

The Frog & The Princess

Grace Jones

I was amazed when I first saw Grace Jones.
She was the first to take radical fashion out of its predictable Parisian context and bring it into the music scene, where I had always thought it belonged.
The first night watching her in Le Mouche, I had already decided to work with her.
That night, she was singing her hit song "I Need a Man" to a room full of shrieking gay bobbysockses.
The ambiguity of her act was that she herself looked like a man - a man, singing "I Need a Man" to a bunch of men.
I could see how the average guy would find her physique intimidating.
It was so powerful. I thought she was.. I thought she was great.
I photographed her in different positions.
I cut her legs apart, lengthened them, turned her body to face the audience.
Soon, I found myself living to the very fast rhythm of Grace Jones.
We would go out dancing, all night, every night.
I was completely neglecting my work.
An intense, hysterical romance developed between Grace and I.
But I ran out of money and realised I had to stop all this bullshit and go back to work.
I had this idea of using Grace as the ideal vehicle.
She had inspired me.
On tour, we used to improvise. Thinking of an idea at breakfast and working it out directly on stage.
I decided, deliberately, to mythologise Grace Jones.
Black, shiny, muscular people.. ahh, aerodynamic in design.
Twas to emphasise this physique that I painted Grace Jones blue/black.
I am no longer sure what I fell in love with; Grace or my idea of what Grace should be.
But in the two years following the birth of our son, there were nothing else in my life.
Grace let me take her over completely.
(SLAVE!)

But then I discovered that what I was making was simply too far beyond what was there.
By the time our 'One Man Show' reached the US, I knew I'd lost her.
Oh, the action..