

Mariah and Nick (inset) had "an amazing chemistry together"



LOVE SONG! MARIAH FINDS ROMANCE ON SET OF HER NEW VIDEO

Her new man is *11 yrs younger*

MARIAH CAREY has a new "Dream-lover" - the multi-talented actor and music star Nick Cannon - *The ENQUIRER* has learned exclusively.

But don't expect to see the couple strolling the red carpet anytime soon - pals say Mariah plans to keep her love affair under wraps.

"Mariah is the master when it comes to keeping her relationships secret," said a source close to the 38-year-old singer.

"Even though she's a big star, she likes to keep her private life to herself."

BUT ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD insider says Mariah's so crazy about the decade-younger Nick, it won't be long before the romance goes public.

Nick, a 27-year-old actor, writer, director and producer, is best known for his hit MTV series "Nick Cannon Presents: Wild 'N Out."

He's previously been linked to a slew of beautiful women, including singer and actress

Christina Milian and reality TV star Kim Kardashian. He was also engaged to Victoria's Secret model Selita Ebanks.

Mariah and Nick have known each other for a while, but it wasn't until Mariah asked him to appear in a video for her new album "E=MC²," that the sparks began to fly.

"They had amazing creative chemistry together," said the insider.

"Before long, Mariah allowed Nick to go behind the camera and direct the video so they could spend more time together.

"Mariah is crazy about Nick - and she doesn't fall in love easily."

The couple shot their video in the Caribbean, where they mixed work, pleasure and romance, adds the insider.

"Mariah doesn't mind being single, and she's not especially driven to have children. But she likes having a guy around, and Nick is creative, fun and exciting - exactly what she likes in a man."

by **ROBIN MIZRAHI**