

TNUC 2025 - Sunday - David Jenkins and Con O'Neill Panel

07/15/2025 1:33 am EDT

[Adopt Our Crew Bluesky Panel Transcript](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: Hey babygirl.

Con: The greatest thing in my life is the morning fart.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Q: It all sounds really great once the show has been made but I'm sure it was development hell.

DJ: This one wasn't. There's a lot of vibe protection that you have to do when you're showrunning. There are moments of extreme pain and stress that I'm probably forgetting but sometimes it just works.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: At what point did Taika say he wanted to play Blackbeard?

DJ: I was writing this as if Taika was playing him. I pitched Jemaine. He'd reply "yeah...maybe." I pitched Pedro Pascal and he was like "yeah?" And then finally I asked him if he wanted to play Blackbeard and he was like "yeah 😊"



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: When you had Taika on board as Blackbeard, did you then start writing for Taika and Rhys in the beautiful way that they play off each other?

DJ: That was a surprise. I wrote it to protect the show in case they didn't have the vibe.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: The first test scene to see if they had chemistry for me when I was writing - I inserted the "you wear fine things well" scene into the script. The premise of that episode is that they go on a date and the date goes horribly and Stede rises to the occasion and he protects his date.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: They needed a good night moment. They both want to kiss each other and then they don't. I added that scene late just to see what the chemistry was like. That scene working so beautifully - now I can really light that lighthouse scene. I wrote that scene after. [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: I was on set during that scene. I was watching it on the monitor and was like "oh fuck, that's what we're doing."

DJ: I thought the same thing too. [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: It's interesting as a queer man to see a romantic queer love story as opposed to a tragic queer love story. I think it's braver to do a romantic queer love story. Had I not been in the show, I'd have been a big fucking fan of it because of that, because it's respectful. [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: I remember getting an email from you when Episode 9 came out and you were watching it with your husband and either you or him said "oh, it's about love!" [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con on Izzy getting Jack to get Ed off the ship: I understood why Izzy wanted Ed removed but that must have been a great turmoil for him to put Ed into that situation.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: That's the frustrating thing about writing Izzy in the first season and seeing the fan response. Izzy's my favorite character and he's the most complex. He's watching his spouse essentially fall in love with a bimbo. Stede is everything Izzy can't be.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: In the second season, the lead is Izzy. He has the largest transformation and he's the character that I love the most. You keep writing but the audience is where they were. Watching the love for that character in S2, I don't think he was that widely understood by the end of S1.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: I knew as soon as we met Izzy was in love with Blackbeard and was spurned. I played him as being hurt. What hurt the most was Ed and Stede being romantic. And when Ed and Izzy were romantic, it was fucked up. Cutting off the toe - it was a sadomasochistic thing that they both agreed to do.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: Can we talk about the rhino horn scene was cut.

DJ: Were you pissed that it was droppd?

Con: When we shot it, I thought it was so overcharged.

DJ: I think I overwrote it and whatever you were feeling when you were playing it, I felt when I was writing it.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: It was very sexual.

DJ: It plays that way in the writing but then watching it, Blackbeard is all jacked up on shit and he's unhappy and Izzy is telling him that there's essentially going to be a mutiny.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: Blackbeard throws the knife (which got cut from the trailer) but it's the same thing that we've seen before. The sexier scene to me is the scene at the end of S1 in the cabin.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: I loved seeing Taika go there. I don't think he's as confident in himself as an actor and when he allows himself to go there, he's fucking phenomenal.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: My favorite stuff, the last episode of the first season, he's very vulnerable. To me, the arc in that episode, Taika is so fucking good.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: Can we talk about the rhino horn scene was cut.

DJ: Were you pissed that it was droppd?

Con: When we shot it, I thought it was so overcharged.

DJ: I think I overwrote it and whatever you were feeling when you were playing it, I felt when I was writing it.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: It was very sexual.

