



On Their Way Show Notes & Transcript:

Episode 307: David Orion Pena (Or How To Make A Bilingual Podcast)

Show Notes

Episode Summary: David Orion Pena (he/him) discuss how over the course of the pandemic he created the Spanish-English podcast Dos: After You, which explores themes such as religion and longing, and what he plans to do for season 2.

Guest Information:

- [Dos: After You Spotify](#)
- [Dos: After You Website](#)
- [Dos: After You Twitter](#)
- [David Orion Pena Twitter](#)

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EPISODE TRANSCRIPT

**‘On Their Way’ Theme Song composed by Bajio Alvarado
(It’s light and energetic. It puts a little pep in your step)**

Jade Madison Scott (JMS): Hey everyone I’m Jade and this is On Their Way, the Titans of Tomorrow, Today! I’m glad you’re here with us today cause we have David Orion Pena in the house, woot woot! I think his podcast, Dos: After You, is one of the cooler podcasts I’ve heard not only due to the interesting mystical world the show created, but also for the fact that it releases episodes in both Spanish and English.



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JMS: Now, if you haven't happened to hear Dos: After You, don't fret. We're gonna play a short trailer for the show so you can get a head of what it's about. But before we do that I just want to remind you transcripts are available at our website, wgcreproductions.com, and do remember this is a WGC Production.

'On Their Way' Theme Song Fades Out

'Dos: After You' Theme Fades In

Deck (D): I've always believed that all those romantic stories where you meet that "special someone" and the world just changes were just another capitalist scam, but our story is not one meant for Facebook walls, Twitter threads, or big budget Yankee Hollywood movies.. This way when I find you you'll have records of all the times I thought of you. Isn't that romantic?

(Deck Sighs)

Oh, Sil, I can't wait to kill you.

(The tape glitches then beeps.)

You're a god. If I pray to you would you like it? Is that what I need to do to see you again?

Wouldn't be the first time I'm knees for the-

(Something falls)

Shit.

(The air vibrates and drops of water steadily fall. The tape beeps)

I look back at the rest of the objects and I can hear the voices inside me. Inside my chest, my head, my stomach. Read me. Touch me. Lean in. When I stare at the cup there's just silence. When I rub my hands around it I expect the wax to burn me but it is lukewarm, it's...pleasant.

(A droplet of water falls. Deck sighs.)

I lift it and I drink it. Drink. Drink. Drink.

(The sounds of rushing water. They slowly fade.)

'Dos: After You' Trailer Ends

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JMS: David Orion Pena is a trans and bisexual man, psychologist, writer, editor, and horror fan. He works as a psychologist full-time and freelances as a sensitivity reader in Salt & Sage books, writer for short stories and podcast scripts, and the creator of the queer horror bilingual audio drama, *Dos: After You*. He published anthology book in Spanish called *De Nombre y Hueso-*

(Jade Chuckles)

Apologies for my pronunciation. With short stories and illustrations by trans artists, a few comic scripts, and has collaborated as writer and VA in a few indie podcasts. Although he is currently dedicated to a psychology career, he has *Dos: After You*'s second season slowly in the making, as well as the show he's producing with Apoyo Positiva, Positiva, an LGBT+, LGBTQ+ Spanish association soon to be released. Uh, welcome David, how are you doing?

David Orion Pena (DOP): Hi, uh, good. Like it's in the evening here. I've been working all morning, so, so far so good.

(David Laughs)

JMS: Alright. Well, I'm glad that you chose to spend your evening with us. I really appreciate it.

DOP: Uh, yeah, don't worry.

(Jade Laughs)

To have a conversation it's always super fun.

JMS: It is, and I can't wait to have it with you so we can really get into, like, your work and like who you are as a creator as well. Uh, but before we get into all of that, I'm just going to ask you the first question I ask everybody that comes on this show: where do you come from and where are your roots?

DOP: Well, I'm from Madrid, uh, here in Spain. I've been born and raised here. Um, I'm kind of a "capital-boy". I...It's incredibly awful how "capital-city-boy" I am.

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(David Laughs)

DOP: And, well, um, I'm white, Mediterranean, I guess. Um, by all standards, white here, European. Um, I'm a pretty lucky person. Um, I have a nice family, even when I came out and everything, they had to readjust and they needed some time, but they have always accepted me and they have always helped me do whatever I want to do, when I went psychology then when I also started writing more seriously and now doing psychology more seriously.

(David and Jade Laugh)

Um, so, well, I'm pretty like, I don't know. I, I see myself as these really regular queer guy. I have, uh, like a big dad friend. Vibe?

JMS: Okay.

DOP: Yeah. At least that's what, that's what people tell me. Um, and well, where do I come from? I come from a Catholic background. Uh, Catholicism is really rooted here in Spain for a lot of, uh, centuries, and I dunno, like, like speaking in terms of family, it's quite interesting because I'm like the queerest, leftist person in the family.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Sometimes can be a little bit tough, but, well, I understand kinda the rest.

(David Laughs)

I'm trying to understand and find a middle-ground, you know? Um, but I've always, well, not always, but recently and part of the reason that I create what I create and I like horror is because I'm really intrigued in history and recent history, and like, because in Spain we had dictatorship until, um, 40, 50 years ago-

JMS: Mhmm.

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DOP: Something like that, and you can still...like, I wasn't born during the dictatorship, my parents were, but you can still feel that. Um, and there's a lot of things and a lot of things that you are taught and a lot of things that you learn socially and culturally and psychologically speaking, um, who doesn't have generational trauma.

(David Laughs)

So, that's maybe why I write what I write, I read what I read, and that's what makes me who I am right now. And that's where I come from.

JMS: Alright! I appreciate it, I appreciate your thorough answer. Like, sometimes when people answer, like they give, like, where they're from but, like, you really did give a whole sort of cultural background, which is great because a lot of that stuff I'm going to ask you about. Cause I feel like some of that falls into your show.

