



TRANSCRIPCIÓN ORIGINAL DE STUDIO OCHENTA

ATLAS LINGUAE - S03 E02 - KENZO MIZUMOTO

00:00 LUIS

Hey everyone, I'm Luis Lopez, host of Atlas Linguae and this is season 3, the language of culture online.

This week we have a very exciting guest, Kenzo Mizumoto. Kenzo is famous for his fast-paced and brilliantly hilarious short videos on TikTok and Instagram. Born in Brazil to a Japanese Brazilian family and living in London for some time now, Kenzo loves poking fun at the unique cultural peculiarities of the UK, debunking Asian stereotypes and exploring generational differences, always with good fun.

00:46 LUIS

We talk about Kenzo's upbringing in Brazil, about how he enjoys the moments when he can teach others about his specific cultural identity, and about the meticulous process he follows to ensure his videos are as funny as they can be. And believe me, they are. So here's our conversation with Kenzo Mizumoto.

Enjoy!

01:16 LUIS

So let's start off by just having you talk a little bit about yourself. Could you tell us a little bit about where you're from, where you grew up, and what inspired you to start doing what you do to start creating content?

01:27 KENZO

Yes, of course. So hi everyone, I'm Kenzo. I am from Brazil. I was born and raised in Brazil. São Paulo, to be more specific. I moved to London around eight years ago. I came here to study music. I ended up working in the music industry for a while.

01:44 LUIS

Oh, nice.

01:45 KENZO

Yes, but then during the...

01:46 LUIS

Any instrument in particular? Sorry.

01:48 KENZO

All right, I play piano, the piano, guitar, a little bit of bass...

01:54 LUIS

Okay. And like music production as well?

01:57 KENZO

Yeah, I tried a little bit. I didn't really enjoy being on the software that much.

I like more like playing the instruments.

02:05 LUIS

I see.

02:06 KENZO

Yeah. So I worked in the music industry for a while, actually, more in the business side, back in 2019, from 2019 to 2021. So when the lockdown happened, many of content creators that I know nowadays, they actually started during the lockdown as well. And I was kind of bored. And I just wanted to do something online, like create videos or something.

02:30 LUIS

Yeah.

02:31 KENZO

I had a few failed YouTube channels that didn't work out.

And it's okay. I learned stuff from them.

02:39 LUIS

Yeah.

02:40 KENZO

But then I was like, you know what? Let me give this TikTok thing a go. You know, like many people did.

02:45 LUIS

See what the fuss is all about.

02:46 KENZO

Yeah, exactly. Then I just started posting videos for fun. And then I realized that I really liked making those videos and making people laugh, especially during the pandemic and the lockdown, you know, because everyone was kind of, you know, everyone needed a good laugh.

03:00 LUIS

Yeah.

03:01 KENZO

Yeah. And from there on out, which is like, you know what? And here I am.

03:07 LUIS

I mean, one of the things I love about it is your videos where you kind of call out stereotypes of Asian men and movies, especially in like action or martial arts movies. I wonder if we could start with that part of your content. If you could tell me a little bit about like the inspiration behind that. And I don't know, maybe even like what are some of the most ridiculous stereotypes in your opinion that you've seen in movies like these that you that you display or that you talk about on your content?

03:34 KENZO

So I made a video called "How Asian Men Are Written in Action Movies" that I think to refer into that one right?

03:40 LUIS

Yeah.

03:41 KENZO

And that was my first proper viral video on Instagram when they started with Reels an all of that. And it was like, oh my God, people seem to really like this.

03:49 LUIS

Oh, I see.

03:50 KENZO

And basically what happened is that I had watched all of the "Rush Hour" movies with my wife. Yeah, during the lockdown.

03:58 LUIS

Okay.

03:59 KENZO

She had never watched the "Rush Hour" two or three, I think. So it was like, let's watch all of them again. And then as we were watching it, I was like: "Oh my God, like these things happen all the time". And the action movies in the Asian guys knowing martial arts and all of that is like the honor and the family issues. And there's the Yakuza and the triads and all of that. This could be a fun TikTok. So yeah, so I just picked my phone and I started writing down some lines for my script. And I was like, I'm going to use these and just see what happens. And then it kind of did pretty well.

