

09 Jesse Chuku

Claire Clotley: Hi, I'm Claire Clotley and I'm back with another episode of the American Dreamers podcast an Aurra Studios original production. The conversations are flowing and I'm learning from black Brits, Black Americans and their families about their experiences living in both the UK and the US and whether the grass is greener on the other side of the pond.

On this episode of American Dreamers, I'm speaking with Jesse Chuku, a model, professional international athlete, and content creator. Jesse's impressive skills in graphic design, music production, acting, and video editing have led to his huge success on YouTube under his channel Chewkz, which gone as up to 55 million views and over 200,000 shares per video.

Welcome Jesse. There's some pretty impressive achievements there.

Jesse Chuku: Yeah, I'm trying

Claire Clotley: I think anytime I meet someone who, um, is, is just so multi-skilled, I think to myself, where did they get that solid work ethic? Like I can't help, but be curious about your upbringing. Tell me a little bit about that.

Jesse Chuku: Well, it all stems from, uh, playing basketball.

I think really when I was younger, um, to be honest, I'm wanting to be a football player. Well, soccer player, however people want to call it. I was still really tall. I didn't really grow into my body, you know, at a young age. And, um, all I had was a, was basketball. You know, it was, it was, uh, the natural route for me to go to and it became just my dream to play basketball.

And I love the lessons of like discipline and hard work and perseverance. It could really apply to any other area in your life. Coming out of playing basketball and moving into content creation just helped me grow so fast. I think.

Claire Clotley: You're moving quite quickly though. Right? I remember wanting to be an actress and that will play out all of those kinds of active and creative things. And I grew up in a pretty traditional Ghanaian household and it was like, no, no, no, no. You're going to be an academic. You're going to be a teacher. You're going to be a doctor, a lawyer. So I'm just wondering, like, you know, this dream and desire to play wool. Was that supported in your household or do you have a different story?

Jesse Chuku: Yea, it was supported mostly because my parents knew that once they understood that I could get scholarship and get a free education and you know, university, they don't on board with that. And, um, boss was always coupled with the educational part. I feel like I got a much better opportunity for education than I would have if I didn't play basketball.

Claire Clotney: Okay. I hear that. So can you get a scholarship for basketball in the UK?

Jesse Chuku: So I got a scholarship to go to high school in America first.

Claire Clotney: Okay. No, no, no, no, no. You're going too fast again. So you're born and raised in the UK. And then suddenly you had your eyes set on the US because there's a scholarship in basketball, but did you know anyone that was there or had you heard it through the grapevine?

What was the deal?

Jesse Chuku: It's just fired off with me, just thinking, you know, basketball is what I want to do, but in the UK, it's not, especially at that time, it wasn't as much of an option to progress and play professional or have as much support when I see all the basketball players in America. So it was my dream from early to go to America.

So I kept playing basketball in England I ended up, I played for the national team, the Great Britain National team through what, the younger ages and stuff. So I was playing at a good level. It got to the point where I was thinking, okay, I really need to take it seriously about going to, so basically I start getting all my games recorded.

And I've got a list of all the coaches, the schools, their email addresses, and just sent my game tape out to all of them. And a little message. Yeah. I'm Jessie from England. I really want to play basketball in America. Here's what I did. Here's my stats and everything. I'll send that to about like 20 schools, heard the back from a few of them and eventually one school, um, Kimball Union, the coach came out to London to, to watch a practice. And I remember that practice session, I had so much in me. It was like the best I've ever played. I was so excited to just prove myself, you know, and, um, he was so impressed and I ended up going there the following year when I was 17 years old to Kimball Union in New Hampshire.

And I was there for two years. And then I've got scholarship to Lehigh University.

Claire Clotney: This is just wild. Like you sent, I mean, you were content creating, then you sent videos of yourself yet to America. Did the coach fly in specifically for you?

Jesse Chuku: Yep

Claire Clotney: No way

Jesse Chuku: But he had an excuse that I can't lie with him because he has a son that was working, I think, in Ireland.

And he kind of used that as an, excuse me, I'm going to see this guy, but I'm also going to see my son in Ireland, it wasn't fully because we thought I'll take part of it.