DOP: Yeah.

JMS: We'll get into it.

(Jade and David Laugh)

But before we do that, can you just tell us what your show is about in your own words?

DOP: Woo. Okay.

(Jade Laughs)

Okay, so Dos: After You is a horror bi-lingual audiodrama that follows Deck, a trans man that well, he's...he's no good. He's basically a serial killer-

JMS: (With Glee) Yeah, he is.

(Jade Laughs)

DOP: I...he's, he's...I love him but, ugh,

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(David Laughs)

DOP: I also hate him sometimes.

(Jade Laughs)

Um, basically we follow Deck as he travels, uh, from the Netherlands to the UK, um, because he's, uh, searching for a god he's fallen in love with, uh, Sil. So basically you have these horror queer strange kind of love story between a serial killer and a god.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Um, and then you have like this landscape picture of the Netherlands, Belgium, France, the UK, which was also like something really fun to do, honestly.

JMS: Okay, so I'm just going to, like, start from the very beginning. In my mind, when I was listening to this for the first time, my immediate thought was my immediate thought was “where did this guy come up with this?” Like, where did this start?

(David Laughs)

Because it's such a unique concept, right? Like, like you said, it's a queer, horror, urban, love story between a serial killer and a god, which is like right up there when it comes to creativity. So, David, like, where did it come from?

DOP: Again I'm going to say just one word and it's gonna to be, like, so easy to understand. So, basically I'm a big Hanibal fan, like from the TV show-

JMS: Okay.

DOP: Like I'm a big Ryan Fuller fan. I love his work. I love what he did with Hannibal. Like it's the show I rewatched the most. Like, I think I'm on my 10th rewatch, something like that.

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(David Laughs)

DOP: And I wanted to write something, like, not exactly, obviously what Brian did with the character of Hanibal Lecter and Will Graham, but I wanted something like that from a trans masculine perspective, you know?

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: You know, like I have this story, this story I love, this strange dynamic that is love but it isn't a good love but it kind of works but it's obviously, like, when we take ethics in it's wrong, you know, but, uh, problematic, I love that stuff.

(David and Jade Laugh)

And...not all, but you know, like, it's not a love story, but it feels like a love story-

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Because it's people falling in love, not in the best way you can find, but it's still, that's what they're doing. Um, I really like that. I had been consuming a lot of horror for the last few years. So, we have, like, a friend of mine had this word in Spanish, but I don't know how to translate it, but basically this came to me um, like, it started with the character of Sil, the god. I did a sort of story that was picked for a magazine here in Spain, um, Windumanoth, and I really liked that character and I kept writing sort of stories about him, and then Deck appeared.

And actually my first, like, the first podcast that I wanted to write wasn't this one It's one that I'm actually turning into a book, um, midway, uh, where like I'm in the middle of it. Um, but when quarantine, quarantine and Covid and everything happened, I was just like, "well, I'm lucky enough that I have, like, a mic in my room. I have time, uh, like a lot of time-"

(David and Jade Laugh)

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DOP: “Way too much time.” And I was like, I’ve been listening a lot to audio traumas to horror, audio dramas, uh, you know, like the Magnus Archives, obviously I'm also a big Welcome To Nightvale fan, They came to Spain once, I think it was 2016, and...I don’t know. Big fan.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Uh, so it was just like, I want to do a podcast. Is this something that I think it can do even just for me to have fun? And I did it bilingual because I have friends in the Netherlands, so it was just like, “okay, let's do it in Spanish and English” and it'd be short so I can kind of do that.

Um, and I started writing about them, but I had already redone how they meet, which is, like, later in the episodes, you listened that...you listen to that. And I also had redone how the first season ended. So I was just like, “okay, so I have the beginning and the end of the story so let's make an audio drama out of this.”

(David Chuckles)

JMS: That's really interesting, and [it's] especially interesting to me that you came up with Sil first, since so much of the story does center around Deck and, like, his journey to go find Sil again.

DOP: Hmm.

JMS: And that is also in considering that you play Deck and like you didn't....so that's something that's like happened after. Oh! That does explain some stuff though.

(David Laughs)

However, I do have a question.

DOP: Yes.

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JMS: Specifically about your role in it. So, again, you're the writer, you're the producer and you also play the main character.

DOP: Yes.

JMS: I remember in an interview with Caro Minks, you told them that you didn't necessarily have a background in acting, like, you didn't train in it. So, I wanted to know since you do carry most of the dramatic weight for this entire series, how has your relationship with acting changed from the beginning when you started it to now that the first season is over?

DOP: Well, a funny thing happens and that is maybe because, well, my main explanation is that I listen to a lot of audio drama and 90-99% of it it's in English. So, even....I don't have much background in theater or in acting, like, I did a later in high school, but like so little-

(Jade Laughs)

And I did, like, a weekend on camera acting when I didn't know what I was doing when I was 17 or 18 and that's about it, but it is kind of true that I've been going....like, I went for seven years to singing classes.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Pre-transition so I lost it all kinda.

(David and Jade Laugh)

So, I'm not unfamiliar on stage, but not as an actor. Um, and I think maybe, because I listen a lot

(David Laughs)

During last year, a lot to audio dramas I kinda got how to do it. Like I could imitate and I could work the character around and, um, play Deck in English. But I hate to listen to myself in Spanish because in Spanish, I, I, I always say like, I don't know how to do it in Spanish. I hate it the show in Spanish.

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(Jade Laughs)

DOP: Well, I don't, I hate it but I hate myself as Deck in Spanish. I prefer myself in English.

