

PAPER Magazine Beautiful People issue, two entries by Lorie Caval – 2000





**WUNMI • SUPERNOVA** (right) It's hard to pin down exactly what Wunmi does onstage. "I do emotional music that is interpreted or transferred into dance," explains the singer, dancer, songwriter and designer, who was born in England and now lives in New York. "People try to categorize me, but I don't fit a format that exists now." Maintaining her artistic integrity by refusing to sign with a record label, she records her music (like the single "What a See") independently and sells it through her Web site, Wunmi.com. In addition to writing, singing and dancing, Wunmi, now in her early 30s, also makes her own clothes. "I'm a full artist in the sense that everything I do is from my heart," she says. "It is all Wunmi. I wake up, I breathe, I eat her." ★ **Lorie Caval** • Wunmi wears a dress of her own, shorts and belt by Costume National, jewelry by Ehnawah in London.



**EMANUEL XAVIER • POET, AUTHOR, VOGUER** (left) "Me, beautiful? ¡Ay, que rico!" was Emanuel Xavier's modest response to being named one of *PAPER*'s Beautiful People. Born in Brooklyn to an Ecuadorean mother and Puerto Rican father, Xavier came out the hard way. "When I was 16, my mother found out I was gay and threw me out," he says. "I ended up hustling at the [West Village] piers. It was survival that became the consuming passion of my adolescent life. I'd sleep with tricks during the day or sell drugs at night." Amid that chaos, though, he began writing poetry and hanging out with voguers. By 1997, he had self-published his first book of poems, *Pier Queen*, followed last year by his debut novel, *Christ-Like* (Painted Leaf). Xavier, 28, now fathers the House of Xavier and has gained notoriety for organizing unique events that fuse voguing balls with poetry performances. "It didn't happen overnight," he says, "but I've managed to crawl out of the gutter, literally." ★ **Lorie Caval** • Emanuel Xavier wears a jacket by Costume National, hat and boa by Patricia Field.