Claire Clotney: You need to take the credit because to be fair, he, he diverted from his son or, you know, detoured before going into his son. That's that's big.

What's really interesting is you had your sights set on the U S and I think back to my childhood and I had my sights set on the U S for similar reasons, in terms of where people were doing big things. Now I've got to ask you some questions. Where are you now?

Jesse Chuku: I'm in London. I was just in Los Angeles though. I just came by like two days ago.

Claire Clotney: I kind of noticed that there was this back and forth thing. Like you're, you're straddling with your long legs, both for U S and the UK. Let me ask you British and US icons growing up.

Jesse Chuku: For sure. Idris Elba. I'm watching The Wire. Once I discovered that he was British, I was so impressed he got to do it.

And he convinced all these Americans that he's, um, that's America. And I just remember just research and so much about his story and just thinking, okay, this, this is actually really inspiring. You know, even at that time when it was just, I wasn't thinking about getting into entertainment or anything, it was just more inspiring as a, as a British person going dead.

And I'm betting on, you know, Okay. And American Eddie Murphy.

Yeah, I have Eddie Murphy. Eddie Murphy was in my favorite American comedian and actor when I was young. That's what I'm thinking. Coming to America was one of the first movies that I probably watched on repeat a million times over from America.

I didn't know until recently how many characters he played? And I'm even more impressed now, I feel like, um, I've definitely been influenced by him, you know, with how I make my content now playing different characters and doing different voices and stuff. It's definitely a song. I think it's inspired me.

I

had the address. Elbers Daniel clues of the world to look up to, I think my perception of America. British talent would be very different. I think growing up, I was under the illusion that, you know, America's where you went to perfect your skills, you know, where you went to improve. Um, I like, I ha I had this assumption that only Americans do it the way they did it, you know, did it big.

I was obviously the young at the time, but I think I thought that British talent was few and far between, whereas now I know, and obviously understand that the talent was always there. It always existed in the UK. It's just that the representation and the visibility wasn't there in the same way. I mean, black Brits have been doing it and they've been doing their thing for a long while.

I dunno what it is, but I feel like they, something about getting that type of like American validation that makes you more respect in England. I feel like, you know, when you see actors and musicians, once they break America, they come back to England and they're on a whole different level of opportunity.

And actually.

Claire Clotney: I might get in trouble for this, but I felt that back in the day, it was more about Brits almost come in and, but, um, Hey, Hey, can, can you give me please? Whereas now I think like we're coming with our luggage and we'd be like, oh, we're handing this out to you. Or we've got excess. You can borrow this from me, you know, which is a nice feeling.

Jesse Chuku: The culture kind of shifted that way while I was there. I remember seeing the skeptic. Kind of break an American Phoenix who proud.

Cause I remember kind of before. Anytime I'll play my British music and the dorms and stuff like that. People saw this British accent, Montana. Oh, you know, what is this British guys caught wrapping stuff.

I feel like that that had a lot to do with the music and the influence of that. And him kind of come in with the attitude is like, I'm going to do it my way. I'm going to keep, I'm not going to change my accent. Start rap in an American accent or anything. I'm just going to do. My own way, them kind of female, man.

I like this British stuff, man, Jami. And, uh, I think all that stuff kind of comes together and kind of led us to where we're at now, where it's like, it's not us kind of just going over this bridge, you know, Americans, like, except to me, it's kinda like you understand, but we're doing it.

Claire Clotney: How did your perception of America meet the reality when you arrived, you arrived as a young black man and all we sort of young black men in America on the TV screen was if not sport or rapping was gang affiliated movies and crime and stuff.

What did you feel when you were of. Yeah, navigate. And how did you

Jesse Chuku: feel? I think especially while I was there, it was quite more tense the atmosphere than it was back home in terms of like racial divide growing up in London is so diverse and you're in a classroom just full of people from everywhere. And no one's really separating themselves so much, you know, you could just have friends.

From all different backgrounds and stuff, and no one is judging you for that. I kind of found the reality in America. It wasn't so much. At the time I was there anywhere where it was just like, Hmm. If I hang out with some of my white friends, maybe some of my black friends, oh, what, why are you hanging around with them?

