

Who is Tavon?

TAVON

Age: 22–25 | Baltimore, Maryland

The Enforcer. The Predator. The Man Who Never Has to Prove He's Dangerous.

UNDERSTANDING TAVON

Tavon is dangerous—but the biggest mistake an actor can make is **trying to act dangerous**.

Tavon doesn't need to convince anyone he's tough.

He already knows what he's capable of.

He is calm, intelligent, observant and psychologically intimidating. While other people become emotional, Tavon often becomes **quieter**.

He studies people.

He finds weaknesses.

And once Tavon understands what someone is afraid of, he knows exactly where to apply pressure.

Tavon's greatest weapon isn't violence. It's control.

WHO HE IS

Tavon comes from a world where weakness gets noticed quickly.

He learned early that people are constantly testing one another—looking for fear, uncertainty and vulnerability.

So Tavon trained himself not to show any.

He doesn't waste words.

He doesn't explain himself unnecessarily.

He doesn't need everyone to like him.

And he definitely doesn't need everyone to fear him.

They eventually will.

There's an intelligence underneath Tavon's violence that makes him considerably more dangerous than someone who simply reacts.

Tavon thinks.

HIS PERSONALITY

Tavon is **calm, calculating, fearless, dominant, observant, intimidating, disciplined and unpredictable**.

He can also be funny.

But Tavon's humor is different.

Sometimes he says something almost casually in a situation where everyone else is terrified.

That contrast can make him even more unsettling.

He understands people extremely well.

Sometimes better than they understand themselves.

TAVON DOESN'T WANT ATTENTION

Don't approach Tavon like the loudest guy on the block.
He's almost the opposite.
Other people can yell.
Other people can posture.
Other people can tell everyone what they're going to do.
Tavon doesn't have to.
If someone threatens him, he may simply look at them.
If someone insults him, he doesn't automatically respond.
If someone challenges him, Tavon's first thought isn't:
"How do I show everyone I'm tough?"
It's:
"What am I going to do about this?"
Those are two very different characters.

HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH FEAR

Tavon understands fear because he recognizes it in other people.
He notices when someone's voice changes.
When they stop making eye contact.
When they're talking too much.
When they're pretending not to be scared.
And sometimes he enjoys allowing people to sit inside that fear.
He doesn't always rush the moment.
Silence is part of Tavon's power.

THE PREDATOR MENTALITY

One of the best ways to understand Tavon comes from his interaction with Lip.
Lip wants people to believe he's dangerous.
Tavon immediately sees through it.
He recognizes a young kid pretending to be something he isn't.
Tavon's lesson to him is simple:
"Stop acting like dinner."
That line says a lot about how Tavon sees the world.
There are predators.
There is prey.
And the worst thing you can do is advertise weakness to someone looking for it.
Tavon has decided a long time ago which side of that equation he intends to be on.

TAVON & MARCUS

Marcus has become a problem.
There is money involved.
There are secrets involved.

And Tavon needs answers.

But Tavon's relationship with Marcus shouldn't simply feel like:

Gangster chasing somebody who owes him money.

There's more happening.

Tavon wants to understand **what Marcus knows, what Marcus has done and who else may now be involved.**

That eventually puts Rod on Tavon's radar.

And once Tavon starts looking at someone—

he doesn't stop until he understands what he's looking at.

TAVON & MOE

Moe gives us another side of Tavon.

Tavon understands exactly where Moe is vulnerable.

His family.

His mother.

His brother.

Instead of simply beating information out of Moe, Tavon applies pressure where it matters most.

He forces Moe into a position where cooperation feels like the only option.

That's Tavon.

He doesn't always force the decision. Sometimes he removes every other choice.

TAVON & DRE

Dre is different.

Dre is Moe's older brother and has been away in prison for years.

He doesn't like Tavon.

He doesn't trust Tavon.

And most importantly—

Dre isn't afraid of him.

That creates a completely different energy.

Dre is willing to stand in front of Tavon and challenge him.

For Tavon, that's dangerous because other people are watching.

But again, don't immediately play anger.

Tavon's most frightening moments can come when someone crosses a line and **nothing appears to happen inside him.**

Then he acts.

