

# Hi, I'm Dan

A film by Room 1209 productions

Written by: Patrick Avella  
Directed by: Rosa Rodriguez  
Starring: David Perez-Ribada

RT: 4:30

Contact Information:  
Rosa Rodriguez / Patrick Avella  
[info@Room1209Productions.com](mailto:info@Room1209Productions.com)



## *Hi, I'm Dan – Press Kit*

### LOGLINE

An oddball office worker falls apart as he prepares for a job interview with a new company.

### SYNOPSIS

Dan Connors has been working at the same company for 15 unfulfilling years. As he prepares for a job interview at a new company, the pressure starts to build and he has a hard time holding it together.

### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Dan represents the modern every-man trapped in a deeply unfulfilling existence. He wants more out of life but is unable to make a change. He is functional in appearance but suffers from a challenging kind of pain: one that's invisible to everyone else.

In this film, we witness an apparently mundane event that is, in fact, tragic and earth shattering from the point of view of the individual who goes through it.

Dan represents us paralyzed by fear, unable to take the simplest action to change our current circumstances, trapped in what seems to be a prison of our own making.

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### CAST & CREW



#### DAVID PEREZ-RIBADA – Dan Connors

David graduated from Florida International University and has taught Drama at St. Gregory Catholic School in Florida. David has been involved with over a hundred professional stage productions, and has appeared on TV Shows, national commercial campaigns, feature and short films. He earned a Best Actor nomination for *Rain* (Indie Short), Best Supporting Actor nomination for *The Pillowman* (Stage Prod) and Best Ensemble for *Tracers* (Stage prod), along with being a part of numerous Best Productions of plays and musicals (nominees and winners) over his career. He is proud to be listed in 5 published plays as part of the original casts, most notably for the 2003 Pulitzer Prize winning *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz. For a full list of his credentials, please visit [www.dpribada.com](http://www.dpribada.com).



#### ROSA RODRIGUEZ – Director, Producer

Rosa is a Dominican actress, singer, director, and producer. Her acting credits include regional and off-Broadway theater, short and feature films. She studied the Meisner technique of acting at The Acting Studio NY, and holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a master's degree in Construction Management from NYU. *Hi, I'm Dan* is Rosa's second directing venture, after the short *The Call*, which screened at the Latino Film Market festival in 2017. For a full list of credits and other information please visit [www.RosaRodriguezNYC.com](http://www.RosaRodriguezNYC.com)

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### **PATRICK AVELLA – Writer, DP, Producer**

Patrick Avella is a filmmaker, actor, and musician from Queens, New York. He studied The Meisner Technique at The Acting Studio, Inc. NY under the tutelage of James Price and John Grabowski. After creating the web series *Space Available*, which he wrote, directed, and produced, Patrick focused his energy on studying the craft of filmmaking. He is currently pursuing his BFA in Film & Video Production at The City College of New York.



### **RAVIN PATTERSON – Assistant Director**

Ravin is an actress, writer and producer. She can be seen in the Netflix Original *The OA*, with Brit Marling. As an emerging playwright, she has had several plays workshopped with Chelsea Repertory Company & LAB. Her play *Monk and The Man*, which is currently being developed into a musical, was accepted in the 2014 New York International Fringe Festival. She is a graduate of Rowan University, with a B.A. in Communications: Radio/TV/Film, as well as The Acting Studio New York. For more information please visit [www.ravinpatterson.com](http://www.ravinpatterson.com)



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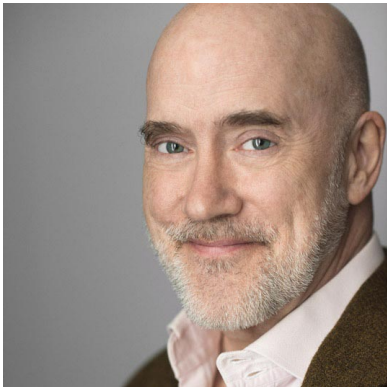


### **ISAAC RATHBONE – 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director**

Isaac is a writer with plays produced at the Edinburgh Festival, NYC Fringe Festival, Samuel French Festival, and BOCA Arts Festival. He has penned historical plays for Hofstra University, Greater Milford Historical Association, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