And vice versa. I didn't really understand that was going on until I was more into it. Uh, after a couple of years, I was like, Ooh, this there's actually quite a divide here. You know,

Claire Clotney: was it like around your white friends? Because I've had conversations with other bat reps and they've kind of suggested that.

But they're seen as British before they're seen as black, once they start talking and it is kind of a different vibe.

Yeah.

Jesse Chuku: I definitely had some different type of conversations, whereas like, um, but you're not, you're not black, you know, that, that's how I seem to some people, you know. Yeah. I don't know.

It's, it's still, it's crazy to think about, but it's, um, that's, that's kind of how it was, was just like, no, you're not black. You're. And I'm thinking what, you know, cause in that eyes may be not being like African-American and having certain like upbringing or culture or talking in a certain way. Didn't exactly put me in that box.

That was kind of strange, but I didn't bite to that. You know, I kind of just, I kept, you know, just being open with everyone who I talked to and everything, and just kind of stay true to my. But definitely that was weird to hear a few times or that people would, would feel that. But I don't, I didn't hold that against anyone.

Cause I feel like for a lot of people, the first time that they've met someone who's black and British, you know, it was such a, a unique experience.

Claire Clotney: How did that play out with the black American guys that you hang around with?

Jesse Chuku: I think, um, it definitely made me feel more like I was, um, the other. Did they make you feel like that in some, in some instances, you know, whereas like, okay, I'm around you guys, I'm you guys, but you're British.

And that would be the main thing that it's different. There was just a lot of misunderstanding and miscommunication, which I could laugh about.

Claire Clotney: Give me some examples. I want to know kind of the things that they would say or assumptions, they would have a view.

Jesse Chuku: Just for instance, maybe even with my music taste. Cause I, I DJ in like the frat pies and stuff, like. And a lot of the times it wouldn't expect me to know like certain music and stuff like that.

And I'd be like, well, of course I knew this, right. Of course I listened to the same thing as you guys, like, I don't know, like maybe I'm from a different place, but for the most part, like it's very similar. Like what's in post. Between us,

Claire Clotney: I've watched your sketches and it's, it's really fine to me. You sort of play this more soft British dude.

Well-spoken maybe, um, a little bit of a stiff upper lip, but basically a bit geeky and soft. But even in your skits where you can see black American guys, they seem more hardcore than the British brother that you play. And it's like, whoa, okay. Did that play out for you? In reality?

Jesse Chuku: I think I definitely exaggerated in my skin just to make it funny.

It did feel more like that. It felt more, um, especially in the, in the boss school type of environment, there's a different type of attitude that the, the American gun. You know where it was. It was more like a lot of them from the hood, like upbringing, you know what I mean? Like that more like they're tough, you know?

And they they're outspoken about this and it's not as much British culture to do that. It's more like polite. Oh, sorry, sorry. He bumped into some story. Even that behavior alone to them, it's like, oh man. You got to apologize. I think, yeah, definitely the behaviors and stuff. And of the culture coming from Britain, when you're standing next to an American, you might seem just overly gentle.

Claire Clotney: It's funny you say the, oh, sorry, sorry. Cause I used to do that when I would go around the supermarket. So the shops. Yeah. I bumped into someone and I'd say, oh, sorry. Or I'm trying to get past them. And I'm saying, sorry, my husband looks at me like, say, what's going on with you? What have you done to say, sorry, it's like, you're apologizing for taking up space.

So he's like, it's. Excuse me. So I make a conscious effort now is saying, excuse me, but in the UK it was definitely sorry. Sorry. Oh, sorry, sorry. Sorry.

So talk to me a bit about your content creation, like loads. I can relate to why the comparison between black America and black Britain, or was there even a comparison between the two? Was it just your experience rather than the black experience? Yeah. Yeah,

Jesse Chuku: I would say it was more, especially at first it was more just my experience, you know, like before I started making like those type of videos, I was just making a lot of random sketch.

And, and fun. And it just got to a point where I just, I feel like I have like a story to tell. I feel like I have a lot of material there and I was a little bit reluctant at first to make it, but few of my friends and families committed, not just to do it, come on. Like, what were you thinking about? You know, and, uh, the very first one I did was about like my first day of school in America.