DJ: It plays that way in the writing but then watching it, Blackbeard is all jacked up on shit and he's unhappy and Izzy is telling him that there's essentially going to be a mutiny.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: Blackbeard throws the knife (which got cut from the trailer) but it's the same thing that we've seen before. The sexier scene to me is the scene at the end of S1 in the cabin.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: I loved seeing Taika go there. I don't think he's as confident in himself as an actor and when he allows himself to go there, he's fucking phenomenal.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: My favorite stuff, the last episode of the first season, he's very vulnerable. To me, the arc in that episode, Taika is so fucking good.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: The thing that keeps surprising me, you'll work with someone that won an Academy Award, that has an Olivier, they're all just people and they're all scared. And the people who aren't scared aren't the ones you want to work with.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: Early on, I thought I had to protect Taika, Rhys, Con and everyone in different ways. For Taika, getting to give him that performance is telling him that he's safe. And you [Con] did that for him. You made him feel safe. When you find those pairings, that's what you're looking for.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Q: Where did the names Alma and Louis come from?

DJ: I don't remember, the sounded nice.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: James Tom recommended Vico for their part. Jim was the last part cast in S1.

Con: What Vico brings is that they don't play with any of it. They're just there.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: When you're writing, you're the lawyer for the character. I don't know that the writing was there for Ricky. The season was so condensed. Badminton had a good beef, this guy killed his brother!



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Q: You touched on the scene with Jackie and Izzy earlier. Were there longer shots of that?

DJ: No, unfortunately! It was one of those painful things to write because it could have gone on for ever but you have to wrap it up. It's the bad guy plot that's just to move it story.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: Izzy's arc could be what it was because of how little we knew about who he was. Most of the time, the most interesting characters, you're interested in them because you don't know much about them. I'm delighted you all wanted more but trust me, he [David] got it right.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: There was a scene in S1 of Izzy getting Blackbeard ready for Stede ahead of the fancy party and just how fucked up it would have been.

Con: It would have been great but again, the romance is so important and those men are allowed to be romantic.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: The perfect irony of "you wear fine things well" scene being filmed with Izzy in the wings watching it. That's the show. You don't need the scene of Izzy getting Blackbeard ready because you have it in other places.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: The thing in performance that I love about the "you wear fine things well" scene is that Stede is driving. He's bold!

Con: I don't think Blackbeard has had romance before. Certainly not with "steak and a fuck" Izzy.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: You cannot underestimate the important of romance in these shows. It's so relevant. That's why your heart breaks. But when we break it, that's good writing. Showing men, women, they/thems being romantic with each other - that's brave. That's politics. That's what I loved about [#OFMD](#).



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Q: We know Con would love to play a vampire. When S3 is made, would you consider making Izzy rise from the grave as a vampire?

Con: Feel free to just say fuck off.

DJ: First of all, no vampires, that's WWDITS. I think the idea for Izzy without revealing too much is that he's now more of a force.



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: The wonderful thing about Alec Guinness and the way that he's used in the first Star Wars, he dies and then becomes stronger than anyone ever imagined. To do that with Izzy's character and still have Izzy would be the challenge of S3. I have an idea of how it would work. [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Q: At the end of S1, Izzy threatens Ed to "watch his fucking step". Is Kraken Ed a "careful what you wish for" with Izzy or did Izzy just not think this through.

DJ: This is Izzy's version of wanting to be a "real boy". He wishes for it and then gets the thing he wishes for. [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: He wants the old Ed back but you can't get Stede out of the picture so he gets the Ed without Stede and that's never what he wanted. Izzy's first love is the sea and the crew. His love of a man, this man, is secondary to that. He can never articulate that but that's what it is. [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

DJ: I think Izzy is an amazing first mate who should NEVER be captain. [#ofmd](#)



Adopt Our Crew | #AdoptOurCrew @adoptourcrew.bsky.social

Con: Izzy doesn't believe he's in love with Blackbeard. He doesn't have that emotional maturity. He knows he's connected to Blackbeard but he doesn't think of it in the same way of what's going on between Stede and Ed. He doesn't have the capability to yearn. [#ofmd](#)