When Tavon shoots Dre, the violence shouldn't feel like an emotional explosion.

It should feel like a decision.

That distinction is critical.

TAVON & MORELLI

Morelli operates at a much higher level of money and power.

But Tavon doesn't behave like Morelli owns him.

Morelli expects obedience.

Tavon has his own ideas.

That's important.

Tavon may work with powerful people.

He may take money from powerful people.

He may perform jobs for powerful people.

But Tavon doesn't psychologically see himself as someone's employee.

Tavon belongs to Tavon.

That independence can eventually become dangerous even for the people who believe they control him.

FOR THE ACTOR

DO NOT "PLAY GANGSTER."

We don't want the stereotype.

No forced toughness.

No unnecessary mean mugging.

No yelling every threatening line.

No constantly walking around like you're looking for someone to fight.

That's not Tavon.

PLAY CONTROL.

Enter the room knowing you don't have to prove anything.

Listen.

Watch.

Take your time.

Allow other characters to become uncomfortable with your silence.

If Tavon asks someone a question, he expects an answer.

If they lie—

don't immediately react.

Maybe Tavon already knows they're lying.

Sometimes letting them continue is more interesting.

USE YOUR EYES

Tavon is an extremely visual character.

A lot can happen without dialogue.

Someone says something.

Tavon looks at them.

A beat.

Nothing.

Then Tavon moves on.

The audience should sometimes wonder:

What is he thinking?

Don't answer that question for them.

Let them wonder.

WHEN TAVON GETS ANGRY

GET QUIETER.

This may be the most important audition note for Tavon.

Anybody can yell.

Tavon becoming quieter tells us something worse is coming.

His jaw might tighten.

His eyes might change.

His breathing may change.

But Tavon fights to remain in control.

If he finally explodes, it should matter because we've watched him **not explode** so many times before.

DON'T PLAY THE VIOLENCE

Violence is something Tavon is capable of.

It isn't his personality.

That distinction matters.

Tavon can sit at a table.

Laugh.

Talk normally.

Eat.

Have a conversation.

And five minutes later do something horrifying.

The same man must exist in both moments.

Don't transform into "evil Tavon" when the scene becomes dangerous.

Stay Tavon.

That's much more frightening.

FIND HIS HUMANITY

Tavon cannot believe he's the villain.

Nobody wakes up believing they're the villain of their own story.

Somewhere inside Tavon is a young man who learned a particular set of rules about survival.

He didn't create the world.

He adapted to it.

Maybe Tavon believes weakness once cost him something.

Maybe hunger taught him something.

Maybe being powerless taught him he would never allow himself to feel powerless again.

Whatever you choose internally—

Give Tavon a reason for becoming Tavon.

Don't excuse him.

Understand him.

That's the actor's job.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Don't make him loud just because he's dangerous.

Don't force a "street" voice.

Don't make every stare threatening.

Don't play every line like it's a threat.

Don't make him angry throughout the audition.

Don't imitate another famous gangster character.

And most importantly—

DON'T TRY TO SCARE US.

If Tavon is truthful, we'll become uncomfortable without you trying.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We're looking for **presence**.

An actor who can walk into a scene and change its temperature without saying much.

Someone who understands stillness.

Someone comfortable with silence.

Someone who can make a normal sentence sound dangerous because of everything happening underneath it.

We need intelligence.

Confidence.

Charisma.

Control.

And unpredictability.

There should also be moments when the audience almost **likes Tavon**.

That's important.

Because if Tavon is frightening every second he's on screen, the audience becomes accustomed to him.

But if he can make us laugh...

make us understand him...

maybe even make us agree with him...

and then remind us what he's capable of—

that's a character people won't forget.

THE HEART OF TAVON

Tavon learned something very early:

The world doesn't care whether you're afraid. It only cares whether you look like prey.

So Tavon made a decision.

He would never be prey again.

Now he moves through life believing that if someone has to control the room—

it might as well be him.

That's why Tavon doesn't need to tell people he's dangerous.

Eventually, everybody finds out.

That's Tavon.
Now show us your version of him.