

Man on the Street Interview  
(Moscow on Hull Avenue)

by  
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**FADE IN ON:**

**INT. URBAN SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON**

Economic blight everywhere. Trash piled up. Shops closed. PASSERSBY move listlessly - they've got nowhere to be.

A camera wobbles, then focuses on reporter TRISHA (30s). With her microphone, designer suit and million watt smile, Trish really stands out... while not fitting in.

TRISHA

(clears her throat)

This is Trisha Halloway. Reporting for NBC, I'm here in the heart of downtown to get resident reactions to the new '22 jobs report.

She perks up as RICK (late teens) shuffles by.

Smoking a blunt, he wears jeans and a Huey Newton tee: "We Have Two Evils to Fight: Capitalism and Racism."

Rick glares at Trisha, keeps going. She dances in front of him, thrusts the mike in his face.

TRISHA

Hi! Do you live here?

RICK

Define "live". I survive, yeah.

TRISHA

And what's your name?

RICK

Rick. Lady, what exactly is it you want?

Trisha beams at both Rick and the camera lens.

TRISHA

Your opinion, of course! Rick, have you heard about President Biden's announcement today?

RICK

That old fart? He wake up from his nap to talk? What for?

TRISHA

I'm sure you and your family will be thrilled to hear. Americans are back to work!

Rick raises a skeptical eyebrow, which Trisha ignores.

TRISHA

I'm quoting the President directly here:  
 "Record job creation. Record unemployment  
 decline. Record wage gains." That's  
 terrific news, right?

Rick snarls, waves a hand around: "look, see?"

RICK

I don't know how blind YOU are, but what  
 I see is a "record" shit show!

Trisha hisses under her breath.

TRISHA

We're live. So no cursing, please?

RICK

And "record wage gains"? What's that  
 about? Gimme a fuc-

TRISHA

Language!

She gestures to the unseen cameraman, mouths "Bleep".

RICK

Full-on break! I wait tables and earn a  
 massive \$2.13 before tips. Where's the  
 \$15 an hour that Blue Republican promised  
 when he asked for my vote?

TRISHA

(dry, clears her throat)  
 Joe Biden is a Democrat, Rick.

RICK

Not in policy, he ain't! Republicans are  
 pieces of fascist sh-  
 (the word's BLEEPED out)  
 But at least they tell the truth about  
 what they want. And they fire  
 Parliamentarians, instead of using them  
 like some lame excuse!

Trish gulps. This interview's really off the rails.

A PEDESTRIAN (Male, 30s) wanders over to watch. Trish  
 beelines for him. Rick pulls her back.

RICK

Waitamminute, I'm not done! Biden's been in office more than a year. Look around. Has anything "fundamentally" changed?

He points down the street, at a WOMAN and her BABY.

RICK

That's Janice. I've known her since we were ten. Where's her boyfriend?

TRISHA

Trust me, I sympathize. Societal issues can sometimes be slow to fix.

RICK

Societal?!? Racist bullsh- (BLEEP)! Her boyfriend's dead, 'cause he had prostate cancer. And no insurance. But Jim Crow Joe said he'd veto Medicare for All if it crossed his desk. Does that sound like "terrific news" to you?

TRISHA

Joe Biden's been a champion of the public option...

RICK

Which he hasn't tweeted about since they swore him in!

TRISHA

He's expanding coverage for the ACA-

RICK

What good is ANY "healthcare" if you gotta pay at point of service, but can't find a job! If we had the Green New Deal with a Federal Job Guarantee, sure. But lose me with the "He's trying so hard, but he's incompetent" sh- (BEEP!)

Trisha sighs, rolls her eyes. The pedestrian grins. This exchange is entertaining, at least.

TRISHA

Rick, we all know politics can get a bit... emotional. So, let's just change the focus. What's your take on the Will Smith, Chris Rock slap? What should be the penalty, and who do YOU think was wrong?

RICK

Excuse me? You're a woman. How'd you feel if some misogynist moron ass (BLEEP) wipe deflected with that sh- (BLEEP) with you?

TRISHA

I see. OK, moving on. The slap's yesterday's news. How about Cuba Gooding's MeToo plea deal?

RICK

How about we discuss how the duopoly's doomed this entire neighborhood to neo-feudalistic wage slave hell?

TRISHA

Maybe you've got an opinion on the Kim Kardashian, Pete Davidson romance heating up? Should Kayne West just "let it go?"

RICK

Geezus Fuc-(BLEEP) (BLEEP) (BLEEP!) You wanna know what I think of media that pays more attention to their donors and owners than REAL people on the street?

Rick flips double birds at Trisha and stomps away. He bellows over his shoulder.

RICK

I don't care what station you're "reporting" for: Fox, NBC, CBS, CNN... all you corporate hacks can suck my dick!

Trisha deflates. Watches him go. Shoots a sad eye at the camera.

TRISHA

Well, that didn't go as planned.

MALE PEDESTRIAN

(chuckles)

Talk about a hostile interview!

Reminded he's there, Trisha perks up. Swings the microphone his way.

TRISHA

What's your name, Sir?

MALE PEDESTRIAN

Charles. You're with NBC? Wow, what an honor. I watch your channel all the time!

TRISHA

Charles, it's just as well you caught that exchange. Which brings us to another question our audience is DYING to know: with Russian disinformation sowing discord across the nation, and people like poor Rick falling prey...

(beat)

Do you think social media sites like Facebook and Twitter need more protection? Especially with the war and mid-terms coming up?

MALE PEDESTRIAN

You talkin' censorship?

TRISHA

Heavens, no! Just "content moderation." You know, to shut the fake news out.

MALE PEDESTRIAN

Well, if you put it THAT way, of course!

Trish nods, smiles at the camera... forges on.

FINAL FADE OUT: