



Idris Elba Discusses His Move to the USA as a British Actor

Idris Elba is a British actor, who is perhaps best known for his role as 'Stringer Bell' in the US series 'The Wire'. He also played the lead role in the series 'Luther' for which he won a Golden Globe for best actor. He also famously played Nelson Mandela in the biographical film 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'. Aside from acting, Idris Elba also performs as a DJ, and was recently named in the 'Time 100' list of the most influential people in the world.

Idris Elba was born in London, and has maintained his London accent despite spending a long time in the US and adopting different accents for his acting roles. In the interview, he talks about his experiences as a British actor moving to America. Watch the video in the link below, and answer the questions with as much information as possible.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mC_LSo0KYUU

Vocabulary to check before answering the questions:

killing it - if you are 'killing it', it means that you are doing extremely well

to assimilate - to absorb something and understand something fully

risqué - potentially rude and likely to shock an audience

a pilot episode - a sample episode of a TV series shown to executives in the hope of receiving a contract to make a full series.

to hustle - in relation to business, the verb 'to hustle' means to work hard to achieve success in any way, especially when you are inexperienced in something.

1. **(00:00-01:10)** What was the name of the visa that Idris Elba got to allow him to work in America, and how did he get it?
2. **(01:10-02:24)** Why was it difficult to get an acting role at first, and what was he struggling with?
3. **(02:24-03:10)** What were the opinions of actors in the UK when he told them that he was going to go to New York, and were their opinions right?
4. **(03:46-04:58)** What was Idris' mindset with regards to getting roles in films, and who gave him this mindset?

Idris Elba's Role in 'The Wire'

5. **(04:58-05:40)** What was different about this series for HBO, the cable television company which made 'The Wire'?
6. **(05:40-06:21)** What surprise did Idris Elba get after the audition, do you think that he was pleased with the outcome of the audition?

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Meeting Casting Director Kim Misha

- 7. (06:52-07:24)** Why did Idris Elba come to New York in the early 1990s, and why did he stand out amongst the locals?
- 8. (07:24-07:42)** What do you think Idris Elba means here when he describes Kim Misha's role as a casting director?
- 9. (07:44-08:03)** What are Idris Elba's exact words during these 19 seconds?
- 10. (08:16-08:46)** What happened when Idris Elba sent résumés to 50 casting directors in New York?
- 11. (08:46-09:08)** What happens in the casting process?
- 12. (09:36-10:46)** What happened with Kim Misha after Idris Elba moved to the USA?