And it's literally a true story. Like it's the most truest one, cause it's like word for word, how I remembered it, you know, going to school. And one of the. On the basketball team. I told him I'm from London. I was like, man, is that Paris? And I was so shocked. I still, to this day, I don't know if he was joking or not.

Cause he looked so serious. You know, when he said that, but I put down, it's get people, find it. But it was, it was true. That's something that she said that to me and people just being so shocked, like as soon as I talk, because they'll look at me like African American and then as soon as I start thinking, oh, well, where's the, where's the toilet.

I'll, I'll just, I'll see it. The look on their face has just changed completely like with confusion. I will say that again. That was just my experience is it's not that, um, I was really looking to make the comparisons. And then eventually as time goes on that, just kind of just expanding on some of these few things and just make it more fun.

Claire Clotney: Do you feel like you've, you're going to run out of comparisons?

Jesse Chuku: I think no. I don't have to always do a new comparison. Like, what I started to do was kind of merge ideas. For instance, like I have like a black British Superman character. His issue is that he's trying to save these Americans, but they're more concerned about him being black and British.

Then the. And I feel like that feels real to me because it always feels like that's the first thing people would talk about. You know, when I'm trying to talk about something serious, so stuff like that, I could always merge ideas and stuff and have fun with it that I don't have to always think about. Oh, what word is different in British and American Jeremy?

And I could, I could just play upon just the cultural difference. The, I

Claire Clotney: found that psychology pretty deep, to be honest. Um, and I didn't know whether you were using a psychology hat when you did that, but I was thinking, wow. So Superman is trying to help you put out this fire and you're, they're like, but you're black.

And I thought to myself, do Americans not see us as. Oh, black Brits is able to be that strong individual, which is why I asked you earlier, whether you're perceived as moist, you know, as you know what I mean? Oh,

Jesse Chuku: Hey, go do night. I think there's definitely that when you see, especially from before. Like the Jeffery and stuff like that.

And especially when you're going back one time when you have black British characters that are black and British in the actual film, that's American is usually not the heroin, the strong, the tough, dominant figure. You know, it's more like the submissive type, I think definitely kind of just playing around with.

And to just kind of highlight in like how absurd that is, that you don't have the, you don't have the, to talk tough to be, um, a strong character, I think. Um, that's interesting to me. So do you

Claire Clotney: feel that you kind of forms to make it easier for you when you were in America so that people didn't ask so many questions?

So I'm now calling cream body cream lotion, just because I just can't be. To be corrected again, I know it's cream, you know, it's lotion. We know it's the same thing, but let me just call it lotion. I'm not going to conform and call it, element whatever they call it. It's just, let's just call it foil. Yeah.

How do they say it? Element element.

You're I, I still say that to people I say you're right.

My husband did the same things that I used to say to him. You're right. You're right. He said, if I'm not all right, I'll tell you if I'm not all right. I'm just asking how you do it. Like, how do you change anything

Jesse Chuku: though? I mean, So it got to the point where my accent kind of diluted by them, but people could still tell I was, I was British and I was still saying certain words, but it would be a burden on my day.

Cause it would just waste time in certain situations where I'm just being stubborn and being British. When I know I could just be like, Hey, where's the bathroom, you know? And it's just no questions off. Yeah, exactly, exactly. It saved a lot of time. It saves sometimes where I can't be bothered for, you know, all the laughs and questions and stuff like, oh, you your British say this, say that.

I just say, okay, I'm just, I'm just going to be American in this situation.

Claire Clotney: It depends

Jesse Chuku: on who I'm talking to, but especially now, because I've made so much, uh, videos about it, uh, people is asking me to, just to say, well, yeah, what I'm doing to my friends, I'm relaxing,

Claire Clotney: uh, outside of your school experience, or what did you love most about the,

Jesse Chuku: I still feel like it's, um, is really a place for opportunity.

I think the mindset there is really to think. And I feel that they're still, you know, even when I was just stared at just everyone's really like got their eyes on my big dreams and stuff like that. Whereas maybe when I'm back home, it's more so like just, you know, keep it simple, like stay in your lane a little bit more.

