

# TNUC 2025 - Sunday - David Fane Solo Panel

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Adopt Our Crew Bluesky Transcript



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He's wearing the powerpuff girls shirt with Fang, Izzy, and Ivan 🥺

"This is weird doing one of these by myself. I feel a little naked!"



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Q: You've worked with Taika and Rhys before. How did you meet them and get involved in their projects?

A: I met Taika about 26-27 years ago. I was doing a sketch show and Jemaine was one of the writers and Taika get popping up and we kept hanging out.



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DF on Taika: We ended up in a show together about a strip club where he played a stripper. I ended up playing a barman and I had a no nudity clause - I didn't even ask for it! His humorbeasts with Jemaine is some of the funniest stuff. Throughout those years, we just ended up working and laughing.



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DF on Rhys: And then I met Rhys. I was in one of those panel shows and he came one. I had heard of Rhys before and was talking about his work and was doing robot sounds.



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DF on Rhys: He was so funny but what really got me was when he had started talking about his family and the need for them to understand where they're from. It was a beautiful melding of minds.



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DF on Taika and Rhys: I can't say enough about them both. They're both geniuses but they've got the kindest hearts and I could listen to them forever. I've known Rhys 18 years, Taika 26, Jemaine 27 and I've never regretted it.



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Q: Got any funny stories from Short Poppies?

A: To honor that work, all I had to do was to be kind and give into the goodness he was giving. In NZ, we're really bad with Tall Poppies syndrome so I really liked his choice of title.



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David Fane: I love working with Rhys and the way he sees the world. Like the way Jenkins sees the world. It's not about the money or how cool you're going to look. It's about how cool is the vibe and the people with it.



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"I always wanted to be a Powerpuff to be honest. That's my little joy - thinking myself as a Powerpuff." - David Fane

Source: [Adopt Our Crew Bluesky Transcript](#)



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Q: What was your first acting role and do you remember anything from that experience?

A: In university I was a real rugbyhead. Me and my friends went into the audition because it was on its way to the bar. On the Sunday they rang and asked if I wanted a part and I said sure.



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DF: It was playing a Papua New Guinean gang leader in a musical. "You didn't tell me I had to sing!" From then on, it changed something. It changed me thinking about where I was heading and where I wanted to go. The 2nd show I ever did I played the front end of the horse and I loved it!



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Q: Did you have a backstory for Fang and did you know what kind of dog he had?

A: In S1, we were talking about backstories after we started shooting. I thought he'd be a failed lolly maker. I was salivating at the thought of it. David and Taika were sitting there going "mhmmmmm 🤤".



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DF: For the dog, I love labradors. They're so unusual and they have little webs between their paws because they're water dogs.



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Q: What was like doing Moana 2?

A: The best thing about voiceovers is that it's just you, a microphone and your imagination. They asked me to do an American accent and I said "how many islanders do you know that are American? Why can't we be us and have the accent we have?" And they honored that.



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Q: Other than Fang, which other #OFMD character do you relate to and why?

A: Roach. He's one of those people who's filled with goodness on the inside. The other one would be Vico. Anything Vico did was stunning. I wish they were here - I'd tell them to their face, "You are my king!"



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Q: At the end of S1, the crew was preparing for a talent show. What would have been Fang's talent?

A: When we got the scripts, I saw we were having a talent show and I was SO excited. We shot the following episode and I didn't see any talent show.



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DF on Fang's talent: I said to Guz, "when's the talent show?" He goes, "have you read the entire script?" I felt gutted but I think Fang's would have been an interpretive dance with a veil.



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Q: Can you tell us about volunteering at the zoo?

A: I volunteered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I'd get the elephant dung and cart it over to the tiger enclosure and would start hanging treats for the tiger and putting the dung around it. It was really quite fun.



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David Fane on volunteering at the zoo: A lot of the time it was carting animal poo to different enclosures to keep their minds alert. My favorite group of animals are meerkats because they're communal and there's always someone looking out.



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"Volunteering for anything is wonderful - it's the best use of your time."  
- David Fane



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Q: How would you describe the relationships between Fang, Izzy, and Ivan.

A: If you put in the context that they've been with each other for 20+ years, we know each other so well. There are times that you end up having arguments with each other and times that we have to trust each other.



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DF: Those love tugs (Izzy tugging on Fang's beard), they hurt but they were with love. Like any relationship, you know what you're willing to do for it. If I've been with someone for 20+ years, there's a reason I'm going to stay with them.



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DF: For Ivan, I genuinely was upset when I heard he wouldn't be returning. A lot of us reached out to Guz and said it wasn't going to be the same and it wasn't the same! Ivan is a great character and I love him and Izzy for being terrible.





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Q: Can you share more about your show in Edinburgh.

A: I'm part of a group called the Naked Samoans. We're satirists and wrote this play about not spending enough time with kids and the effects of that on the child.



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DF: In Edinburgh, people turned up and loved it but one night we had this group turned up and they were throwing one pound coins at us and we realized that they thought we were a strip show.



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Q: What's your go-to karaoke song?

A: American Pie. I like the lyric "did you write the book of love?" I wonder who did write the book of love.



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DF: I see in shapes. An oval will be morning for me. Sometimes when I'm highly emotional like yesterday during the autographs - it was one of those experiences that I'd never thought I'd have.



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The shape I saw in that moment was a huge balloon heart. I'll never feel the same again after yesterday. I was blown away hearing your stories. It means the world to me. [DF tearing up] To share something of yourself is massive. It's just beautiful and I acknowledge all the stories I've heard.



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"You all mean a lot to me and I've only just met you two days ago!" - David Fane



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Q: What would Fang's signature lolly be?

A: Mackerel. It would be a mackerel lolly hence why he's gone out of business. It's about choosing your audience and he chose wrong.



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Q: If you could watch one film again for the first time, what film would it be?

A: Sound of Music. When I was a rugby player, I used to get up in the mornings and while getting stuff ready, I'd put Sound of Music on and it would take me to a place where I'm not thinking about rugby.



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Q: If there had been S3, where did you want Fang's story to go?

A: With Izzy gone, I think he would have gone to work in an orphanage or something. With Blackbeard an innkeeper and Izzy gone, there's no need for him to be at sea. He would be working with people at a soup kitchen and he'd be happy.



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Q: What role would it take for you to come over and perform on the West End?

A: I'm not sure if the West End could handle me. I think I'd do a show for free in a public space and it would be all about magic and stupidity and being allowed to laugh.