

Strictly Magazine

presents...



*An exclusive editorial
spotlight on acclaimed
actress and burgeoning
director,*

Dani Kind

A collaborative publication by CASA ALTA



STRICTLY: Dani Kind



Photo by Jackie Brown



Dani Kind is an award winning actress and director, recognized for her roles on two-time Emmy-nominated Netflix hit “Workin’ Moms” (CBC / Netflix) and People’s Choice Award-winning “Wynonna Earp” (Syfy / CTV Sci-Fi). Kind has been nominated for three Canadian Screen Awards for Best Lead Actress in a Comedy, alongside Catherine O’Hara. Dani’s short film “Capsule”, a dark comedy set in space starring Mike Rinaldi, has been well-received with North American audiences and has been quick to grow a passionate fan base. “Debra,” made for the Canadian Film Centre, is set to premiere later this month. Adding to her resume, Kind spearheaded episode ten (“The Proposal”) of the seventh season of “Workin’ Moms” as its director while also starring as a regular in the show. Dani is devoted to studying the craft of acting and is a fierce believer in the collaborative process of creating on set. In parallel to her artistic career, Kind booked the 9 year long gig as a dedicated support worker for kids and adults with special needs. As a career storyteller with a knack for finding light in the dark by exploring the full spectrum of the human experience, Kind continues to make her mark as a burgeoning director in the TV and film industries.



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Dear Readers,

What an honor it has been to be able to do this interview with the magnificent Dani Kind!

In an industry where women comprise just 24% of directors, writers, producers, editors and cinematographers, we knew this one was going to be extra special. And we can confidently say, Dani is owning her rightful place in that 24%!

Since the end of the WGA / SAG-AFTRA strikes, Dani has been working hard getting back into the swing of things. Between finishing held up projects, continuing her work as an actor, and on-boarding new projects, we knew the most effective way to get an authentic interview dialogue going without any rush would be to return to our virtual roots. Truly, this was quite the comeback for us in this format.

Just like the entertainment industry itself, STRICTLY Magazine is an ever-evolving platform. In whatever way we can best showcase an artist, we will rise to the challenge!

We dive deep into Dani's most recent endeavors as a director, her background in social work, and how her experience has been shaped by the collective movement towards a more inclusive Hollywood. And of course, it wouldn't be a STRICTLY interview without fun a rapid-fire game. So, with that, we welcome you to this exclusive editorial spotlight on our newest multi-faceted friend: DANI KIND!

With Love,

Alecia Winter Scott

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Editor-in-Chief

STRICTLY: As an artist, did you feel like directing was the next natural move for you?

DANI: I'm not sure if anything in this industry ever feels natural. There is a constant sense of imposter syndrome with every role on set. Fortunately, my team and other artists in the community encouraged me to pursue directing.

Was it more of a “stars aligning” moment that gave you these opportunities, or was this an intentional pursuit that you’ve always wanted to explore?

This decision was deliberate and continues to be a passion of mine. I truly enjoy being on set and observing the many departments execute their jobs.

As an actress, I have had ample opportunity to sit and observe, as well as exposure to how various directors work. As much as I love acting, watching every detail fall into place in real time is what really excites me.

After shadowing directors in the sixth season of Workin Moms, I felt ready so I pitched the idea of me directing an episode in Season 7 to Catherine! Luckily, she believed in me and gave me the opportunity.

Truly fantastic. Putting yourself out there can really pay off, huh? Now, let’s get into more of your background...



Photo by Frances Juriansz



What got you started working as a support for special needs individuals in the midst of acting and beginning to direct?

During my 20's, I had the privilege of dating a social worker. Through her, I had the opportunity to spend time with her clients, individuals with special needs, and it was a transformative experience for me.

This initial exposure quickly turned into part-time work that spanned nearly a decade.

I had the honor of supporting both adults and children with special needs, and I can honestly say that they are some of the most incredible individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Do you think that your work with special needs individuals informs your approach as a director?

In my personal experience, I have found that non-verbal communication can often be more powerful and effective than words alone.

This understanding has greatly influenced my approach to storytelling and my ability to connect with audiences on a deeper level. As an artist, I strive to create work that transcends language barriers and speaks directly to the heart and soul of the viewer.

I believe that art has the power to evoke emotions and convey messages that words alone cannot express. This understanding has shaped my artistic vision and has allowed me to explore different mediums and techniques to communicate my ideas effectively.