04:37 LUIS

And what are some of these stereotypes that you find particularly ridiculous or just kind of like eye rolling?

04:43 KENZO

Yeah. So it's an interesting question though, because it's, when it comes to action movies like that, you know, you do have some stereotypes. But they're not like bad stereotypes per se. They're kind of badass. You know what I mean?

If the stereotype is to like be a really good fighter and no martial arts then.

05:06 LUIS

Yeah. Okay. It could be worst.

05:08 KENZO

Yeah. Exactly. Exactly. I think for me the stereotypes when it comes to like Asian guys or just even like Asian people in movies and stuff like that is usually the all the geeky guy in school, you know, the awkward and nerdy guy. You know, I was like, guys, retired of this. Come on. It's 2023. Move on.

05:29 LUIS

Yeah.

05:30 KENZO

But to be fair, I feel like we are seeing those less and less. Which I really, I really enjoy, you know, there's so much more to Asian people on screen, especially in the West. And I'm really enjoying seeing that because, you know, growing up every time I would watch a movie or a TV series, the Asian guy was always the geeky nerdy guy that, you know, didn't know how to talk to girls and stuff like that.

05:56 LUIS

Right.

05:57 KENZO

Or Jackie Chan, you know, so there was either of these two.

06:00 LUIS

Like, such extremes, right?

06:02 KENZO

Yeah. Exactly. And listen, Jackie Chan, honestly, it's so badass, you know...

06:06 LUIS

Yeah. Of course.

06:08 KENZO

Exactly, there's nothing bad with that. And I love it. But I like how we're exploring more holistic characters.

06:17 LUIS

Yeah.

06:18 KENZO

It comes to portraying Asian people on screen. And I think that's, yeah, that's really cool.

06:24 LUIS

Did you grow up watching movies like these? And I guess I wanted to ask you like, what are some of your favorites and like, has your opinion towards them changed over time?

06:34 KENZO

Yeah, of course. I, yeah, I grew up watching a lot of movies like that. Rush hour, a lot of Jackie Chan, Jet Li movies, some Japanese movies as well. And again, I don't think it's necessarily a bad stereotype when they are really badass and they know martial arts. So it doesn't really bother me. So even nowadays when I see it, I'm like, oh, that's pretty cool, you know, it's a little bit predictable, you know?

07:00 LUIS

Yeah.

07:01 KENZO

But I still find it really cool. And yeah, no, I love action movies, man. I love a good like martial arts movie because I did martial arts, of course, as a kid, you know.

07:12 LUIS

What kind did you do?

07:13 KENZO

So I did karate, kung fu, I kiddo, Brazilian jiu jitsu, you know. My daddy used to be a brown belt in judo.

07:23 LUIS

Oh, wow.

07:24 KENZO

Yeah. And of course, he would put his kids to learn martial arts, you know? So it's just... But I really enjoy it. I really enjoy martial arts movies also because you know, like the stunts are just amazing.

07:37 LUIS

Oh, yeah.

07:38 KENZO

Do you like action movies like that?

07:41 LUIS

Yeah, I can enjoy it. I'm not like the biggest fan of them in the sense that I don't like follow them as closely, but I can certainly enjoy them.

07:49 KENZO

Yeah, it's fun, isn't it?

07:50 LUIS

Yeah. And I see what you mean. Like, of course, it's cool to see someone be, you know, a badass in that way, right? So yeah, I can totally understand that.

08:00 KENZO

Yeah.

08:01 LUIS

Moving on, I mean, of course, you mentioned you're from Brazil, right? Your Japanese Brazilian, right? And I know that like, I lived in Brazil for a year and in São Paulo, actually. And so like, I met Brazilian Japanese people there while I was there. And I know that there's a significant population, you know, of people of Japanese descent in Brazil. But I wanted to ask you like, are there still like stereotypes there, even though it's, it's a population that's been around there, of course, for decades, right? And is there like an issue of being considered like not fully Brazilian sometimes when you're there?

08:40 KENZO

Oh, man. That's a whole, how much time do you have?

08:45 LUIS

Oh gosh.