It comes to pros and cons the way of life in America and stuff like that was, I was just in LA it's a lot of, um, two big homeless problem there at the same time. A big upside.

Claire Clotney: What's the pros and cons of being in the UK for you other than family off

Jesse Chuku: the top of my head, it's kind of just the opposite of that, where it just feels a bit smaller.

It feels like my audience is smaller just in the UK. Whereas I feel like I could appeal to more people if I was in a. Does that make sense?

Claire Clotney: I'm not sure. I mean, are you saying that in the UK because the audience is smaller, it's easier, but in America whilst it's bigger, more work, there's more opportunities.

Jesse Chuku: Wow. The pro about being hit is it's not on British. If that makes sense, you know, and that I don't have to do, I don't have a lot of those daily, like annoyances, which, you know, most of the time, like, it's, it's funny now, especially cause it's not daily anymore. Cause I live here, but that is, I feel more relaxed.

I feel like I feel relaxed. I feel at home, there's no confusion about my identity or anything like that. But in terms of what I'm doing right now, it feels like it could be a con maybe because it feels like it's maybe a smaller pool. Whereas America feels like an ocean.

Claire Clotney: What don't you like about the UK?

What does America give you? The UK just doesn't, it just can't match it.

Jesse Chuku: Um, I'm not sure exactly about, uh, I'll say maybe it's kind of that just the, just the way of thinking mindset. It's a different mindset. And I really thought it while I was playing basketball, even now. That's how I played. My last season I played was in the UK.

I played in lesser for the last season of basketball. What

Claire Clotney: about the coaching and the teaching styles? Because you've been educated in both the UK and the UK. And you've obviously trained on teams in both places. Was there a

Jesse Chuku: different, I didn't really notice, um, a different style, um, especially because some of my coaches here where were American or went through that system.

So when, once I got there, I felt already prepared for it because a lot of the coaches would, would either have that style or they would talk about that stuff cause they'd been through it. So they prepare. Um, so I couldn't really see a difference in like the coach. And as far as the teaching is, it's hard to tell just because of the schools I probably went to.

Cause once I went to America, the bonus was a private. So coming from a public school in the UK, it was a completely different experience where I wasn't used to actually having to like do my homework and stuff like that. I actually had to study. I was in trouble when I first got there. I was like, oh man, like, this is really hard.

I remember I took Spanish one. There's one of my class. And here in the UK, I remember in my language classes, you didn't, you didn't have to speak the language. Like the teacher would speak mostly English, you know, and like, just give you the exercises to do. But I remember getting into a Spanish class and the teacher, they weren't, they won't speak English.

They spoke French the whole time and the rest of the students too. I'm just the kind of, Ooh, I want to study. And they put me like mandatory study hall for like two hours every night. And. In grains, like the discipline and like, you know, that thing where it's just like, oh, I have to, you have to set aside time and be disciplined in this, you know, and not just do homework, like 15 minutes before class, you know, just quickly write the things down.

So I had, I had a completely different experience.

Claire Clotney: There's definitely a difference between public and private school. And there's an assumption I feel that the U S education system is nowhere near as good as the UK education system until a certain point. So the rumor is. Um, I might have heard wrong, but the rumor is that elementary and middle school is kind of a little bit wishy-washy here in the U S whereas in the UK, I mean, you are learning so much stuff, so many different topics, and then you get to high school in the U S and the university and the game changes.

They're just so on it. And really academic. And I don't have that experience. I'm always interested to hear from others who have had the experience.

Jesse Chuku: I can only make differences from the conversations I had with people that went to university here. I liked my university experience in America because I felt like it just broadens my knowledge in general, because of all the classes I had to take out to take general studies before I even decided to major. I took so many classes and different things, you know?

I took theater classes. I took philosophy classes and all like random things, a lot of graphic design that I eventually just got a degree in it too, you know, and I've got degree in psychology, which was my major, but it really felt like I was learning about the world, you know? And it just about all different things that I feel like now, especially using like creativity is as my livelihoods, kind of a lot of those things, you could kind of piece it together and it's been beneficial for me. I think really.