(David Laughs)

Um, so my relationship was kind of like at first it was for fun, it was for me. Um, and then by the end, I'm like, "I'd rather write." Like, I'm happy doing some voice acting, like, in an amateur style for friends, for people who want me in their podcast, which is like, "okay, that's your call-"

(Jade Laughs)

"If you want me have fun with it, but I'm no actor." I'm super amatuer. And also, like, my boyfriend, my partner is an actual voice actor, so at some point I was just like, "I know I'm like, like, this is not my job. I was just doing this for fun and this is kind of working." Um, by the way he's also in the show. He's in the show.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Um, so my relationship changed to "okay, let's do this for fun" to "I'm stressing a lot about this" and now are there some, just, like, "season two is not going to be centered around Deck because I just don't have the energy anymore, but you will listen to me here and there."

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: So, I...I'd rather just focus on writing and like writing and directing and maybe just playing something small, just for fun, rather than just being again, like, the main voice on an audio drama.

(Jade Laughs)

I don't think I'm doing that again. I don't have the register to do that again. Like everything to me, it sounds exactly like Deck, kinda, so-

(David Laughs)



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DOP: So that's how it is nowadays.

JMS: Okay, let's talk about your writing then since that's what you, like, you really found out that you really, really enjoy and really like focusing on.

DOP: Yeah.

JMS: So, another thought, it's like the second thought that I had. My first thought was like, how'd you come up with this? The second thought was, it's really cool that you're doing this in both Spanish and English, because I don't see that often when it comes to podcasts.

DOP: Mhmm.

JMS: Like I don't, I don't see a lot of bilingual podcasts. So, then my question became like, what was the writing process for that? Like, especially when it comes to translation? Uh, did you write it in Spanish first or did you write it in English? And if so, what was that translation process like?

DOP: It really depended on the episode. That's something that is always like super fun to, to talk about it because, um, some episodes came to me first in English and then I translated them and some others came easier in Spanish and then I just had to translate it. It kinda happens like the characters. Like there are characters I had to put a little bit more effort-

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: I don't know. Like, for example, uh, well now, now I have a lot of lore about the gods, but at first, um, I knew I had a lot in my mind, but I hadn't written much. So, the only god in the Pantheon that was like super easy to me, apart from Sil, which this isn't always as easy to me as it looks like, was Bre.

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JMS: Yeah, she's my favorite. Ugh.

(Jade Laughs)

DOP: Yeah. Bre is the child of my eyes. I love them with all my heart. Um, they are just amazing. I just, they're so much fun.

JMS: I love their sense of humor, but go ahead.

DOP: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, he, like, they're actually my guilty pleasure character. Like, I love those kinds of characters-

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: I wanted to have one of my own and it was just like, it's my show. No can tell me what to do so I'm doing this.

(David and Jade Laugh)

JMS: Well, thank you. Thank you for doing that.

(David Laughs)

DOP: Yeah. Yeah. It shows a lot. Uh, but well, with the episodes, uh, with the script, it kind of worked that way. I worked with two friends of mine who were, like, super kind and kind enough to help me. Um, my friend Paulette, uh, she's a writer and she's from the United States and she revised the English scripts the ones that I have them. And then my friend Angel Belmonte, who's also a writer and translator in Spanish, um, he's Spanish and he helped with the Spanish scripts.

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DOP: So, I would write, I dunno, like for example, one episode in English, I will kind of check it and then I will translate it. It was kind of fun because, because I had to translate it, it was like doing another revision and editing, but a little bit more hard than it would be just to read through, you know? Because I had to think about what I was writing twice and in another language.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Um, so I think that's why...and there are things that change. I think I have a different musicality, obviously in English than in Spanish. In Spanish to meet sounds way more dramatic in English it sounds more poetic. Either way they are both poetically dramatic.

(David Laughs)

And then I would just, like, upload the episodes, well, I would upload the scripts both for my American friend, Paulette, and for my Spanish friend, Angel, and they would check each language and what was interesting was that I had to write and then translate, um, I think it was harder than just editing. You know cause you write and then you edit, because, you know, I didn't have just to read it, I had to rewrite it in another language. I think that helped a lot with maintaining the structure of the show and differences between languages that people have noticed. And I think that's also super fun. Like, I get questioned by bilingual people, like, "why did he choose this?" "Eehh, I don't know I wanted this word it sounded better in English this way. It sounded better in Spanish this way."

(David Laughs)

JMS: Okay. Okay! So, that's one of the more technical elements, but let's get into some of the more creative aspects of the writing process for you. So, I know when I was listening to the show, I could separate these writing aspects into two definitive camps; the world-building, mainly centered around the Pantheon; and then like the actual characters, like mostly seen in like, Sil and Deck and, like their relationship (mostly Deck and kinda Tess, but, like that).

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JMS: So let's start with the world-building first. So, like Sil was the first character, and albeit probably the first god, you came up with. How did you kind of flesh out the world, um, and the lore of the, of the Dos universe?

DOP: Um...okay, so, um, if someone hasn't listened to the podcast, this isn't that much of a, of a spoiler, but I kinda need to say it to explain things, but Sil, his full name is silence. He's the god of silence. Um, it came to me actually thinking about, um, the dictatorship here in Spain. Um, he's the god, he's the bastard, but still enough, the son of, uh, of death, of the goddess of death. And he is the one in charge to reap the souls of those who have been abandoned, who have been marginalized, uh, who have been forgotten and who have been silenced. That's that, that was the starting point. And around him, I started creating, I was just like, well, if I have death and I have silence, I obviously need, at least, life. And even without thinking much about it, um, I named Sil, the bastard of death.

Uh, so I was like, okay, so if you he's the bastard, there had been like children who are just like, you were like children expected, or you were like, I dunno, you know, like you're kind of more loved-

JMS: Yeah, like natural heirs.

DOP & JMS: Yeah.

DOP: Yeah. Yeah. Um, so that was like, okay, so I need Death and Life to have more children. Um, the thing like Faye.... Faye came to me, relatively easy, um, I thought of them and then Natura too, but Bre, I didn't even know how to name them because I wanted something that would work both in Spanish and English, but too long or too strange or I didn't like the nickname.

