

1990 credits began

Oscar does not feel that being Cuban gives him any edge above anyone else

No matter where in your career you are you will have ups and downs

Studied to be a substance abuse counselor - did that full time (for 6 years) at the beginning of his career, then for another 2 years part time

Best acting class was working there

He was cast for a lot of roles of people who he met

He took the leap after 8 years and moved cross country when he had a solid reel that showcased his work

His brother scouted for the Phillies for a year

He had to start all over again moving to LA - rebuilding relationships

"Be nice to everybody" the assistant often becomes the head of casting at major studios

Before he had representation, he had a job in a short film, from a female friend - she introduced him and he signed him, then he dropped the girl because he overheard her bad mouthing him

Mental aspect: He starts the day by writing a gratitude list

You got to be sharp, because there are a lot of talented people

"The Secret," "The Magic" ( a book about gratitude - he reads it religiously)

He also loves the Alchemist

Don't go to your phone first thing in the morning

When you start the day with gratitude, he sees things differently - instead of getting stressed out about auditions, he sees it another way - great an opportunity to get a job, great not due for 3 days etc.

Threw a dvd of his reel into the car of a director lol

Every job you do and person you meet is a seed - plant a garden :)

Breakthru - he starred in a film called Freedom - it did well in Miami

Once in LA, a director in LA (Joe Menendez) was given this film by a female actress and the director watched it and wanted to meet Oscar

They met for lunch Joe paid, and Oscar got a steak

Years later Joe hired him for a lead role in a small indie he did

Joe then had the opportunity to produce a 1.5M dollar budget Spanish film for Lionsgate - Joe gave Oscar an audition (he didn't have any other LA credits) But he was cast - it was his first breakthru - studio film distributed in 400 theaters - it did very well for Lionsgate

6 Months later he booked Cane (first breakthru in the American market)

Ride the energy of your roles and bookings - if you did work you are proud of and you see growth in yourself, hold onto that and take it with you. Gives you an energy of confidence

Mechanic who isn't confident you don't trust him for the job, vs a mechanic who comes in sure of himself and his price. Who do you put your faith in?

He feels awkward about slating, says it great we are doing it weekly

Better to make a great or outlandish choice, rather than no choice

Descriptions for character breakdowns are usually written by assistants, so make your choices and show them what they want

Reason Stacy's slate stood out - she brought something - humor or if you connect somehow like they also have a cat etc.

Make them remember you somehow

Your not always auditioning for the role you are auditioning for - plant the seed, make the choice  
Watched the credits of film/tv and saw 50 + credits - why can't I be one?

He watches shows and envisions himself on those shows - start with visualization !

Cuban, but never been to Cuba, joked that there are more Cubans in Miami then Cuba

He took a chance on Cain, shot an audition and sent it in and they gave him a chance

He auditioned and ad libbed a little bit, took the chance on it

Only adlib if you have a point - to show you know the character etc.

He got a callback - Jimmy Smith was in the room, and 10 other ppl

He in character acknowledged everyone in the room and made a comment about his fathers funeral home in the same location his character was from

He made them laugh

He added one line to his callback "asceri" - means hey man, brother, yo cuban slang

Part of the reason he got the role - he really made himself memorable and the character authentic

Jimmy Smith now calls him Asceri

CBS thought he was an established actor in Cuba, that's the only reason he got the role

Jom Mendendez is now the Executive Producer of Kung Fu

He plays head of the Italian Mafia in the Has and Has Nots

He met the president of the studio at the event, asked to send him his reel on the spot, he sent it to the CD (this took weeks) he got called in and booked

In his first day on set, he adlibbed a joke into the scene "what happened to your toe truck did it get toed"

Tyler Perry laughed in the middle of the scene and said "who wrote that? Did I write that?"

Oscar said no, and Tyler said "I should of"

Tyler adds another line - "its a joke"

His manager calls him that night, and says you got added to 4 episodes

After that he saw that there was humor in his lines

Bring the human element to your character - that is how you make a living

Turn the volume off which you watch shows, watch what they are doing in the scenes, and how they listen

He listened to a conversation in a coffee shop this am, and had thoughts

You see editors always cutting to actors who are listening, bc thats what makes the other actor believable

When you are thinking about your lines and your cues, you are not believable - just stop and listen - if you are listening you will get more airtime

He learned more from directors when things don't go well - this is how you learned

If a director didn't do his HW, thats a waste of time - he learned from there

"Why hasn't this director visited this location" Shots should be figured out prior

Actors who don't do their HW - same thing ^

Everyone has a reason for doing things, and your motivation can change, but still know what your motivations are in scenes too

You can ask- how tight the camera is so you know what will be captured

He changed his name from Oscar Torres to Torre, bc he kept getting confused with his famous writer friend

He played a big role in a film by his friend Oscar Torre  
Often you are cast just as how you look, so remember your power just as you  
You are 75% of any role you will ever play - 25% is you finding it  
Need to know your physicality, and way of talking, movement etc. Must be consistent  
Own whatever you do and choices you make, don't fight pieces of yourself if you can't change them, embrace them incorporate them into your characters  
Do everything in your power to move forward: network, have your reel ready, never make excuses, have everything you need to represent yourself, be sending it all out  
Want it bad enough, you must overcome your shyness, or insecurities  
Always be ready  
Reach out to talented people who are coming up, stay in touch with people! Keep your seeds watered  
Relationships are very important in this industry  
Use your phone to shoot a short scene - just do it - no excuses  
Write your own stories, scenes and shoot them  
The more you are in front of the camera, the more invaluable experience and mistakes you will have (dont make mistakes on bigger sets.. because That is COSTLYYY)

Oscar Torre - said send him your work, writing, scenes etc.

Oscar came to us from Tanya Linette Smith - they made at a film festival