Claire Clotney: Yeah. So that's kind of opposite of the UK where we do so many topics when we're really, really young. And as you go up towards a levels

or whatever it is you want to do and your degree, it gets very narrow and very focused. Whereas in the U S it's probably the opposite where there's, you know, a few generic things to begin with when you started out in education.

And as you get older, they give you opportunities to expand your interests. Yeah. I wonder which one works better?

Jesse Chuku: To me. The, I really liked being part of the American system. Get it really. Um, it wasn't a choice. You had to take classes, even if you specialize early to get you, need a certain amount of credits so you have to take other things no matter what, I just felt like that was beneficial.

Even at the time, it may be, I was fast a waste of time, you know, doing this, doing that, but, um, I've definitely felt the benefit from that and just felt like I have more knowledge to do things or to, to listen to certain people talk or something like that. Oh, I know a little bit about that, you know, cause I took a class in that, you know, even if it's just a bit of knowledge.

I feel like it, it set me up nicely.

Claire Clotney: Okay. Where do you want to live?

Jesse Chuku: I'd love to be back and forth between American and the UK and miss out the winter in the UK. Just go there. So I just live my full life just in summer and good weather. That'll be nice.

Claire Clotney: Anywhere particular in the US?

Jesse Chuku: I want to live in LA for sure. Yeah. I was just there and it was, it was beautiful.

I really liked to the sunshine. They didn't bring one. As soon as I came back home it rained oh my God. I forgot about that type of weather,

their heads down inside. And I was like, oh yeah, it's great.

Claire Clotney: Less friendlier.

Jesse Chuku: I think, uh, the different types of friendly. I think America, that they're friendly in a way that they'll come up to you and say, hello. I was taken back because I haven't been back for so long, but when I was walking around,

so many people would just say hello, you know what be like, oh, Hey, how are you doing all your tall.

You play, you play basketball? You know, I just have so many conversations with strangers. I feel like that's really rare in the UK, but I think in the UK, they are more tolerant. Maybe the more, is that the word? Maybe tolerant. Yeah. More tolerant of people where I don't feel as unsafe in certain environments because in America there's been times where I felt very unsafe.

Claire Clotney: Even with your strong athletics, six foot, eight inches, tall self?

Jesse Chuku: Yeah. Yeah. There was one time when I was a senior in college, we took a road trip down to Orlando. We stopped off at a gas station in, I think it was in North Carolina and it was, it was scary. There was a Confederate flags everywhere. We've gotten the thing.

Everyone's just staring, like giving crazy looks. I'm thinking, oh man, oh no, what's going to go down. You know, I've heard horror stories about these type of stuff. Let's get out of here quick without the tank.

Claire Clotney: So more fearful because of racism rather than intimidated, because I don't know, it's just a rough

area.

Jesse Chuku: And even from the police. I only got stopped once in America by the police. But I, I feel like if anything could have happened, it feels, it feels like, you know, I feel sort of like, oh my gosh, like I want to be like a statue. I don't want to move too fast or anything like that that was going on. Whereas being stopped and searched in the UK, it's just kinda like, wow, come in as Jeremy, but I feel like he pulled back, but, um, you know, to, to the American police, like, you feel like you got bowed down to.

I feel like it's kind of scary cause they, they have your life in their hands.

Claire Clotney: It's not a nice situation. Do you think it's fueled more by the fact that they have guns? If they didn't have guns, you think you'd still clap back, talk back?

Jesse Chuku: I think having a gun first and foremost. Yeah, that's the big thing because, um, it's, I don't know.

I don't want to get into a gun debate,, but it is a human in charge of that gun that has emotions that, that could be have, have the manic mood in one day and do something that maybe they don't wouldn't usually do. And also the history in Americas. I think it is. More fresh and in people's minds, you know what they're coming from, as opposed to here in the UK, it doesn't feel as heavily.

Claire Clotney: I need to interrogate you about your humor though. Like you are a funny guy, your sketches are hilarious. Why I need to know is how you do it, because my experience over here is that unless someone's from a big city, like New York, They don't get my banter, but your audience seems to be a mixture of two. I don't know.