JMS: Mhmm.

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DOP: So, it was like “it’s going to be in Spanish and it’s going to be in Spanish and that’s it.”

(David Laughs)

But, um, I started fleshing out the Pantheon, um, I think, I can’t pinpoint, the moment when I started thinking about the animaus, because that had to do a lot more with the story that I’m turning to a book and it had to do a lot with, um, the context of the place where I’m, that I’m writing about, which his La Manga, it’s a place like a site...it’s a coast town, um, in the Mediterranean here in Spain in the region of Murcia. I have been all the summers of my life there, and it’s this kind of place that it’s half abandoned because it used to be a really, really big touristic vacation site-

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: But then it just went down slowly through the ages. And I really love these eerie air and vibe the place has that it’s just like, it’s only alive in the summer and kind of, like not many people live there in the year, they do, but you know these kind of places that are just like four times bigger in terms of people in the summer and then leave and forget about the place.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Um, so I was working a lot with the idea of the Death living in places that...people alive don’t want to live and I crossed that with Sil and Deck and then it just kind of became this world-building. This, this, estranged world that I thought a lot about, and then I just also, I improvise along the way.

(David and Jade Laugh)

A lot of the, like, to be honest, a lot of the Pantheon insight that I have comes from last October. Where I did, like, a prompt every, every day, and I have a like on Patreon, the people who supported the Patreon have it all, but I basically wrote us a story that at the beginning, you were really sure about it, but it’s about the Pantheon.

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DOP: And I got all the family dynamics and everything, um, and that's where I fleshed out mostly the Pantheon and then the world-building was a little bit before. I had the animus really pinpointed. I knew by the beginning of the podcast there'd be, in the background, like, this is something that is tied to Sil but it is not for this season because this season is about Deck.

(Jade and David Laugh)

JMS: That's interesting in the sense that, okay, so, like, you mentioned how you wrote short stories, uh, that kind of were about what happened in the universe, but they weren't necessarily...and that helped you to sort of develop it out. You also talked about how some of the stories led into the book that you were working on. Is multimedia creation, like working across mediums, is that something that you want to do more in the future? I mean, it just, it sounds really interesting to me.

DOP: Yeah, I would love it. Like, um, obviously I have the book there. It will happen sooner or later, I guess. And also the anthology book that I coordinated and that I have one, uh, short story there, that short story is actually in the Dos universe. Um, sadly it's only in Spanish.

(David and Jade Laugh)

It's only in the book. Probably in a few years, I would just like, write it out at least in English. Um, but it's like, you know, like this big universe and you can connect some things and you can just learn....like you can read the book and not know about the podcast, but if you listen to the podcast and you, uh, read the book, you will be like, oh, so this is, oh, okay. This connects with this and that.

(Jade Laughs)

And I just love so much shows that are like that. That are like, yeah if that comes naturally then I want to do that kind of thing. And I would love to do multimedia, um, at least, you know, like writing and podcasting, it's a bit more manageable.

JMS: Mhmm.

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DOP: Than doing something visual, but I have a lot of friends, a lot of voice actors that I have on the show are like actors-actors and actresses. So, I don't know. Maybe if someone is interested, if anyone is listening and they just have a lot of money going around and they just-

(Jade Laughs)

And they just, I don't know, want to drop some cash and do stuff, I will write whatever they want, well not whatever they want, whatever I want, but we can do something visual about it.

JMS: Okay, well, you heard it here first folks, if you have money, David's your guy.

(Jade and David Laugh)

DOP: Yeah

JMS: Okay, so we kind of talked about the world, to the characters then. And it's interesting too, because you're a psychologist so, like, how did your background, how'd you professional background feed into like the way that you develop your characters?

DOP: Mhmm. Well, I don't know. I think I start first with archetypes and then I just start...well, I think all of the characters, I, um, you know, like every, like almost every millennial, I have a tarot deck. Um, which also come through with the name of Deck-

(David Laughs)

But I have a tarot deck and I usually assign one major arcana to one character just for starters, you know? Like, okay, this is going to like, their main conflict are gonna revolve around this. And then I just start, I don't know, thinking about the dynamics, thinking about what might happen. I think, also....I think a lot about family background from a psychological point of view, you know? And also....like, the human needs are....like, you can simplify everything into two basic needs or two opposites that are not that opposite.

(David Chuckles)

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DOP: Like people either don't want to be alone, like they don't want to feel abandoned, or they don't want to be hurt. You know, we are either avoiding solitude or we're avoiding aggression or both, you know? Like they're not, like, they can be complimented. So, I kinda work through that and what the characters are doing, how to compliment each other.

Um, I really like the dynamic between Sil and Deck because it's based on a concept that I took from Hanibal, but I, that I already love and that I feel quite strong with me, that it resonates with me, which is the idea of being seen, of being vulnerable because it's super hard. Like, vulnerability is one of the main themes, obviously, because I think it's really hard to let yourself be vulnerable so other people can see you, that can know you. Because you cannot, you cannot tell people you don't know me or you cannot tell me if you don't open the door first. So, like, you have to expose yourself and trust others won't hurt you, and they will. Some of them. Most of them. I don't know. It really depends.

(Jade Laughs)

Maybe no one hurts you in your life and that would be super blessed life, but you have to expose yourself if you really want to be known and you want to be loved and you want to be understood. And that was the main idea behind Sil and Deck. Sil has always been left apart. Deck has always have to survive, get through things and, luckily enough, he discovered he could kill people and not feel anything about it so why not get paid? I mean, capitalism.

(David and Jade Laugh)

You do what you love and you do it well, you get paid and you know.

