

TRANSCRIPTION

I was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. (Um) my parents are of British descent, they come from (Um), they come from the (Um) potters district in the UK called (Um) Stoke-on-Trent. So, my parents (Um) moved from Stoke-on-Trent, my dad was offered a job in the steel industry in, what was then Rhodesia, what is now Zimbabwe, (Um) and so they moved from Stoke-on-Trent to Rhodesia. They lived there for almost ten years (Um) before I was born (Um) and then moved to Johannesburg, or a little suburb of Johannesburg called Witbank, (Um) where they lived and I was born shortly after that. (Um) I lived there for the first two years of my life, and then we moved to Johannesburg proper, to a place called Randburg. (Um) where I went to school (Um) until high school, (Um) after that I went to boarding school, down near Durban, just in-land from Durban, a place called Hillcrest. Curzon (sp?) college, which is a private school. (Um) I was there for my whole high school career, (Um) and then went to university down in Port Elizabeth, at a place called the university of Port Elizabeth. (Um) and so, my accent has been tinged by a number of these different regions around the country, (Um). There's definitely a different dialect in the Eastern Cape as supposed to Johannesburg where I, where I was born, (Um) so my accent has been slightly changed through, through living there. My accent is also very much tinged by the fact that Afrikaans is still a fairly predominant language in South Africa. What you usually find is that (Um) people, who can only speak English and don't have a very good grasp of Afrikaans, are usually found in the major cities. (Um) but (Um) those people who can only speak Afrikaans and have little grasp of English, are usually found, out in the rural areas, because you need a rudimentary understanding of English in order to survive in a big city. (Um) so (Um) my accent is tinged by that a lot, but also by the fact that, we had to take Afrikaans as a second language. (Um) so (Um) learning Afrikaans and learning the, the linguistic characters of the Afrikaans language also tinges your Afrikaans, your English with a little bit of, a little bit of an Afrikaans accent as well. (Um) Well, now I'm living in Lawrence Kansas. I came across to the United States to marry my wife. We actually met at a, at a museum's conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. (Um) and decided that a long-distance relationship wasn't going to work, and so the only option was for me to come over to the United States, because my wife would never get a job in South Africa, so I moved to the States, and we have been living in Lawrence now for five years. (Um) I try to get back to South Africa as often as I can, (Um) my mother has Alzheimer's, and so I

need to try get back as often as I can. And I've just been back about a month ago, to go and visit family, and my dad has offered to pay for the whole family to go back once a year, so we try and go back as often as we can, but it's difficult. UNSCRIPTED SPEECH
TRANSCRIBED BY KARINA LEMMER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR SOUTH AFRICA,
January 20, 2008