08:46 KENZO

That's the whole thing. But yeah, first of all, that's really cool that you stayed in São Paulo for a while. If you don't mind me asking, what were you doing here?

08:53 LUIS

I was an exchange student. I was at the USP, the Universidade de São Paulo.

08:58 KENZO

Oh, yeah. Just just the best university, you know?

09:03 LUIS

Yeah. No, yeah, I was there for a year and yeah, I remember I remember I went to this neighborhood Liberdade several times and like I have Japanese food there and I don't know, I loved it so much. It was great.

09:16 KENZO

Oh, that's cool, man. So yeah, my parents actually went to USP, you know?

09:20 LUIS

Oh, okay.

09:21 KENZO

I know it quite well, it's a really well-known university there. Yeah, so the thing is that I feel like, because I'm already like third, fourth generation, right?

09:34 LUIS

Right.

09:35 KENZO

So my grandparents generation of Japanese people, they got to Brazil like over 100 years ago. You know, the first ones, the first ones were like in the early 1900s.

09:45 LUIS

Okay.

09:46 KENZO

And of course, you still have the stereotypes, but I feel like nowadays is a little bit less. I'm not too sure, but I think most of the stereotypes that we have in Brazil about Japanese people more specifically, because that's what the type of East Asian people that we had there most.

Now we have a lot of Chinese and Korean immigrants and that's pretty cool. But my dad told me it's like growing up or even when I was growing up in my sister. A lot of the stereotypes were around being a good student, being really nerdy and being really good at math and just getting straight A's, being sort of quiet and shy and all of that.

But I find it really interesting because, for example, my parents, they were born and raised in Brazil. So they were different to their parents, my grandparents, who were, some of them were born in Japan and some of them were born in Brazil.

Me and my sister and my brother, we were already born and raised in Brazil, but we're like third, fourth generation. And we consider ourselves to be at least us. I can't speak on behalf of all of the Brazilian Japanese people. But we can relate a lot more to the Brazilian culture than to the Japanese culture. So much so that whenever I go to Japan, even though technically my family is from there, I look Japanese and all of that. When I go to Japan, I'm like, wow, it's so different. It's so different. It's just like the culture, the way people behave, it's just very different. It's just very different. It's not worse, it's not better, it's just very different. And that is something that if you grow up in Brazil, you kind of shape your personality around that kind of culture.

11:49 LUIS

Right.

11:50 KENZO

Whereas had I been born and raised in Japan, probably I would have turned out like way differently. And let me share a story with you that I've been finding.

12:01 LUIS

Of course.

12:02 KENZO

I think it's quite cool.

12:03 LUIS

Yes, please.

12:04 KENZO

So the first time I went to Japan, I was a kid. I don't know how old I was, I was like maybe 10 or 12. I went with my mom. But because in Brazil, I was only like, I was one of the few Japanese people in high school. And I was always surrounded with like non-Japanese people. When we got to Tokyo, at the airport, I was looking around, I was like 12, I was looking around and I was seeing all of those Japanese people. And then I went to my mom

and I was like: “mom, everyone looks like us. What is this?” You know, she just laughed. She thought it was really cute. It’s an interesting feeling.

12:40 LUIS

One of the videos that I saw on your feed that I really enjoyed was also, I think it was when the World Cup was on, right, that you photoshopped yourself with the Brazilian national team.

And I think I remember you said something like, I don't know if there's ever been a Japanese Brazilian in the “seleção”, right, in the team. If I remember correctly, there were some comments about people discovering that you were Brazilian when you said that or when you did that video. And there were all of these comments like: “Oh, if you're Brazilian, then speak Portuguese and kind of like prove yourself” right? So I guess I wanted to ask you, what's the feeling when that happens? Does that happen often at all or where people are like: “Oh, you're Brazilian? Well, let's hear you speak Portuguese” because maybe they will immediately assume that you are by how you look or how you sound.

13:37 KENZO

Yeah, yeah. So that video I made, because it was the World Cup and I kind of, I was posting stories with my Brazilian jersey and all of that. I was like, I'm going to make a video about this because not a lot of people know that I'm Brazilian. Even though I do put the Brazilian emoji on my bio, I think people kind of forget about that. And it's okay. It's fine.