(Jade Laughs)

Um, and then they meet halfway and they're just like, you're not a good person or you're like, by all standards, like Sil is...a side of death. So, they're both killing people or they're both not the good guys, um, maybe that's also what they, what connects them. It's just like, "I'm not going to judge you because I'm even worse than you think I am, so why not trust each other at least, I dunno, for, for the day and we'll keep it going."

(Jade Laughs)



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DOP: Okay, and then you have Tess, and I love eTess with all my heart and she doesn't deserve half the things that is done to her-

JMS: Aww.

(David and Jade Laugh)

DOP: Like, Tess, Tess is just like, she's moved on. She's just, like, "whatever you guys do, I just hope he's fine. He's not, but still." Um, but the first person that Deck gets to be honest with Sil and the other way around. And so I, I worked on that for the whole show, and then the Pantheon is basically family. Dysfunction all the way.

(David Laughs)

JMS: Deeply. Yes.

DOP: Yeah. Yes, yes, yes, yes. And that's how, uh, it's funny because all the, all the voice actors and actresses that I have for the Pantheon so far, which are three, but still, they love their characters so much. So, they were always asking and, and I dunno, like, asking every tiny detail, every tiny question. There's a lot to be said about Bre and Natura's relationship that hasn't been even hinted even, but the voice actors that I have, Luke and Matt, apart from being my boyfriend and one of my best friends, they talk a lot in character and it's super fun. Um, so that allows me to just see them interact and get a lot of ideas.

(David Laughs)

JMS: Question! From the way that you phrased that I have a question. When writing it as the actors were getting into the roles and, if so, how did that influence your writing process?

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DOP: I had, um, the first season I got it out, like, I released it in three arcs, which every arc were like seven episodes. The first arc was written when I started recording. The second, I think I took kind of a month or half a month to, uh, finish it because as I was recording the first arc I was writing the second one.

And the second one, I only had one voice actor was, was, uh, which was Luke and Natura, and then I think I did maybe two, three months...no more, um, well, at least one month or two months of, um, kind of an, a hiatus because I wanted more gods in and I knew, I knew since the beginning that I wanted, that I needed Bre, but I wasn't sure about Death, uh, and, and Tess. And then I was like I want an episode about Tess, because she deserves it and then Death was like I kind of need her also for the story, so let's have death too. Um, so yeah. It was, I didn't, I didn't have everything written in the beginning which is something I'm clearly not doing for season 2.

(David and Jade Laugh)

We're not gonna start anything until...it's going to be less episodes. Longer, but it's going to be less episodes. So...so, yeah, I can kind of say it's going to be seven episodes, but I'm trying to aim for 20 minutes at least for each episodes, and I will have all of them written and everything because the producing is going to be different.

JMS: How is the producing going to be different from the first season?

DOP: Well, um, I knew since the beginning that it would be only, be, it would only be two seasons. Uh, that's kind of in the name, it Dos: After You and the first season is-

JMS: Oh, that makes sense.

DOP & JMS: Yeah.

DOP: Ehh, the first season is Deck after Sil leaves-

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JMS: (Awed) Ooh.

DOP: And the second season is going to be Sil after season 1, and I'm not saying anything else.

(David Laughs)

Just in case. Um, so they're going to be different at, at first I wanted to do 15, 20 minute episodes, but as I started doing it, I just decided shorter ones. It was just easier to produce on my own at the beginning, but now, because I have more time, I kind of have more resources and have more actors and actresses. Even roles that I already I know are going to be characters that I have for season two, even if it's not written, characters that I have decided I have voice actors already.

(David Laughs)

Like you're gonna be this. I did a little bit of casting. Um, so, it's going to be seven episodes to maintain the seven thing, around 20 minutes, and bilingual, obviously. In the end it will be fourteen but technically seven.

JMS: Seven, yeah. Okay! Then that brings up an interesting question, because I did have a question about the fact that, aside from the last two episodes, essentially every other episode in the first season is under 10 minutes, which is interesting. And you also write short stories, which is what's in your anthology, and you mentioned that as well. So, I was kind of wondering, like, why you were drawn to microfiction, but then you just said that you were going to do longer episodes-

(David Laughs)

Have you already started writing season two?

DOP: No. I have a lot, like I have a lot of sketches and I have a lot of, a lot written about, but no script yet. Um, but I know what's going to happen.

JMS: Okay.

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DOP: Probably. I still don't know kind of the ending, I'm still deciding, uh, but that happened with the first season. The first season was going to end way, way, WAY more horrible-

(Jade Laughs)

Than it did.

JMS: (Laughing) Okay.

(David Laughs)

DOP: And it was probably because, uh, my boyfriend and Natura's voice actor, Luke Gonzalez, he told me "that actually would be more interesting to write and more difficult if you did this" and I was like "damn, you're right."

(Jade and David Laugh)

Like the first ending that I had in mind was the easy ending and this one was the one that I had to think more about. I think I like sho short stories on one side because I don't have much attention for longer stories and I tend to get lost. I have one book written, uh, in Spanish that is young adult. Yeah, like romance. Uh, well, heavily dramatic romance, because I cannot write comedy. I'm no good for that.

JMS: (Laughing) Okay.

DOP: But you know, little bit dramatic, little bit dead. It's the first book I've ever written and it was one, 140,000 words.

JMS: Oh wow.

DOP: Yeah. That was the first one. Yeah. There's like a lot to cut in this one. It's either I do little and I do it with detail and I do it knowingly.

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JMS: Or I start writing and I don't know what I'm doing anymore. I just start writing, writing, writing, and I...I'm not good cutting because for me everything is essential.

(Jade Laughs)

So that's why I try to stick to short stories and twenty minute episodes is still kind of still under 30,000 words, so I can not get lost in that, I hope I won't get lost in that.

(David Laughs)

JMS: All right. Well, Godspeed with that, I hope that also won't get lost in that.

DOP: Thank you.

