

Mijas get Jaded!

Written by: Chris Perez

A “show biz messiah” and a man “on his way to the top”—these are just a couple of phrases critics have used to describe acting, dancing and Latin singing sensation, Jade Esteban Estrada.

The 29-year-old San Antonio, Texas, native is constantly busy at work. In May, Estrada will tour the U.S. with his one-man-show, *ICONS: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World Volume 2*. When it comes to theatre, this triple-threat takes the stage very seriously.

“Keeping an audience interested in the TV generation is a challenge, and I love it,” Estrada admits. “That’s why live theatre separates the men from the boys when it comes to the entertainment industry.”

After graduating from high school, Estrada left Texas to pursue his career in entertainment. He moved to New York where he attended the American Musical & Dramatic Academy. But he knew from the start he was destined for stardom. “I came out of the womb like that, no doubt,” he joked.

“I was about ten when I heard Boy George the first time,” Estrada told the Dallas Voice earlier this year. “What I really admired was his freedom of expression.” Estrada recalled singing Boy George tunes in his garage as a child. “I remember saying to myself, ‘I want to move to New York, and I want to be a star.’”

But growing up, Estrada admitted to other professions he considered falling back on. “I really thought I was going to go into the clergy,” he said. “I would have been an amazing priest!” He compared church to big Broadway productions. “It was so grand and theatrical.”

He even said he might have been a history professor, but he admits the costumes in theatre are a lot more fun.

Estrada’s family is no stranger to the show biz industry. The son of a U.S. Army Officer and a stage actress, he has a brother and sister who are both playwrights in New York and whom have both had plays, which were produced independently at different times.

When asked whether or not he thought being an openly gay Latino would hinder his career, he replied, “I did for a little while.” But there was no stopping Jade. “I believe nothing you do in life is ever wasted.”

He’s covered so many areas in the business, from being the lead choreographer for Charo, to releasing his own Spanish-language hit single “Reggae Twist” in 1998, to acting along side Sarah Jessica Parker in TV’s *Sex and the City*.

Estrada said it’s hard to hide who you are in this industry. In show biz, he said, your personal life is your professional life. “I say this about my personal life because of how important I consider my work to be,” Estrada said. “There’s a huge social struggle in our world right now, a struggle between ideas. Although I’m an entertainer, I’m also aware that I’m a second class citizen in this country because I’m gay.”



Even with his hectic schedule, Estrada tries to find time to spend with those he loves. "Watching novellas with my mum," is what he said he likes most when he comes home. "Mum" is a name he calls his grandmother.

"I've lived such a fast life," says Estrada. "It's nice to send a Christmas card sometimes. It's nice to talk to a friend on the phone. It's nice to sit down and have a tortilla with my mum."

Estrada has even served as a spokesperson for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community, urging them to vote in elections.

"The one thing that makes the world go round is balance," Estrada says. "We must have that to live in this capitalist society."

To learn more about Jade Esteban Estrada, visit his Web site www.getjaded.com.