

ENG

Lola_Odusoga_Ajankohtainen_kakkonen_21_05_1996

00:00–00:06

The Miss Universe competition would have gone on longer. At what point would you have lost your patience and perhaps even snapped at your famous roommate from Jamaica, who kept the mood going in her own special way? Well, actually, the day before the competition was the worst.

00:06–00:15

At that point, I actually went to do my makeup in someone else's room, because I just couldn't stand being in my own room anymore. How many contestants actually lost their nerves during the competition? Well, not that many. If things got a bit heavy, sometimes they cried and called home saying, "I want to go home now, I can't take the training anymore." That kind of thing. But they didn't really lose it — overall it was pretty pleasant.

00:15–00:19

I mean, it was pleasant for everyone, so no one lost their nerves because of frustration. How much of success at that level depends on having psychological warfare skills? Well, you definitely need to be fit psychologically, because it's about constantly moving from place to place without much time. And some girls would take two hours just to get themselves ready, but you don't always have that time.

00:20–00:32

We might only have half an hour to do our hair and makeup, change clothes, shower if needed. So yes, you need some mental strength to handle all of that. Part of the psychological warfare, I suppose, was also the fact that in Finland some newspapers even had headlines saying, "Lola's thigh circumference: 53 centimeters." I don't have a tape measure here to check if that's true. Well, let's not measure that right now.

00:32–00:36

But how does it feel when people judge you by the size of your thighs or your behind? I think it's completely ridiculous to measure someone's legs, because it has nothing to do with the competition itself — how many centimeters your legs are doesn't matter at all.

You actually started in the modeling business, in Mario Seroussi's agency, when you were only 11.

00:36–00:37

You've been praised for your naturalness, but how much of that naturalness is actually hard-earned professionalism? Well, I don't know if it's professionalism. I think I've always just been the same. Maybe it's been there since I was little, but I wouldn't dare to call it professional skill.

00:37–00:42

What would you say are your own strengths, the factors behind your success so far? Well, at least I have stage presence, and I think I can get the audience a bit on my side. And I think my

personality has had a positive impact on people. But if you want a long career in that field, especially internationally, do you have to be some kind of perfectly trained beauty machine?

00:42–00:48

No, you don't.

Well then, why do so many already beautiful girls agree to medical “touch-ups”? I talked to a lot of the girls and asked them about that. They said that if someone is already beautiful, that's wonderful, but they don't mind the idea of becoming even more beautiful.

00:48–00:54

What were the most extreme cases you came across at Miss Universe? Well, there was only one girl who was almost completely “redone.” By that I mean everything had been fixed — her ears, nose, teeth, lips, and even her chin.

00:54–00:56

She'd also had two ribs removed, liposuction on her waist, thighs, and buttocks.

So not much original was left? Not really, no.

Would you yourself be willing to go through something like that if the business required it?
No.

00:56–01:01

But apparently you did whiten your teeth before leaving, at least according to the papers? Well, it was just a regular cleaning that people usually do, but yes, they were whiter afterwards.

Have you, Lola, unwillingly become some kind of symbol of tolerance or a forerunner in Finland? Well, I wouldn't say unwillingly.

01:01–01:05

I've always wanted that, probably that's why I got into this in the first place. I knew there would be something like that involved. I've been prepared for it and I'm happy to take on that role.

How did you psych yourself into being in that role as a Black Miss?

04:01–04:14

Well, I didn't really psych myself up at all. You just have to be yourself all the time. It doesn't change anything. You might get more attention, both positive and negative, but personally I've only received positive attention.

04:14–04:36

It's been nice, and I can't complain about the competition. From some articles, one could guess you were hurt a little, especially about being sent abroad as Finland's representative when you don't look so "typically Finnish." Well, a few people did say, "You don't look very Finnish — where are your parents from?"

04:37–04:56

Because they're used to the prototype: blue eyes, blonde hair, fair skin. But it didn't really matter, because there were plenty of other girls — like one from England whose father was Black. And from some island states, where most people are dark-skinned, there were actually blond, light-skinned contestants.

04:56–05:08

So it all blended in. For example, the girl from the Cayman Islands actually had a Finnish mother and looked very much like the Finnish prototype. She must have been considered exotic back home.

Well, maybe a little.

So Lola, do you think your life can ever be the same after this? No, it probably won't ever be the same again, but I don't think it will change for the worse.

Thank you for the interview. — Thank you.