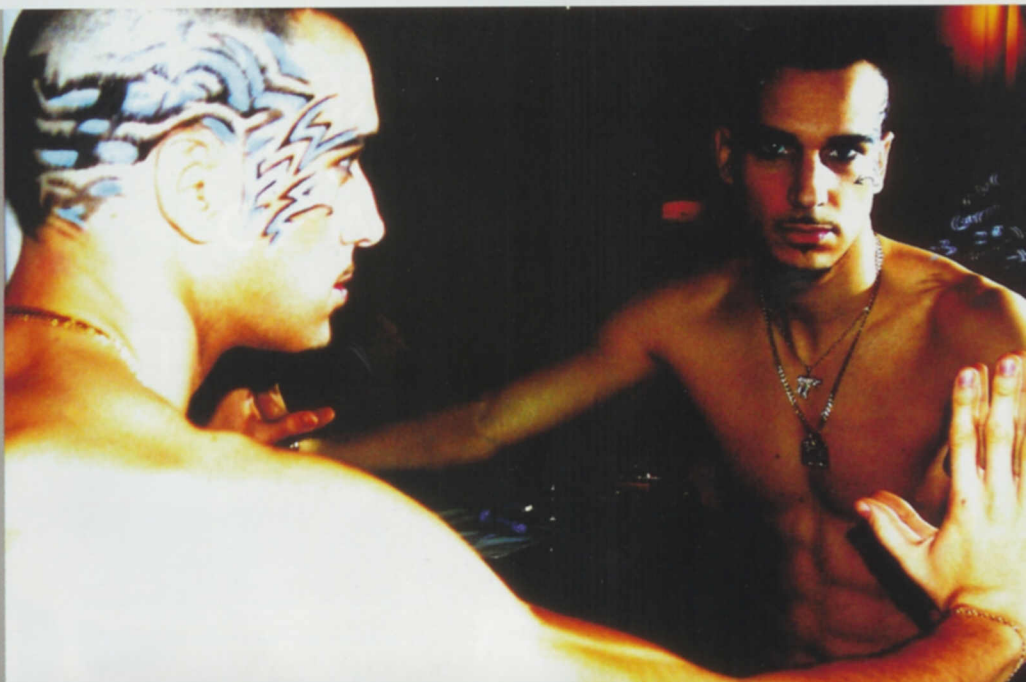
ESQUADRO



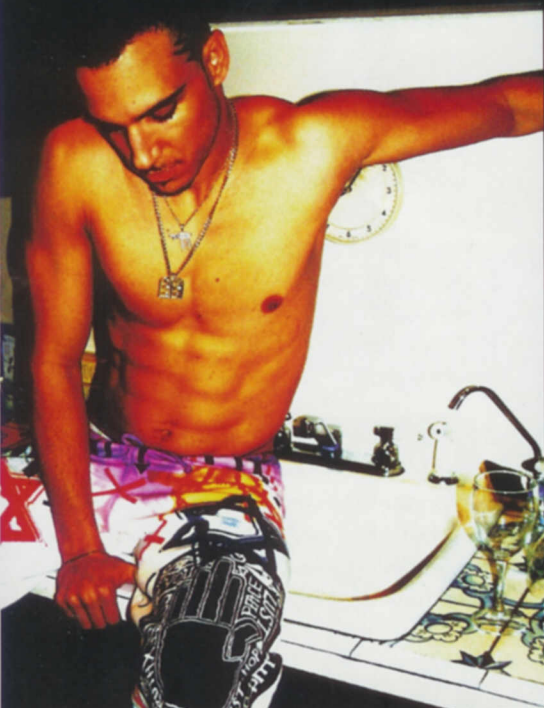
BG: Obviously being openly gay is a risk for a wannabe superstar – however much we are told the world is more accepting. Do you worry about how it will affect your career and do you care what people think of you?

AG: Yes and no, I care but not enough to change what I do. I feel I have a mission (laughs) since I came out it's been flying colours. I came out to my friends at sixteen and to my family at eighteen. I want to show people that you can be comfortable with your sexuality and still have a career.

BG: Do you worry that little girls will be put off buying your records because you're gay?



EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT ARI GOLD ON THE NEW YORK CLUB SCENE – PRIMARILY BECAUSE HE HAS MADE SURE THEY DO – **BUT WITH GOOD REASON.** THE OPENLY GAY SOUL SINGER (HE WRITES ABOUT BEING GAY TOO) IS A ONE-MAN FORCE WHEN IT COMES TO SELF-PROMOTION AND RUNNING HIS CAREER. HE HAS HIS OWN LABEL, DRESSES HIMSELF (EXCEPT FOR OUR PHOTO SESSION) AND HIS PR DID NOT ACCOMPANY HIM TO VET THE QUESTIONS. OH YEAH AND HE'S JEWISH, HAS A LOVELY FIT BODY AND LOOKS GREAT IN HIS UNDERWEAR. **WHO'S A HAPPY BOY GEORGE?**



AG: You know, when I do shows I get lots of attention from girls and the letters I receive from female fans are supportive, I don't think it's an issue.

BG: You're probably right; my hardcore fans are always female. God bless girls! What about your family, I mean being Jewish and gay, that's a double whammy.

AG: My parents are great, they took a bit of adjusting but now my mother calls me with ideas for my career. She'll say 'I've had an epiphany.' When I came out to them I wrote them an eighteen-page letter and provided extra reading material. It was very dramatic!

BG: That is dramatic! Your mum sounds great,

mine is too, only she always tells me all my boyfriends are wrong for me – and she's rarely wrong! On that subject are you available for bahmitzvas and weddings?

AG: Yes, I ended a quite serious relationship not too long ago. It's hard to balance a career and relationships. I tell people that my career is my baby and I have to take care of the baby.

BG: The gay community is pretty lousy when it comes to supporting gay artists. They scream at Britney or Kylie and they often overlook artists who are championing their cause.

AG: I've had a bit of negativity on the gay scene, you know, 'why does he have to take his shirt off?' I'm comfortable with my body. Straight rap guys do it. I've also had some reviews that have missed the point. There's also loads of people who support what I do and say it's given them confidence.

BG: Absolutely, I don't want to piss off those queens who give me love. In America not a day goes by without someone telling me I changed his or her life. Especially drag queens. I think I lured them all to New York.

'THERE ARE TOO MANY 'OUT' ARTISTS WHO DON'T CELEBRATE THEIR SEXUALITY.'

AG: You were an inspiration to me growing up. All those early videos on MTV.

BG: You must have been very young. I hated those videos — they had nothing to do with the songs. I loved your quote about one of your videos, though — you said 'it's not homoerotic, it's homosexual.'

AG: When I guested on a track with a UK act, we were making a video and they obviously filled it with girls. I was driving a car and lowered my glasses to cruise a boy. I think it got edited out.

BG: Do you think you'll get to a stage where questions about your sexuality will bore you?

AG: It really depends on why they are being asked. Intelligent questions are fine. I might get bored of it, I'll have to wait and see.

BG: Well, the fact that you are so open is refreshing. There are too many 'out' artists who don't celebrate their sexuality. The problem is that when you are open people start accusing you of being evangelical. 'Why must you go on about it?' It's fine for straight blokes to talk about girls endlessly and for rap stars to fill their videos with half naked girls.

AG: Well, I hope my music speaks for itself; I don't want my sexuality to be more important than my music. It's also a huge part of who I am. If more artists are open and comfortable, I'm sure it will change in the future. I really hope so.

BG: Me too!

In a country that is shocked by Janet Jackson's boob bearing you wonder if an openly gay artist like Ari will be too much? The advantage he has is that he hasn't waited for success to announce it. He has a luscious voice and writes melodic tunes with the right bump & grind for today's mood.

More importantly when you meet him he is so charming and honest you tend to focus on other things, such as persuading him to let my make-up girl Christine paint his face. No problem. 'I hope you're going give me some drama?' He announces. We do, and for the next hour he drapes himself around my loft and the camera loves him. Ari is quite clearly a star waiting to burst. He's confident without being arrogant and whatever he says about being comfortable with his body he still oozes vulnerability when showing it off — and what could be sexier than that? Watch this space...