I haven't done the stats on it. Is it both?

Jesse Chuku: It's more US than it is UK. I'm not sure why. I think maybe because of the age I went. And just being surrounded or my friends being American at the time that I was able to learn what it means to be American. Maybe when I play a sketch and I'm playing an American character, it doesn't feel so like I'm creating something out of nowhere or I'm just, I just have to look at something and call it.

I feel like it's kind of in me at the point, you know, um, that is, uh, maybe that comes across is coming from a real place a little bit, you know, that experience. Um, but I dunno. I dunno. Why

Claire Clotney: Do you think it's easier to make an American life than it is to make a Brit laugh? Because I don't know. Do we laugh less?

Do we take things too serious?

Jesse Chuku: That's a good question. I

Claire Clotney: don't know.

Jesse Chuku: I think in person,. My language is it's making people laugh off or just laughter in general, I feel like I always, I want to laugh everything, you know, I try not to take everything so seriously. I didn't really notice if there's a difference between making it to laugh.

I just feel like I could make anyone laugh and I, but I don't think, I don't feel like I'm a comedian, but I just feel like naturally cause cause I have the desire to

make people laugh. Like I just, I'm quick to, to know what, what might make someone laugh, you know, after talking with them for like.

Claire Clotney: I love your work.

I think it's brilliant. I've been following your Instagram and in honesty, I think it, it did prepare me for some of the things that people were going to ask me. And also it made me feel sane when I saw that, oh, I'm not the only one that experiences this, this, this, all right. There's a few of us who know what's going on out here.

So I appreciate you when you're traveling back to the UK, what are you packing your suitcase from the US?

Jesse Chuku: Obviously, I have to pack the souvenirs for, for friends and family,

Claire Clotney: what do they like?

Jesse Chuku: You know, of the t-shirts, key rings, and stuff like that.

Claire Clotney: I love LA t-shirt.

Jesse Chuku: But really because I'm so tall clothes is a big thing for me. Like when I go there, I'm like, Ooh, and go my size and store. I like this. So I definitely go on a shopping spree and get all different types of clothes when I'm out there.

Yeah, cause

Claire Clotney: they make them big in the U S I'm talking about the people, the humans. I'm like, why are you guys so big?

I think

Jesse Chuku: it's the food. I think it's the food. When I went over there instantly, I feel like I grew once, once I first went to America, I don't know. I don't know what type of, what the injected in their chicken, their web, but I feel like I got bigger. So, um, I think there's definitely something to you. The diet.

Claire Clotney: And what about when you're come in back to the U S what British items do you need in your case?

Jesse Chuku: I just, well, for instance, when I went, I packed, like, I don't know if you've seen my much for the bow of war.

And just gave them out to people. Um, but apart from that, there's nothing special for pet.

Aw, that's really nice. I need to get myself one of those

Claire Clotney: Yeah. All right. Lastly, where do you think it's better to be black in the UK or the US? Yea, I did that.

Jesse Chuku: That's a tough question. I can't talk for others, but for me, I love being home in London because I feel like my identity secure when I talk to people. There's no question of what, who, who are you like? W w what are you, you know, whereas in America, I do feel a bit of that, but I don't know if I could answer that question for an African-American, but for me being black in London, I love it.

Claire Clotney: Jesse, it's been a pleasure speaking with you. Please let people know or where they can follow. You. See all your amazing sketches buy a bottle of water.

Jesse Chuku: Yeah, definitely follow me on YouTube and TikTok at Chewkz and on Instagram at Jesse Chuku, uh, the link is in my bio there to get your very own, bottle of water..

Jessie Chuku reflects

Claire Clotney: in the pros and cons of cultural and social stimulation yet respectfully stays true to himself whilst he has a desire to split his time between the US and the UK is very clear that his sense of identity is whole. To share your experiences of being black of the UK versus USA.

Email us directly at americandreamerspodcast@gmail.com. And please rate and review American Dreamers on Apple Podcasts. It's the best way for people to find this podcast. Special thanks to Aurra Studios, our production team, and AP, Brianna Jovahn, and editor. David Devereaux. Stay in touch with me on the socials at Claire Clotney.