I posted that because I don't know. I never really saw Asian looking people playing football in Brazil because, yeah, for some reason, I don't know. You do have some. You do have some. Nowadays you have it even more. But in the Brazilian national team, not really. And I was like, do you know what? Let me give a small shout out to my Brazilian Japanese friends. You know, like, hey, guys, we're here. You know, and there's a fun video. But yeah, no. So in Brazil, no one ever really asks if I'm Brazilian because they know they're so used to East Asian looking people there already that they don't even ask. And to be fair, I only really started to realize that when I moved to the UK, because when I'm in Brazil with my friends, my family and everyone, I just speak Portuguese, you know, and everyone's like, oh, yeah, sure. I'm in Brazil, whatever. They don't even question. But here, everyone thinks I'm Chinese. And I find that really interesting. Not even Japanese.

15:09 LUIS

Not even Japanese. Yeah.

15:11 KENZO

Because I think they have more Chinese people here than Japanese.

15:15 LUIS

Oh, I see.

15:16 KENZO

I found that really interesting because it was the first time in my life because, you know, I was living in Brazil. But it was the first time in my life that so many people will think that I was Chinese, but at some point, I was like, wait, hold on, am I Chinese? And I don't know. Right?

15:32 LUIS

Like, you actually questioned it.

15:34 KENZO

Yeah, exactly. I was like, wait, hold on, am I Brazilian? You know, I was like, wait, what's happening, you know?

15:40 LUIS

What even am I?

15:41 KENZO

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And it's okay, you know, it's just what they're used to. But I thought that was so interesting, you know, it's like, for example, sometimes I'm just here walking around, waiting for my bus. And then I have a random Chinese tourist that is lost. And they come at me, like speaking Chinese and asking for directions.

16:02 LUIS

Right.

16:03

And I'm like, sorry, bro, I don't speak Chinese. Yeah. I don't know. And they look at me disappointed, you know, it's like, oh man, come on. You know, it's like, I had all of my hopes, you know?

16:16 LUIS

Yeah.

16:17 KENZO

But yeah, it's an interesting feeling as well, you know? It's like, and then I have to explain to people, it's like, oh, I'm actually Brazilian. You know, and you go like, oh, Brazilian really? You know, because they are always expecting someone that looks like Namar, you know?

16:31 LUIS

Right. Yeah.

16:33 KENZO

You know, like people like that. Yeah, yeah. Like me being Brazilian is the last thing they expect. Also because not many people know that, you know? Like, I was surprised. I thought it was a people knew that. Like worldwide that we had a lot of Japanese people in Brazil. But I realized that no one knows that. I'll type Brazil or Japan.

16:56 LUIS

And does it ever get like maybe a little annoying or just like, do you get like tired of like whenever you meet someone new and like having to see how much you have to explain your identity as you said? Like, well, I'm actually Brazilian.

17:09 KENZO

Do you know what?

17:10 LUIS

Yeah.

17:11 KENZO

Do you know what? Some people might. I don't. I actually got a little bit excited, you know?

17:16 LUIS

Okay.

17:17 KENZO

I love seeing people's reactions to it whenever I see like, I'm just like, wait, how come? And then I explain, I explain the history to them a little bit in like 10 seconds, you know?

And they're like, wow, I have no idea. And I always see like, there you go. You learn something new today.

17:34 LUIS

Right. Oh, I love that. So you take it as an opportunity to like teach a little bit.

17:39 KENZO

Yeah. Exactly. It doesn't take me long. It takes me like 10 seconds, you know? And they always go like, oh, wow, I had no idea. I was like, and I go like, yeah, there you go. There was this one time I was a, so I went to Warwick University here from my masters, right?

17:55 LUIS

Right.

17:56 KENZO

And it was a business school. And it's so interesting because as a business school, they had a lot of Chinese students that were coming from China to study here for a year and then go back and find work there.

18:07 LUIS

Right.

18:08 KENZO

You know, and it was something like we had 300 people in the class, right? And 80% of them were Chinese.

18:16 LUIS

Okay.

18:17 KENZO

80% of that class was Chinese. It was crazy. And we're talking about a British university, you know, like business school. And it was, and like 10% was Indian and the other 10% was like...

