

DAD - A SHORT FILM

Written by

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Open on a black screen. We hear the sound of a baby babble and a loud smacking sound.

A title appears in red: DAD, the letters are 3D and we move round them to see DAD spelled once again but this side they're coloured in blue.

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM. EARLY MORNING

Baby GRACE is sitting on the floor, she holds two balls in her hands, one red, one blue and is banging them together.

Cut to DAN, in a close shot, his eyes closed, hair clings to his sweat drenched forehead. He's wearing a red bandana and mutters something as we hear the smack of the balls once more.

Dan opens his eyes sleepily. Grace smiles. Dan's arm is reaching out towards her, he opens his palm, he's holding a green ball. He smile as his eyes drooping back to sleep.

DAN
(Mumbled) Fweedom.

Grace shrieks with excitement and crawls towards him, the balls scattering. Dan doesn't move as she comes close and looms over him, the morning light silhouetting her.

Dan looks up wincing. Grace drops her hands down landing them on his face, gauging his mouth with one hand, his ear with the other. She then delivers a hard smack on the side of his head.

Dan sits up, he's fully awake now. Grace smiles up at him innocently. Dan looks around the room, he's confused.

DAN (CONT'D)
What the...

He's wearing a tight pink long sleeve t-shirt and denim shorts, on his wrist is a festival wristband... Scrap that, at least 30 festival wristbands.

Dan looks back down at Grace who laughs and makes a face at him. He looks towards the window and then turns to the door. We hear someone walk past and shout in.

VOICE
Coming, coming, just one second.

Grace screeches, Dan jumps back in fear.

VOICE (CONT'D)
 I'm coming my darling one moment...
 Just one moment.

Grace starts to crawl towards the door and Dan moves towards the window. He looks out, and then he looks down - he's three stories up.

DAN
 (To himself) What the actual f...
 How did you get here Dan you
 complete fool...

Grace is sitting right by the door, Dan tiptoes over. As he gets closer Grace crawls towards him, stops, screeches again. Dan tries to shh her.

VOICE
 Coming. I'm coming in just one
 moment. Just...

The voice sounds strained.

VOICE (CONT'D)
 One...

Dan listens frowning.

VOICE (CONT'D)
 Second...

We hear a loud plop.

VOICE (CONT'D)
 Ahhh. That's better isn't it!

Grace giggles then crawls towards the door. Dan moves towards the door too, and picks her up as we hear the sound of a toilet being flushed.

Dan opens the door, he looks across the hall where a toilet door is open and a figure is washing his hands.

Dan backs away into the living room. He places Grace down in the middle of the room, then backs right off to the window once more and opens it. He looks down.

DAN
 Way too high. Way, way too...

He turns around.

VOICE

Right then my darling, whose ready
for some breakfast eh...

The door opens and in strides DAN 2. Dan 2 looks remarkably like Dan, in fact, except for the clothes, Dan 2 is Dan. Dan 2 looks from Grace to Dan. Then back to Grace. Then back to Dan once more.

DAN 2

What the hell.

Dan tries to own the situation. He walks towards Dan 2 hands out.

DAN

Now its OK, I'm not hear to mess with you or anything, in fact I don't know how I got here. Last thing I can remember I was dancing my tits off, you know what I mean? I took a couple of big ones I remember the big ones but after that. I just, I can't remember anything. So I guess, that's how I got here.

Dan stops as Dan 2 darts for the kitchen drawer where he pulls out a table knife and holds it up. Dan stops.

DAN (CONT'D)

What the hell.

DAN 2

Who are you?

DAN

Me? I'm Dan.

DAN 2

What do you mean your Dan? What is this? What the hell is this? Who are you?

DAN

I just told you I'm Dan.

DAN 2

You're not Dan.

DAN

OK, I'm pretty sure I'm Dan, they were big ones but, I mean... No they weren't THAT big.

DAN 2
No no no you're not Dan. I'm Dan.

Dan and Dan 2 go quiet. Grace starts to cry.

DAN 2 (CONT'D)
You made her cry.

Dan looks shocked. Dan 2 picks her up and rocks her.

DAN
So you're like, a stay at home Dad?

DAN 2
Yeah, what of it? What do you do?

DAN
I have a good time. That's what I do.

He points at his bandana. Dan 2 gives him a good hard stare.

DAN 2
Yeah, well, change her nappy.

He holds Grace out towards Dan who backs away.

DAN
No no no. No way.

Dan 2 steps closer and gets serious.

DAN 2
Change her nappy or I'll destroy you. This is my home you've slopped your way into.

Dan tries to back away, but is up against the wall now.

DAN 2 (CONT'D)
My home, my baby.

He pushes Grace towards Dan once more.

CUT TO:

INT. BABIES BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Dan is doing Graces nappy as she giggles. He shrugs. Not so bad... He holds her up to Dan 2 whose watching from the doorway. Dan 2 has an idea. He holds up a baby carrier. Dan frowns.

We now see a montage of Dan dealing with Grace in all kinds of everyday scenarios:

Walking down the road, Dan still in clubbing attire, Grace strapped in, a granny grins at him. Dan 2 just a few steps behind frowning. The granny gives a double take.

Sitting on a park bench bouncing Grace as Dan 2 sips on a latte, reading a novel and ignoring them.

Throwing Grace up in the air as she giggles, Dan 2 laying asleep.

