



Tekola Takes Off

GENRE

Constructed Reality - Personality Driven

STRUCTURE

Episodic Narrative - 13 x 30

SYNOPSIS

He left his home with nothing and traveled 8,000 miles – only to *begin* his journey. This series follows Tekola, a young boy born in Africa, being raised in America, and traversing the world in between. As a multicultural child who knows no boundaries, Tekola is captivated by the world and its' amazing cultures. He dives in with youthful curiosity, excitement and amazement - enthusiastically sharing every peculiar experience and outlandish moment.

NARRATIVE

"Tekola Takes Off" features inquisitive, personable and outgoing Tekola, a boy raised in two contrasting cultures. He was born in a hut in rural Ethiopia, orphaned at the age of three, adopted by American parents and is now living the American dream.

With an extreme thirst for adventure, Tekola continues the journey that started in Africa and ventures across the globe, encountering a myriad of characters and situations along the way. Some expected. Some not. He embraces new friends, unfamiliar customs and unusual traditions with the awe, wonder and "wisdom" of a 10 year old. Whatever Tekola stumbles upon, it is usually the coolest, biggest, baddest, craziest or grossest thing he has ever seen.

Each 30 minute episode focuses on one locale, with Tekola fully immersing himself in the oddities of that culture. He dons strange attire. He tastes weird cuisine. He attempts new dance moves without a clue – or embarrassment. His reactions are innocent and honest, and his wide-eyed curiosity allows him to ask the questions that can't and won't be asked by an adult. Tekola gets people to open up – and you'll be surprised by what they share with him.

In the first episode, Tekola explores the ancient culture of Peru. Along the way, he partakes in the comical Chujchu dance, throwing himself to the ground in customary violent convulsions. He sports the colorful alpaca clothing of the region – questioning if this is really clothing for boys. He joins a local family for dinner in their home where he tries guinea pig, yucca and alpaca – wondering if this is the same animal he wore the day before. Tekola also learns the secret behind a strong African influence in the culture – not so different from his own.

Other episodes include:

- Tekola travels to Ireland where men and boys proudly wear skirts, suck down sheep guts and make bagpipes skirl.
- Tekola goes mutton bustin' during a Wild West Rodeo, rubs elbows with real cowboys and "savors" Rocky Mountain Oysters.
- Tekola returns to his native Ethiopia, struggling to remember relatives, villagers and what it was like to live in a mud hut with no water, electricity or TV.

APPROACH

The show offers a behind the scenes perspective - access to locals and locations off the beaten path to give the viewer a true sense of the culture. It is shot using a variety of cameras, including footage from Tekola's POV captured through hand held or GoPro (for fast action sequences) cameras. Colorful B roll captures the essence of the landscape, people and culture. Trivia quizzes pertinent to the locale are used to draw in the viewer, allowing them to test their knowledge and learn fun facts. Music of the highlighted culture provides the soundtrack for the episode. Overall it is fast paced, action packed and fun.

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