18:30 LUIS

Everyone else.

18:31 KENZO

Yeah. Europeans, British and me, you know, the only person you do there, you know?

18:36 LUIS

Anyone else from Latin America?

18:38 KENZO

No. No.

18:40 LUIS

Okay.

18:41 KENZO

I was the only South American there.

18:42 LUIS

Wow.

18:43 KENZO

Yeah. But yeah, it was so interesting because there was this one class when the teacher, where the teacher was talking about like Brazilian petrol or something on the oil in the stream, Brazil, you know, business school stuff.

18:57 LUIS

Petrobras and that's right.

18:58 KENZO

Yeah, exactly, exactly. And then he was like, oh, is anyone in the class Brazilian? You know, and I go like me.

19:05 LUIS

Okay. Yeah.

19:07 KENZO

And I could, I could hear all of the Chinese students turning around and looking at me and like, what the hell is this guy talking about? You know?

19:16 LUIS

Right.

19:17 KENZO

And I was like, yeah, Brazilian. Yeah, you know, and then at some point afterwards, I had some of my Chinese colleagues come to me and you were like: "No, come on. You're not Brazilian".

I was like, "yeah, man." I was like: "you want to see my ID?" And they were like: "yeah, we want to see your ID". And I showed my ID and they're like: "Wow, you know? So not even they know about it, you know? And I was like, cool to show it to them. So yeah.

19:44 LUIS

Yeah, I love that. So yeah, it's one of those things that like if you are born and raised in Brazil or have been there for some significant time, you end up, you know, where you end up learning about it. But otherwise, you just don't, right?

19:57 KENZO

Exactly. Exactly. And that's okay. That's okay. You know, there's so many different diasporas of people around the world, you know, that it's impossible to know all of them. So.

20:09 LUIS

Can you tell me a little bit more about your experience in the UK? How long have you been there? And what are some like, you know, curious, funny cultural differences that you've, you know, experienced while they're, because I know I've seen some of your videos where like you, you kind of talk in a humorous way about how they measure things like you, you did a recent one about like how they measure distances and weight and like stones and pounds and pints and all of that. And how can you get pretty confusing sometimes. So yeah, can you tell me just a little bit more about your experience there and culturally what's been significant or funny or confusing?

20:46 KENZO

It's really different to Brazil. I'm already used to it now because I've been here for almost nine years now.

20:54 LUIS

Okay.

20:55 KENZO

But it's... it's interesting. For two things. First, London, something that I've learned is that London is not necessarily the UK.

21:08 LUIS

Okay.

21:09 KENZO

You know, the rest of the UK is very different to London. London, I have a feeling that it's... it's own little hub.

21:21 LUIS

Right.

21:22 KENZO

Of Multi-cultural people from all over the world, you know, so it kind of works as a big...

21:29 LUIS

Kind of its own thing.

21:30 KENZO

Yeah, as a big pot, you know.

21:32 LUIS

Yeah.

21:33 KENZO

And when you go to other cities in the UK, you realize that it's very different. Well, the way people think, you know, and it's okay. It's okay. For me, the biggest shock when I moved here for the first time was that during winter, they have this thing called the winter savings time. And basically it gets dark at 4 p.m.

21:58 LUIS

Oh.

21:59 KENZO

Yeah. Yeah.

22:01 LUIS

Oh no.

22:02 KENZO

Yeah. It gets to people here. Even to the British people. Yeah, it gets to them because it kind of makes you a little bit sadder, you know.

22:13 LUIS

Yeah.

22:14 KENZO

It gets dark and it's cold, you know, and it's just like, oh my god. But to me, that was really interesting. I'm still not used to it, but, you know, there's a lot of you can do about that.

22:26 LUIS

Yeah. I love what you said. Well, I mean, I can relate to what you said about the dark because I lived in Chicago for two years. I did my masters there. Similarly, and maybe it's not that bad, but in the winter, like in the worst days, it gets dark at like 4.30.

22:40 KENZO

Oh, okay.

22:41 LUIS

And I'm like, no, no. I didn't mind the cold, but that I, it certainly, you know, hit me.

22:46 KENZO

Yeah. It's a trick you want, isn't it? Because you're not really used to it.