Whether it's through visual storytelling or acting in a role, I am constantly seeking new ways to connect with audiences and create meaningful experiences.



Photo by Kaela Leone

There is a growing movement for inclusivity in the industry right now; do you think your work as a director could positively contribute to this movement?

Absolutely. I think everyone has a story in them and these stories deserve to be told. I have had a colorful life and have been accepted and involved in many communities. If I can assist stories by using my skills as a director or my craft/platform as an actor to tell those stories I will.

You are a powerful force, Dani! And speaking of powerful forces, are there any women directors that have influenced you in your journey so far?

I have been fortunate to work with some incredibly talented female directors who have greatly influenced my journey. Yael Staav and Aleysa Young are two directors that I deeply admire. I have learned so much from observing their directing techniques and the way they approach storytelling.

Additionally, I have been captivated by Emerald Fennell's directing career. As someone who transitioned from acting to directing, she is taking risks and is not afraid to be disliked. I think her framing and attention to details is stunning storytelling.

We love the exhilaration in your responses! Let's move on to the next question: Five years from now, where would you like to see the film industry with regard to seeing more women in production leadership roles?

In five years, I hope to see significant progress in the film industry when it comes to women in production leadership roles.

Currently, there is a lack of mentorship and support for women in these positions, which can create a fear of failure and a pressure to be perfect. This environment is not conducive to fostering creativity and storytelling. Moving forward, I would love to see more mentorship programs established to support and guide women in their careers.

Lastly, it is crucial to see more women in key department roles, as this will bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the filmmaking process. By actively working towards these goals, we can create a more inclusive and equitable industry for all.

Are you a tough director?

As a director, I prioritize the integrity of the story above all else. I don't believe in being tough or hard on anyone on set. Instead, I approach my role with a deep sense of gratitude and respect for the privilege of being able to do what we do.

When I directed an episode for Season 7 of "Workin' Moms," one of the challenges I faced was ensuring that I honored the individual storylines of each character. I wanted to stay true to where they were at and where they were headed, while also maintaining the overall narrative of the season.

How was your preparation different for Capsule versus your prep for directing the Workin' Moms episode?

The preparation for directing Capsule and the Workin' Moms episode had some differences due to the nature of the projects. Capsule was a one-day studio shoot with a smaller crew and cast, which created a different kind of time crunch.



Photo by Frances Juriansz

On the other hand, Workin' Moms had a larger team with multiple producers and locations to coordinate. Despite these differences, the core elements of my preparation remained the same.

I focused on storyboarding and finding inspiration for both projects, ensuring that I had a clear vision for each scene and how it would contribute to the overall story. Thankfully, I was fortunate to have a supportive crew for each, which made the preparation process smoother and more collaborative.

When choosing what directorial endeavors to pursue, do you have a specific checklist of things you look for in a project before signing on to it?

I don't necessarily have a specific checklist, but rather an intuitive response to the material. For example, when I read Mike Rinaldi's script, I had a strong emotional reaction. It made me laugh, feel curious, lonely, hopeful, and deeply moved. I felt a personal connection to the story and felt that it resonated with the world we were living in during the pandemic. When all of these elements align, I don't have to dig deep to figure out how to tell the story - my body reacts and informs me. It's a visceral response that guides my decision to sign on to a project.

Brilliant. It has been such a pleasure to converse with you, Dani. Now, let's wrap this up with something fun... A rapid-fire game of "This or That (and Why?)" 🔥
On your mark... Get set... GO!!

Multi-Cam or Single Lens? 🎥

Multi gives me more to play with, Single forces me to be more creative and can be more intimate.

Comedy or Drama? 🤪

A total hybrid! The darkest times in my life have held the juiciest comedic moments. I don't know how to do one without the other!

TV or Film? 📺

Such different beasts in terms of how they are shot! The world of TV is so cinematic now in its storytelling abilities. I think the vehicle to tell the story, in the way it needs to be told, is what matters more than what I like.

On-location or soundstage? 🚀

Location, location, location! Soundstage can be really fun but I think everyone in this industry likes the "carny lifestyle" of moving locations and dealing with daily obstacles as they arise. It's more alive and exciting and the story can be enhanced by things we never dreamt of due to location surprises.

Oscar or Emmy? 🏆

I am not sure I could choose at this moment since it isn't a short term goal, but if either come with the projects I direct down the line, I would accept with open arms!

End of Interview



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