JMS: You're welcome. Okay, then, okay. So, I have some questions about like some of the themes that you brought up in the work that I noticed when I was listening, some of the stuff that you said as well. One theme, like, the first theme that pops up, well, one of them is, like, the them of family.

DOP: Hmm.

JMS: And it pops up Deck and I'm not gonna give spoilers but ti pops up with Deck and some of the stuff that he says later on about, like, his upbringing, and it also pops up with Sil and, as you've already mentioned it, his extremely dysfunctional family.

(David and Jade Laugh)

Um, so I kind of wanted to know, especially since that you said in the very beginning that you come from a family who was very supportive and a family that you...like, um, I kind of wanted to know, like, where did this theme come from? And like, what were you, what were your intentions with writing it this way?

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DOP: So, even if that kind of family, and as I said in the beginning, I'm the queerest and leftist person in my family so, even if I can find sometimes a way around, I still, now a days, feel like...like it's stranger to be in a family but not feel part of it. Or you feel that you're apart of it but you are ot as alike as the rest of them are between them. So, I could really connect that, mostly with Sil, um, which is kind of fun because he feels quite alone, quite left alone, but you know, there's, there's, a lot of things to to say about between the siblings. And then with Deck it was, I dunno, that was mostly me being like a serial killer, true crime-

JMS: (Amused) Oh.

DOP: Yeah. Like, one of the reasons that I started, uh, studying psychology was because I've been watching Criminal Minds all my life.

(David Laughs)

Well, not all my life, but most of it, um, um, I don't always like the show, obviously. It's like, you know, not, not real psychology most of the time, but I don't know, death is a thing that has always felt interesting and interesting to me from a lot of different points of view, and Deck allowed me to explore that alot. And also allowed me to write someone that first you can not really trust. And I think I, I think I did a good job of him not being a reliable narrator.

(David Laughs)

JMS: Yeah. you did, cause Deck was clearly on some stuff sometimes. Yeah.

DOP: Yeah. Yeah, he was.

(David and Jade Laugh)

Like, one of the, I'm not going to say, but there's one thing that you start believing at the beginning, and then you realize, or you think, "well, maybe this is what he thinks, or this is what he's been telling himself for so long, he's forgotten what the truth is."

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DOP: That...and that was one of the plot points that I knew from the beginning, because it was something that I, it is something that I really like psychological speaking, and that is a memory and how our feelings and our emotions or what we want the word to be, can actually reshape memories. and sometimes we remember things that didn't happen that way, but we have told ourselves that story so many times we start to believe in it. So, that was part of the character of Deck.

And I just...I just wanted also an “evil” character that was a trans gay man. What? Bisexual? No, he was he's gay. I think, I think Deck, he's gay. Bisexual one is Sil. Like, we're always the bad guys, well you don't even see trans masculine people, but like trans queer people we're always the bad guys or the bad people, bad from one side of the story, you know? Listening to the story from the point of view of the good guy, you know?

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: But what about, “hey, I’m not a good person” or “I don’t do good things. My job is awful, but I like it and I’m still falling in love with something that I don’t understand, with a feeling I don’t understand at all and you still like me.”

(David and Jade Laugh)

So, yes. And, I don't know, the family it was....it was, um, strange and fun.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: To write the family, yes.

JMS: Well, thank you for, thank you for sharing. You personally gave me some things to think about as I write my own series and such, but, um, so thank you for that.

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JMS: Another theme that kind of popped up to me, overall, and it kind of stood out to me because I'm a queer person as well and like it stands out to me, like, in queer culture and queer media, but like it's also a thing that just sort of runs through all of our stuff, was this theme of longing. Even from like the very way that the series is framed as like both Deck and Sil longing for each other and like this series being Deck, like, just having this continual pining and yearning-

(David Laughs)

Like even in episode, like, even in episode 14, when he's talking to Nataura and they're, like, "what do you want," and Deck's like, "I just want to hold him and touch him, and like, the world is awful without him," like all that stuff-

DOP: Yes.

JMS: Like it was just such an interesting thing. So, can you just sort of talk to me about why you infused this story with so much longing in so much yearning and like, and like how that's going to translate in the second season as well?

DOP: Um, that's, that's, that's quite fun. As you were talking, I was thinking like, if this were to be a fanfic in ao3, we'd have mutual pining and idiots in love-

(David and Jade Laugh)

Those would be the tags. But, um...I really liked that you brought up episode 14, because that was that, that line, that, that lines that Deck has were probably, well, not probably were the hardest ones that I had to do.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: And they, I enjoyed them so much and I don't cry easily thanks to testosterone, sadly. It is to cry since I started hormone therapy and everything. But everytime, that I rehearsed that and record that my voice would break, like all the time and I would cry a little bit afterwards.

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DOP: Like this is probably the most, like the rawest moment that Deck has in the whole show. And it's just like you have this serial killer and he's saying "I just want to hold him" which is like, that's so wholesome.

(David Laughs)

JMS: It is! He's, he's he can be soft on the inside.

DOP: See that's the trick about Deck he could kill you and he is a cinnamon roll, kinda, like deep within. Really really deep within, but deep within he's a cinnamon roll, but no one has ever dared to see through the thousand knives that he has. So, about longing about yearning I think it's something that I feel a lot. Not daily, but kind of daily, but you know, somewhere to belong, uh, people to belong with. Not only places, but also people. And I think it's a really wide human experience. It's something that we all long for. Like it can be a person, it can be a place, it can be, I wouldn't say a job, but I don't know, it can be, like, a mission in life, you know?

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: And what connected me, allowed with this long and journey through Deck was that is really hard to let go of something like this once you found it. Once you found a home or you had a person that was like a home to you or people, and you don't have them anymore, it's like....but I need. You know?

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: You have a feeling of "you can't take this away from me, I need it."

JMS: Yeah, who lets go of love?