22:51 LUIS

Exactly. I wanted to talk a little bit more about your content and maybe more specifically about like your process. I wanted to ask you, how do you usually approach humor in your work? Do you, well, first of all, do you find it in your own experiences or things you've been told, perhaps from other people? And do you like build your skits or your situations around a joke or a funny aspect, perhaps something that happened to you? Or does that sort of appear more organically as you construct, you know, the situations that you depict?

23:22 KENZO

Usually I base my sketches on life situations or conversations that I have with my wife.

23:32 LUIS

Okay. Yeah.

23:34 KENZO

Yeah. So I don't really, I do have a process. So basically I try to come up with ideas every day.

23:42 LUIS

Uh-huh.

23:43 KENZO

It doesn't have to be a full script, just the idea, you know, then I write them down on the Google Docs file. And I'll have all of them there. As an exercise, and I try to come up with something every day.

23:57 LUIS

Okay.

23:58 KENZO

It can be quite tiring.

23:59 LUIS

Right. So, like, or should it be creative every day? For a little bit?

24:05 KENZO

Yeah. And more like an exercise, you know, because I treat this whole thing as a craft.

24:10 LUIS

Right.

24:11 KENZO

You know, and like any craft, the more you do it, the more you exercise, that specific craft, you get better at it. So that's how I see it. I do allow myself to not have many ideas on the weekends.

24:25 LUIS

Okay.

24:26 KENZO

So my brain can, you know, think about something else.

24:29 LUIS

Yeah. Disconnect for a bit.

24:31 KENZO

Exactly. So usually I have an idea, and I'm like, oh, I really like this idea. Let me try to develop this a little bit more. And then I write a script, like a rough script. I come up with a few words or lines that I want to put in the script, and then I just put them there. And then I obsess over the script with timing and words, because I only have a cup of, like up to 60 seconds, to have people watch the video, you know, so I have to be really straightforward.

25:08 LUIS

Have to be really ruthless editing.

25:10 KENZO

Yeah. Yeah. But that's me. That's me. Other content creators, comedy content creators, they have their own processes.

25:16 LUIS

Right. Of course

25:18 KENZO

They have there. But me, I obsess over this script, because to me, every single line in that video matters. If I have one or two lines that are okay, you're just going to scroll.

25:31 LUIS

Right. Yeah.

25:33 KENZO

You're just going to scroll. And I'm like, okay, fair enough.

25:35 LUIS

Everything needs to contribute something.

25:37 KENZO

Yeah, exactly. So every second, every line of the video has to contribute something, you know, but that's me. And once I have this script ready, and I have obsessed the writing, it's like, okay, then I time myself reading this script to see if it's up to one minute. If it's not, I trim it down or change a few words here and there.

Sometimes I change words because some words they have, they sound better than others, you know, because of the impact they have. So let's say if I want to, I'm talking about school and a subject instead of saying, I don't know math, I'm going to say biology because of the, you know, there's more impact to it. I say biology, you know, so these are things that I think that I don't, I don't know if people notice that, but to me, it makes sense.

26:23 LUIS

No, but I love that. So like even how the word sounds, it adds to perhaps like the comedic effect or to the rhythm of the video.

26:31 KENZO

Exactly. Exactly. So whenever I can switch words, I try to put, I try to put the words that have a lot of 'B's and 'P's and 'K's and 'T's cause of that impact. And then once this script is ready, I start filming them. I have a green screen that I just put in my living room. I have my little setup with a soft box and my mic, this one. And then it usually takes me around a day, half a day to film, depending on how big the video is. Sometimes I have videos that are 10 seconds and sometimes I have videos that are one minute.

27:05 LUIS

Right. Yeah. If they have a lot of props and costume changes and stuff.

27:09 KENZO

Yeah, exactly. Like if I have a video with like three or four characters, I have to change a lot. Whereas if it's one of those videos that is just me and it's like 15 seconds, then it's fine.

27:20 LUIS

Right.

