

Who is Rod?

ROD

Age: 22 | Baltimore, Maryland

The Hustler. The Visionary. The Future.

UNDERSTANDING ROD

Rod is a highly intelligent, ambitious young man who grew up close enough to the streets to understand them—but has no desire to be consumed by them.

Rod is not a gangster.

He is an entrepreneur, a thinker and a problem solver. While other people may react emotionally to a situation, Rod's first instinct is usually to **observe, process and figure out his next move.**

He believes there is always a solution.

Give him enough information, enough time and enough pieces, and Rod believes he can figure almost anything out.

That confidence is both his greatest strength and one of his greatest weaknesses.

WHO HE IS

Rod is confident without needing to be loud. He can walk into a room with dangerous men and hold his own—not because he believes he's tougher than everyone, but because **he trusts his mind.**

He watches people.

He notices details.

He remembers what people say.

He recognizes when something doesn't add up.

And he isn't afraid to question people more powerful than himself.

Rod has street awareness, but don't confuse that with being street.

There's a difference.

He knows the world. He doesn't want the world to define him.

His goal is to build something legitimate, create financial freedom and leave his family with something that lasts.

Rod isn't simply chasing money.

He's chasing **legacy.**

"I'm not trying to be rich. I'm trying to leave my family rich."

That is the heart of the character.

HIS PERSONALITY

Rod is **intelligent, ambitious, observant, strategic, confident, resourceful, loyal and protective.**

He also takes risks.

Sometimes too many.

Rod believes in himself enough to walk into situations he probably shouldn't.

And when things become dangerous, his instinct isn't always to run.

Sometimes he gets curious.

He needs to understand.

That curiosity will pull him deeper than he ever intended to go.

THE PEOPLE HE LOVES

Rod has another side that the actor must understand.

Around the people he loves, particularly **Nissi**, we should see the armor come down.

He can joke.

He can smile.

He can be affectionate.

He can be vulnerable.

Nissi represents the future Rod is trying to create. Her dreams matter to him because **he wants to be the man capable of helping make them real.**

Family has the same effect on him.

Rod can take risks with himself.

But when someone he loves becomes threatened, **Rod changes.**

His intelligence remains—but emotion begins competing with it.

That's when he becomes unpredictable.

THE WORLD CLOSING AROUND HIM

Rod's grandmother leaves him what initially appears to be a piece of land.

It isn't.

She has left behind clues connected to a family mystery—and she created those clues knowing **Rod's mind would be capable of solving them.**

Powerful people want what those clues lead to.

At the same time, another group of powerful people recognizes Rod's intelligence and sees him as the key to a **\$50 million future.**

Suddenly, the same mind Rod believed would build his future is making him valuable to people he doesn't completely understand.

Rod becomes trapped between two dangerous worlds.

Both need him.

Neither is telling him everything.

And the deeper Rod goes, the harder it becomes to determine who is helping him, who is using him and who wants him dead.

FOR THE ACTOR

DO NOT PLAY ROD AS A GANGSTER.

This is extremely important.

Don't come into the audition trying to look hard.

Don't force a Baltimore/street persona.

Don't make every line aggressive.

Rod's power comes from somewhere else.

Play the intelligence.

When someone speaks to Rod, **listen.**

When they reveal something important, let us see Rod processing it.

Sometimes his strongest reaction may simply be his eyes.

Rod doesn't always immediately tell people what he's thinking.

There should be moments when the audience can almost see the wheels turning.

Don't play "smart." Think.

There's a difference.

We don't want an actor demonstrating intelligence.

We want to watch a young man **using it**.

HIS EMOTIONAL RANGE

The actor playing Rod will need range.

You must be believable as the young entrepreneur confidently discussing business.

The boyfriend completely in love with his girl.

The grandson discovering his family's past.

The friend trying to protect someone who may have betrayed him.

The young man standing across from people considerably more powerful than himself.

And eventually—

the frightened young man desperately trying not to look frightened.

Rod doesn't begin the story as a superhero.

He's 22 years old.

There should be moments when the situation is simply **too big for him**.

Let us see those moments.

Then let us watch him figure out what he's going to do about them.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Don't make Rod one-note.

If every scene is played angry, tough or overly confident, **you've missed him**.

Rod can be funny.

Rod can be romantic.

Rod can be scared.

Rod can be frustrated.

Rod can be calculating.

Rod can be completely lost.

Rod can walk into a room believing he has everything figured out and walk out realizing **he doesn't understand anything**.

That's what makes him human.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are not looking for someone to simply **look like Rod**.

We're looking for someone who can **become him**.

Bring us intelligence without announcing it.

Confidence without arrogance.

Street awareness without becoming a stereotype.

Ambition without losing humanity.

And vulnerability without making him weak.

Most importantly, **don't try to give us what you think we want**.

Listen to the scene.

Understand what Rod wants.

Understand what's standing in his way.

Then make the moment yours.

THE HEART OF ROD

At his core, Rod is a young man trying to build a better future for the people he loves—until he discovers that the very thing capable of creating that future, **his mind**, may also be the thing that puts everyone he loves in danger.

That's Rod.

Now show us your version of him.