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DOP: Exactly, you have a serial killer who has never cared about anyone but himself, truly, for all his life just throw everything aside looking for that. And I think that's something really brave, and I hate the word brave. I'm trans, I've heard it-

(David Laughs)

Enough.

(Jade Laughs)

But this time I will say, like, I think it's something really brave because I think, in another world, or maybe through Deck, sometimes I've wanted to throw everything aside and just be like, but I want this, and it takes a lot of strength. So, that's, that's a big theme. That's a big thing for this season because he's start...change. The whole theme of the show is actually change.

It's knowing that change is the only thing you will know will happen for sure in life. Change is the only thing we can be sure about and still it's so difficult because we don't want things to change. When you're bad, when you're in a, you're not doing well, obviously you want things to change, but when you're life is euphoric, when your life is amazing, you don't want things to change. So, but, things will change anyways. You cannot control that.

So, first season is basically, Deck who has always been avoiding, in some fields, that kind of change, just pushing that and looking for Sil, and then Sil who has recently made a fresh decision he's ever done, like he's ever, um, uh, the decision he's ever took in his life.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: Dealing with consequences which is another side of changes that we will see in season 2. Because season one is mostly the desire to change, the desire to...like the consequences that Deck has, like he accepts his consequences, which is also why I really like him in the ending, but Sil has never had to deal with consequences and I'm actually quite...like I really want to write that.

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(David Laughs)

DOP: It's a really interesting point of view to write someone who has never had to face any consequence in his life, ever. Like, his tolerance, like his frustration tolerance, has to be so damn low.

(David Laughs)

JMS: Mhmm. He has no coping mechanisms.

DOP: Exactly. HE has to learn coping mechanisms. And it's going to be fun because I'm adding some time swap? No, not time swap....fast forward! For season two.

JMS: Oh, yes.

DOP: So, yeah. That's going to be also super fun.

(David Laughs)

JMS: Well, again you clearly have a lot of themes in your work, in this work, did they...did you know that's what you were writing about when you started or is it something you found out about retrospective, eh, retroactively?

DOP: For example, change and obviously the religious overtones-

(David Laughs)

JMS: (Amused) Yes. Very much.

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DOP: Were like, since the beginning, because the story really....like, this is maybe what I took the most from Hannibal because it was a concept that I absolutely adore, and it's this idea of "I see you. I understand you and I know you." And then there's this line in Hannibal is, like, uh, "I change you" and then the other one, like, I think Hanibal says to Will "I change you?" and then Will says "yeah, but I change you too." Because you know, like, change is bidirectional. So I had this idea really present through, through writing, and that's something that shows during all the first season, this idea of you cannot change someone or, you don't change alone. So, I really had that in mind since the beginning.

Then some other themes like, I don't know, longing, solitude, uh, religion. Well, religion was pretty clear. I started writing about gods and goddesses, but trust and maybe other themes. But change was always there in the beginning and always there when I was writing.

JMS: Mhmm, and how did your own relationship with your own experiences with religion and Catholicism, how did that affect the writing of the show?

DOP: Well, it was super fun because there's sort of was kind of a faith crisis for me.

(David Laughs)

JMS: Oh.

DOP: Um, yeah, I was raised Catholic. I went to a Catholic school for 15 years, um, but half of those 15 years I rejected, uh, Christianity and rejected, uh, Catholicism. Maybe, probably because I knew since little that I was obviously not cir nor straight, so maybe I didn't have a place there, but recently, I have close friends who are Catholic and who are queer and Catholic and they like practice and they go to church and everything. And I still have a strange relationship with this. I'm, for example, with Catholicism I don't agree with the church obviously for most things, but I do agree with a lot of things.

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DOP: I really liked the figure of Jesus and what he did, and I guess if you really pay attention to it, he was like pretty clearly a communist for his time, things like that, you know.

(David and Jade Laugh)

Like he, he, was on the left, he was on the left. Um, and so...I like some things I'm trying to reconcile with this. And spirituality even, if I don't really understand it, um, I think I still don't understand it, it's something that I long for, actually. So, this was kind of also like of, uh, this was, uh, an essay also that I wrote to myself in terms of religion and through mostly through the character of Fe, the god of faith, I wanted to make, like, when I created them, I did them with this idea in mind, that was religion in itself is not a bad thing.

It's what we do with religion, it's what we justify, it's what we like....we will do things in the name of religion, of gods, and those are the behaviors that we have to stop, or we have to reflect about them. But religion in itself, the spirituality, is....it isn't wrong. It is....I think for me, it's something really human. Something that a lot of people need. Something that generationally speaking I think there's, there's a lack of faith even in, in, in each other, even in humanity, um, in my generation and millennials, I kinda, I kinda, I have that feeling, at least. From the people I know, from what I've lived, from what I'm seeing, we are longing for spirituality, but we have decided that all the religions want worse or we turn to BuzzFeed.

JMS: Not BuzzFeed.

DOP: Or the Zodiac or we turn to things that sometimes, I'm not saying, in this case that Zodiac or Tarot, because they're also actually pretty old, but we turn or faith to companies and capitalism and productivity, and we get lost there. Where we could maybe, like, if you don't like the way a religion is doing something, but you feel connected to that religion, change it.

For example, like, I feel....I like alot Jay Hulme, he's a we, uh, he's a trans and gay poet in the UK. He's really Catholic. He talks a lot about being Catholic on Twitter.

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DOP: And I absolutely adore him because it's the kind of positivity and queerness religiousness that I want around. That I would love to see more often, you know? AND I don't follow that much, but I've been trying to get myself a little bit. With Judaism or um, um, I know they, the name in Spanish and English, uh, Islam?

JMS: Islam. Yeah.

DOP: Uh, yeah, it, it will be Islam. Yeah. Um, because those three of religions are also, like, kinda interconnected together. They're not the same religion obviously, but they have shared history.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: There's a lot of queer people that partake in those religions and I think for me it's super incredible to see people, queer people in those religions trying to change things and live their spiritual lives by also being themselves. So, I don't know. Religion....was there.