27:21 KENZO

Then I film it. I just try to get as many shots as I can because you never know if you're going to need something else later. I as some film, I start noticing if I like the vibe or the feel to the lines or to the video and all of that. And I just change. Once that's done, I export everything. I import everything onto my computer and I start editing. I really like editing by the way. A lot of people don't like editing, but I like editing. Just to make it feels like a... Did you ever used to play with Legos?

27:52 LUIS

Oh, very much. Yes.

27:54 KENZO

Yeah, exactly. So I love Legos, man. I love Legos. I don't play with them that much anymore. But to me, editing videos feels a little bit like Legos. You know, we're just putting something here, something here or something there. You know, and they just put all of them together. And then at the end, you have like this finished product.

28:13 LUIS

Wow. I love that. And I had never thought of editing as like building Legos. But that makes so much sense. And I'm glad you said that because I love Legos as well. And yeah, I love editing too. I mean, I'm a sound editor as well.

28:25 KENZO

So it's... Yeah. And I understand what you say. Like, some people just don't love it, but I do. And...

28:31 LUIS

Yeah. It's like your work finally comes to life in that process, right?

28:35 KENZO

Exactly, man. Exactly. And then you see all of the clips there, you know, like stacking on top of each other.

28:40 LUIS

Yeah.

28:41 KENZO

Like, oh, it's like a Lego. It's like a little castle. You know.

28:44 LUIS

And do you feel like sometimes, like people who don't know what's behind all of that perhaps can't fully appreciate like how much painstaking work goes into something that seems simple, you know?

28:55 KENZO

Yeah. Yeah. But that's with anything.

28:58 LUIS

Yeah, of course.

29:00 KENZO

Yeah, that's with anything. But I do... I am aware of that. And it's okay. As long as they like the finished product. As long as I've done my job in making that person enjoy the video, then I'm fine, you know. Because as a sound editor, you know, you have to like... You have to mix and you know, like equalize and the compressor and all of that. So I got a little bit of that for my audio production background because I did a little bit of that.

So I know a few things here and there, you know. It's like, I know that I have to equalize the... My vocal is a little bit more, you know, and all of that. And I really like it. And I really like picking the soundtrack for my videos.

29:40 LUIS

Oh, yeah.

29:41 KENZO

Because I truly believe that a soundtrack can make or break the video.

29:46 LUIS

Yes, very much.

29:47 KENZO

If you have a funny video, for example, and there's no sound tracker, like there's something missing here, something to make it a little bit more energetic, a little bit more upbeat. And that's when I go and try to find the soundtrack. And I'm like, oh, yeah, that's the one, that's the one. And then sometimes I try to edit the video according to the soundtrack.

30:06 LUIS

Oh, yeah.

30:07 KENZO

But I understand that not a lot of people do that because they might not enjoy it as much, but I really do.

30:12 LUIS

Right, and I think that's part of what makes your videos in particular just so appealing and so fun. Because you can see all the care that goes into it.

30:22 KENZO

Yeah, exactly.

30:24 LUIS

And then as you said in the music, like sometimes you choose this very dramatic score. And it helps to accentuate the comedy of something kind of silly with the dramatic score behind it just so much fun.

30:35 KENZO

And if it's a soundtrack that people know, it kind of adds to the video. And then sometimes people are going to perceive the video as even more of that. So I'm going to give an example: Sometimes I make videos that I'm like super epic and heroic and whatever. And then I added an anime soundtrack.

30:54 LUIS

Oh, I see.

30:55 KENZO

I don't know if you watch any may or not, but sometimes I watch I add like "Attack on Titan" ... "Attack of Titan" soundtrack to these videos that I'm like super heroic, but in a funny way. And it kind of adds to that. And the people that know that that is the "Attack of Titan" soundtrack, like, oh my god, that's the "Attack of Titan" soundtrack. So it adds a little bit more to them. And I like that when people can spot these things. Not everyone can spot that of course. But it's just for me as well. It's just for me.

31:24 LUIS

For the people in the audience who catch that detail, right?

31:28 KENZO

Yeah, exactly. Exactly, exactly. And then once everything's added to it, I run it through my test audience. Oh, it's my wife.

31:37 LUIS

Oh, okay. How strict is she as a...