His plays are published by JAC Publishing and [indietheaternow.com](http://indietheaternow.com). He is a co-founder of Oracle

Theatre Inc. and a member of the playwriting collective Lather, Rinse, Repeat. For more information please visit [www.isaacrathbone.com](http://www.isaacrathbone.com)



### **JOHN AUSTIN WIGGINS – Production Coordinator**

John is an actor/producer with on-camera credits that include *Black Box* (ABC), Chris Rock's *Top Five*, and *Delivering the Goods*, with Thomas Ian Nicholas. His numerous short films include *Caught*, a 2013 Student Academy Award finalist. He has appeared on stage with Chelsea Rep and Movement Theater Company. In addition to *Hi, I'm Dan*, he has helped produce the

original series *Space Available*, and 3 NYU graduate films, including Wasserman Prize winner *Uzun Bir Gun*.

For more information please visit [www.johnaustinwiggins.com](http://www.johnaustinwiggins.com)

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### Q&A with director Rosa Rodriguez and writer Patrick Avella

#### 1. What was the inspiration for *Hi, I'm Dan*?

Patrick: I worked in construction for many years. I remember my boss telling me “I rehearse everything I do.” As a young man prone to social anxiety, I started rehearsing every interaction from then on. I have to be prepared in order to get out of my comfort zone. Since then I’ve been thinking of this story, a guy who rehearses for a job interview and loses confidence as he goes along.

*Hi, I'm Dan* is an exploration of how debilitating change can be for some of us. I finally got inspired to write something that dealt with the fear of change as I was going through major changes while leaving the construction business to pursue filmmaking full time, as well as going back to school for a film degree.

Rosa: Patrick and I met in acting class many years ago. He improvised a simplified version of this story as an exercise in class one time and I felt so connected to it that it stayed with me. When he showed me the script for *Hi, I'm Dan* I was immediately on board.

#### 2. How did you know David Perez-Ribada was the right actor for the project?

Patrick: I originally wrote the part for myself. Later on, as I fell in love with filmmaking and working behind the camera, I started to consider other actors. Rosa introduced me to David and as soon as I met him I knew he would be perfect. I wanted a regular guy, who could be me, or anyone; an everyman. I think he has that quality.

Rosa: For a solo piece like this one you need someone with presence and tons of energy. I directed David in *Los Valientes*, a one-man show with live chamber music in which he played three iconic Latinos (Diego Rivera, Oscar Romero, and Joaquin Murrieta) and he was a force of nature and a joy to

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work with. This, added to the fact that he was the right type for this particular project, sold it for me.

### 3. How long did it take to complete the project?

Rosa: From beginning to end the process took about 5 months. Shooting was completed in one day, but post-production took longer. Patrick did all editing and sound design on his own, in his spare time. It's been a learning process.

### 4. Were there any particular challenges and how did you overcome them?

Rosa: The number one challenge was making this on a zero budget. We are lucky enough to be surrounded by a number of enormously talented and generous artists who are super motivated to creating quality work. They lent us their time and efforts in all different aspects of the production process and things went smoothly as could be. Our lead actor agreed to defer his salary, we used our apartment as our one location (Patrick and I are married and that is our bedroom in the film), and our own equipment to film and edit. The only money spent went to keeping our wonderful team well fed and hydrated.

It is a source of pride for me to say that most of our production team and crew members were actors/writers who have developed other skills and passions in order to be able to create our own opportunities. There is no limit to what we can do when we have the drive!

### 5. What is Room 1209 Productions and what other projects have you completed and/or have in the works?

Room 1209 Productions is a full-service boutique production company specialized in storytelling. We are based in Long Island City, Queens, NY and operate nationwide.

We are a group of passionate filmmakers with a mission to tell innovative stories about the struggles of everyday people. We imagine stories with diverse characters in real life situations. We believe in building a community

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of creative minds and strive for generating opportunity for ourselves and other like-minded artists.

Other projects of Room 1209 Productions include a full season of a comedic original series called *Space Available*, streaming on the platform GCFlux ([gcflux.com](http://gcflux.com)); and the short film *Population Control*, currently in post-production. For more information on these and other projects please visit our website [www.Room1209Productions.com](http://www.Room1209Productions.com)

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## STILLS (by Peter Kramer)





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