Feeding Grace, we jump cut through her refusing all kinds of food and Dan getting frustrated. Dan 2 smirking.

Finally Dan places Grace down in the living room and hands her a toy to play with. She grabs it and starts yanking its head off and biting it.

Dan looks at his watch.

DAN
OK man, that's it I'm done...

Dan 2 is smirking at him angrily now.

DAN 2
What do you do?

DAN
Me?

DAN 2
Yes you.

DAN
This and that.

DAN 2
Work out?

DAN
Me, work out? No way. Why?

DAN 2
I spend my days carrying that 9 kilo bundle of pure joy around.

Grace smiles up at them.

DAN 2 (CONT'D)
 I lift suitcases and baby buggies,
 I build towers purely for them to
 be smashed down. My holiday
 consists of putting up and taking
 down cots, getting my hair pulled
 and having my eyes gauged. I drill,
 I hammer and I chop. ALL DAY LONG.

As he speaks he moves in real close to Dan, looming over him.

DAN
 Yeah?

DAN 2
 Yes.

DAN 2 (CONT'D)
 And you do this and that.

DAN
 Look man. OK. Enough. What do you
 want from me?

DAN 2
 I want to be you. For one night.

DAN
 No way.

Dan 2's eye twitches.

DAN (CONT'D)
 Fine. Fine. Sure man, no problem. I
 need a night off anyway, what the
 hell time did we get up this
 morning?

DAN 2
 5.

DAN
 5!

DAN 2
 Good then.

DAN
 Yeah, sure, great. I can help you
 out.

DAN 2
 Good. So for me to be you. Someone
 has to be me.

DAN
Oh no no no.

Dan 2 steps forward fast, pinning Dan to the wall.

DAN 2
You have no idea what I'm capable
of.

DAN
OK, OK, I'll take care of your baby
for you. I like her anyway. She's
cute. Whatever man. One night, you
got it.

Dan 2 smiles as Dan hands him his bandana and shirt, they
change in front of Grace who giggles.

They stand in front of each other.

DAN (CONT'D)
This is such a trip.

We hear the door open and a woman's voice - the wife.

WIFE
I'm home.

DAN 2
Ah, just in time. (Loudly) We're in
here.

He puts on the bandana and hides behind the door as the wife
pops her head round the door.

WIFE
There's my two favorite people.

DAN
Oh er.

He hesitates. Dan 2 behind the door looks at him menacingly
and signals he'll cut his throat.

DAN (CONT'D)
Hi honey.

WIFE
Everything OK? There's my angel.

Grace claps, mum gives her a kiss.

WIFE (CONT'D)
I'll be through in just a sec, I
need a shower.

She leaves the room but continues the conversation.

WIFE (CONT'D)
What's for dinner?

DAN
Dinner oh, er.

He looks at Dan 2.

DAN 2
(Loudly) I'm making a nice stir-
fry.

He smirks at Dan who can't believe what this guys doing to
him.

WIFE
Amazing. Be right there.

DAN 2
Chop chop old boy. (To the wife)
Glass of wine love?

DAN
You're an actual psychopath.

Dan 2 smiles.

We cut through another montage:

Dan is cooking whilst holding Grace whose gouging his ears.

Dan 2 under lasers dancing crazily.

Dan lighting a candle.

Dan 2, still dancing, whilst drinking a pink cocktail.

Dan eating dinner, smiling through conversation with wife.
Grace laughing along, legs kicking excitedly.

Dan 2, head back, sweating and dancing.

Dan, rocking Grace whose crying and pushing against him.

Dan 2, downing shots and dancing. Laughing like a maniac.

Dan, struggling with Grace, looking stressed.

Dan 2, vomiting.

Dan, wiping baby vomit off his t-shirt.

Dan 2 having a little sleep next to the speaker.

Dan looking down at a sleeping Grace, smiling and turning. Wife's silhouette in the door, a tentative smile from Dan.

Dan 2, back dancing, sweating, gurning.

Dan, in the bedroom looking down. Wife's in bed inviting him in. Dan is unsure, he turns to look at the door, in the shadows in the corner is Dan 2, looking menacing and pushing him to get into bed.

Dan smiles, fine. He steps forward towards camera and we transition to Dan 2, final dance, going absolutely mental, lost in the music.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT

Dan is in bathroom, he stands up and we see his face dripping wet in the mirror as he cleans his face.

The camera tracks round him to reveal Dan 2 stood behind him, absolutely fucked and also dripping wet. There's powder around his nose and he's mumbling incoherently.

Dan turns to face him. Dan 2 smiles, still menacing but he's a complete mess.

DAN

You know what...

Dan turns Dan 2 round and marches him out of the bathroom and into the hall. Dan 2, mumbling all the way as Dan pushes him along the corridor and to the front door, which he opens.

DAN (CONT'D)

You're a total moron mate.

He now shoves Dan 2 in the back.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS - MORNING

Dan 2 stumbles onto the street, he wonders shakily up the road.

DAN 2

Fweedom.

He vomits.

FADE TO TITLES:

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM. EARLY MORNING.

Dan opens his eyes and looks up. Grace looms over him, she's holding two balls. She smacks them together then drops one holding up a single red ball. He takes it from her and she smacks him in the face. Dan laughs and lets her pull his hair and try to bite his nose.

THE END