31:41 KENZO

I really like it. I really like the feedback she gives me, honestly. Because then I know sometimes if I'm like, babe, the video is all right. Can you watch it for me? It's like, okay, cool. And then I see her reaction when watching the video. And I'm like, okay, she's not really paying attention at this bit here or like this it is too slow.

32:03 LUIS

Okay.

32:04 KENZO

So I'm gonna chop it off and make it short or something. Or if sometimes she has the biggest laugh in the middle of the video, but I need her to have the biggest laugh at the end of the video. So then I go and I change the order, you know? So. And then I'm like, okay, can you watch it again? She was like, okay, that's good now.

32:21 LUIS

Oh, okay. So like her blind reactions are just as important as like perhaps the more prepared feedback later after watching it.

32:29 KENZO

Yeah, exactly. Exactly. Yeah, she helped me a lot with that.

32:35 LUIS

Do you have a video or maybe a couple of videos that you are like particularly proud of? Perhaps because they might have done better than you expected, like reached audiences that you didn't expect them to reach or just like something that you, you know, you're particularly proud of as a creator.

32:53 KENZO

Maybe I do have a couple of videos that require more effort when it comes to editing and using the green screen. There's one that I made that I really enjoy, which is it goes a little bit like your parents going to school according to them.

33:07 LUIS

Oh, yeah.

33:09 KENZO

And it shows like someone going through the savanna and the desert and like acid rain and just like, you know, like fighting a cheetah and all that.

33:18 LUIS

Yeah.

33:19 KENZO

And it's something that a lot of people can relate to because my parents used to tell me that all the time. And then once I posted a video, I realized that a lot of people can relate to that. So that is a video that I really like and also because my best friend, he had a really good reaction to that video. That made me happy.

33:40 LUIS

I guess that he, part of the humor in that is just like seeing what else is going to happen. Like what other ridiculous thing is going to be said?

33:46 KENZO

Yeah. Yeah. Exactly. Exactly.

33:50 LUIS

Yeah, that one. I love that one. That was a lot of fun. So we're just going to end things with a very quick lightning round. Just four questions.

First one, if you could hang out with any action movie or cartoon character, who would it be?

34:04 KENZO

Oh, damn, that's so... Character or actor?

34:09 LUIS

What the character from a movie or a TV show?

34:13 KENZO

I want to say Shang-chi.

34:14 LUIS

Okay.

34:15 KENZO

Yeah.

34:16 LUIS

So next one, what's your favorite snack slash street food from Japan, Brazil and the UK?

34:23 KENZO

Okay. And then I really like Takoyaki, which is like this little dough balls with octopus inside.

34:30 LUIS

Oh, yeah, yeah.

34:31 KENZO

Yeah, I love those. From Brazil, I really like pastel, which is like, how do I explain that? It's like a pasty, like a fried pasty, rectangular shape. And from the UK street food, I want to say curry.

34:50 LUIS

Okay.

34:51 KENZO

But it's not really British. So fish and chips. Fish and chips.

34:55 LUIS

All right.

34:56 KENZO

It's like fish and chips.

34:57 LUIS

Great. And then which one do you prefer: British football or Brazilian 'fuchibol'?

35:01 KENZO

Oh, that's a good question. I follow more British football a couple days because I live here. But when it comes to the World Cup, then it's Brazil.

35:11 LUIS

Oh, yeah. And finally, what's a place that you'd love to travel to and you haven't gone to yet?

35:18 KENZO

Oh, China.

35:20 LUIS

Okay.

35:21 KENZO

China. Yeah. Yeah, I think China is a very interesting country. And I have met a lot of people from there. And they were all really nice. So I would love to go one day.

35:39 LUIS

It was a lot of fun to talk to Kenzo. And I thought that we could keep going for much longer. I loved his stories about visiting Japan and embracing his identity, as well as his method for producing and editing videos. And now as an editor myself, I'll certainly be picking up a couple of tips from him.

You can follow Kenzo on Instagram and TikTok at [@KenzoMizumoto](#). So make sure to check out his videos. Remember, you can follow us on Instagram and Twitter at [@Ochentaodcasts](#) and on TikTok at [@StudioOchenta](#). You can also watch this season's interviews and more of our shows on our YouTube channel at [Ochenta Podcasts](#).

Thanks for listening.