(David Laughs)

I was thinking a lot of thoughts. I wanted to be super self indulgent and that was basically the show.

JMS: That was, that was very very thoughtful.

(David Laughs)

That was a very thoughtful response. I'm sad we're winding down the interview we're almost at our time, but before I ask you that last question I'm gonna ask you this one: what exactly are you listening to? Like what's in your playlist? What, what podcasts are you getting?

DOP: I must admit, I have.....during, during, uh, Dos: After You, I actually got into a severe case of work addiction, m, so I had to stop. Llike I had to cut it and all related to audio drama and podcasting.

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DOP: So, I haven't really listened much to anything until yesterday, actually. Like, this year I haven't listened to anything. Like, relisting to the Penumbra podcast, mostly. I adore Juno Steele with all my life.

(Jade Laughs)

With all my heart with all my life. I have all the posters. So that's one thing. This year I have to say I got really into musicals and I've watched way too many versions of Jesus Christ Superstar, so that's what I've been doing.

(Jade Laughs)

But I started yesterday, the Silt Verses.

JMS: OH!

DOP: My friend Marina told me a lot of months ago, "you have to listen to this, this is your shit. You're gonna love this. Just..." And, and, this, like, they have never recommended me a podcast that I didn't like. So, the other day I was just like, I want to listen to something and I want something that I know I will like, so let's listen to Marina, and I started the Silt Verses yesterday, and I have...like, there's also, in the background, a big theme of water in Dos: After You, because I love...basically I love water. I'm a scorpio. I love water and I live in the center of a penusiala so I don't have the ocean close andn that hurts me.

JMS: Aww.

DOP: So I started the Silt Verses, I've listened for two episodes and I'm in for life.

(David Laughs)

So, I listened to that. I listen to the Penumbra podcast, I've listened to or am listening to Caravan.

JMS: Okay.

DOP: I absolutely adore Caravan.

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DOP: And what else? What else? Um, Chain of Being. My friend Kai, also is a fan. And I really want to finally listen to Wolf 4-5...

JMS: 359. Yeah I know what you're talking about. Wolf 359, yeah.

DOP: Cause I know I will like it. I actually listen to Time Bombs by Gabriel Urbina and I absolutely adore Time Bombs, so once I have the mental energy needed for podcasts again that's on my queue. So, right now it's mostly Silt Verses and...I don't know, like, if you listen to those, if you listen to the Silt Verses I think it's this kind of show that you're gonna like the other, cause they have similar themes but in way different directions, like, the shows that have similar themes to Dos but have way different directions are my favorite because it's like I feel this writer and I'm loving what you're doing.

JMS: I can definitely understand why you're into the Silt Verses, cause, like, you're into the idea and concept of religion and water and fantasy, yeah, that's really on brand.

DOP: Yeah. And also Desperado.

JMS: Mhmm.

DOP: That's also one of my favorite ones.

JMS: A lot of god focused, yeah, makes a lot of sense

(David and Jade Laugh)

Okay. Okay. Well now here we are at this, at our last question.

DOP: Okay.

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JMS: David, you're doing a lot. Like you started a really great podcast, you're already working on season two. You're out here publishing books all the while you're, like, an act...like you're a professional, you're a psychologist. Like you're doing really cool stuff. And like you're climbing up the ladder, so to speak, so I just wanna know how will you know when you've made it?

DOP: Hmmm. Well, I dunno. I think maybe for me would be...I don't think if I, if I want to make it.

JMS: Oh?

DOP: Like, I don't have in, in my future, on my horizon, a place or a goal that I can pinpoint and say, "if I do this, I'll be satisfied for the rest of my life." I'm...like, as long as I can manage to have a house, settle a little bit down, still have a daily job as a psychologist, and I can write whatever strange things I want.

(David Laughs)

And even if people don't listen to it, like, I don't have to make it big. I, if I make it big, it's welcome, but it doesn't have to happen for me to be, I don't know, satisfied. To be, to be happy. So, as long as I have a kind of safe a decent life and I can help others, and I can have a lot of fun writing, strange stories and strange love/god things-

(David and Jade Laugh)

While having an income and being able to pay our rent and one day a mortgage, uh, that, that will be it for me. Like that will be it for me. Maybe I dunno, in the distant future, having one or two kids, if I can afford it, and they finding out that I did this weird podcast when I was, I don't know, 26. And maybe them liking it. You know, like, "wow, dad this is super strange thing, um, how?"

(David Laughs)

That will be probably the moment I, that I say, yeah I made it. And if my, my kids or my family or my friends in the future, they don't like it, it's still okay. You know, it's like, Okay. So I did a lot of weird things all of my life, and I enjoyed them.



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JMS: Alright. That was very sweet. Okay. So can you tell the people where they can find you and your show?

DOP: I get, so you can find me, you can find me on Twitter or on Instagram, at...basically on Twitter or Instagram you type David Orion Pena you can find me anywhere. And then the show is Dos: After You. You can find it on Spotify on Apple Podcast. Anywhere.

‘On Their Way’ Theme Song Fades In

JMS: Thank you for listening to episode 7 of On Their Way season 3. On Their Way was created, hosted, and edited by me, Jade Madison Scott. The theme was composed by **Bajio Alvarado**, and the logo was created by Amaka Korie. If you’d like to help us continue to make podcasts like On Their Way or our other show, Retribution, you can support us on Patreon for as little as one dollar a month. In addition to helping us pay for crew and overhead, you’d also gain early access to episodes and exclusive content. You can find the link on our website, wgcproductions.com. You can also show us some love by following us @withgoodco on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and telling your friends about us. Next week we’ll be talking to podcast creator, David Orion Pena. As always I appreciate you for listening, and please take care of yourself and each other.