

116. Walking with Dan: Podcasting, Creativity, & AI

Daniel Dissinger: [00:00:00] Yeah, it's about nine 30 on a Saturday evening, and I decided to possibly start this new series where I do podcast episode while I'm taking a walk. Um, and that was a car you just heard and someone's broken water. Uh, broken sprinkler, but. Yeah, I was thinking about this today and it would be a good way to do solo episodes and also just kind of, you know, create some sort of stream of consciousness wandering idea of a podcast.

Because right now for me, like podcasting is becoming this very clean and almost like a. Non garage rock punk, like medium, which I felt like when I first, when I first came around to [00:01:00] podcasting years ago, I was like, oh, wow. This is such an amazing thing where anyone with any sort of microphone, any sort of recording device can do this and put their ideas out to the world.

And though you can still do that, it just seems like there's such a high bar now. Having a studio, doing video, even being a celebrity, I mean, it's so flooded at this point that podcasting isn't as punk rock as it used to be, isn't as, you know, patchwork together with these indie artists out there just like getting a microphone and creating something that they're passionate about.

So, I don't know. I'm just gonna try this out. And even now just thinking it's like pretty cool to kind of be taking this walk, talking to you all and just even having a stream of consciousness, you know, form to do this. It's [00:02:00] all raw and maybe even unedited, which is also something that when podcasting isn't.

Really something people do that much anymore. Everything is very, very clean and almost like NPR, like, but I think I'm gonna keep this a little more unedited and maybe just take out some like background noise, like that car that just passed me by. You know, something else I've been thinking about too is like even just writing in general and, and poetry.

Like I love writing poetry and reading poetry and it's just another medium that. I don't know. Maybe it's just all the technology that's just taking from our ability to have these humanized conversations in our art and our writing. I mean, such an influx of AI and large language models taking a job of like almost everything that we do with language.

I mean, what's [00:03:00] gonna happen if we almost don't have to do our own writing anymore? Or don't have to put our own words together. You know, I love writing, I love language. I love being able to paint with words and create these huge landscapes of ideas and, you know, experiment with what I have. I think our striving for perfection and language and.

Striving for perfection with grammar and just this shiny way of being in terms of our technology and in terms of our music. It just, it's taken away from the human element. I like, I want more of it, I think. I think that's why I have such a nostalgia for the times I grew up in and, you know. People might say, that's just what everyone does.

Everyone is nostalgic for their childhood. But when you really think about it, [00:04:00] yesterday, Oasis just reunited and they had their first show and since like 2009, and people are just thirsty for it. And maybe it's because it's not perfect. Maybe it's because like. True guitar rock is so messy and so dangerous sounding.

It's loud, it's beautiful. And you know, they're not the most amazing musicians, but they put everything they have into it, you know, as is an essay by, um, Federico Garcia Lorca. Well, he talks about dduue and this idea of creativity coming from the soles of your feet and through your body, that it's an in the body feeling of creation, that it runs through the blood, that it's something raw and something painful, something [00:05:00] dangerous, something that's imperfect.

But when it's released from the artist, it's almost like covered in their humanity. What happens when we don't have that humanity anymore enveloping our art? What happens when we take away the human element from poetry or writing?

What happens when we allow artificial intelligence to take over the way in which we communicate to each other?

It is almost like we're looking to just be replaced, but also we're looking to not be curious anymore. Your curiosity is messy. Creativity is messy. That's what makes it fun and what happens when you take that away.[00:06:00]

I another note. It is a beautiful night out.

I just saw like a weird pile of jewelry that someone had just put out on the street randomly. That's something that's really interesting about la. They have people

put so many weird things on the street to be taken, and that was a new one. Just a whole like very well organized pile of jewelry.

Yeah.

I've been talking a lot about Oasis in the last few days in my house, and I don't know, it's a very positive sounding bunch of music. I know there's a lot of people that don't like Oasis, but I think, I think it says something about what we're, what we're searching for, what's missing. And I've also been thinking too about like all those nineties grunge bands, specifically like [00:07:00] Alice in Chains.

Sound Garden and Layne Staley and Chris Cornell. There was something to be said about how much emotion they were expressing.

You know, they weren't just out there just putting songs together to sold, but they were really trying to express something that was inexpressible to them. They didn't have words for it. They really were looking and searching for something. They were sad, but they were looking for people to connect to them.

And we did. We connected to that

and it's a shame that they're not here anymore. But even in the sense of like looking at the ideas of masculinity and the emotional disconnection that men have from themselves, like those are men that actually were connecting. They were kind [00:08:00] of. Tunneling their way to their emotions. You know? Were they perfect?

No. Did they have a lot of emotional issues and mental health problems? Yes, they battled with addiction. But this is because of patriarchy, right? This is because like they had no other way of trying to come to terms what they were really searching for. That was an era of music. Men were actually able to express themselves like that.

And then when you look at the turn it took towards like heavy, like this pop music type of boy band era of music. It's almost like, like that got tore away from, from everything.

I've been listening to Allison change a lot lately. Even though it's from the nineties just sounds so good still and it hits you right in the heart. It's like that [00:09:00] Dwin day, right? That what Lorca said,

it's something that AI can't do, right? I mean, even now we're looking at there, there are AI bands like being promoted on Spotify and on, you know, all over the place and. No one knows that they're ai, but I'm gonna put it in the notes of this episode that there is an AI band called The Velvet Sunset or something like that.

Just be aware that that's AI and just, you know, spread the word of that. We can't have that like we're looking to be again, like we have to care about these types of things.

If we don't care about it, then we're just consumers. And then we'll just consume whatever is given to us and we won't care that it was created in a mediocre fashion. If we [00:10:00] consume mediocrity, that we will put out mediocrity. And if the bar is so low for creative creativity, for literature, for writing, for music, for art, then the bar is low for how we.

Communicate with one another. How we love each other. I mean, we're seeing that we're seeing a lack and a misunderstanding in how we connect with one another. Now it's because we're relying on someone else to tell us how We're relying on trying to figure out like how to best one another. How to use artificial intelligence to get ahead instead of sitting down reading a book and, you know, coming together.

It seems so, like idealistic or so foolish to kind of talk about this and, and it seems even [00:11:00] so generalized. You're probably listening being like, okay, Dan, like we get it, ai, all this stuff, but it's just like. This is what we are dealing with now.

Searching for our own humanity.

Trying to figure out like what our place is,

asking Cha GPT to even tell us that forming relationships. With artificial intelligence.

If you asked me when I was a kid, if this would ever happen, I would've told you, you were crazy. But I'm living in a reality. I never thought I would actually see,

and we consent to it.[00:12:00]

I really don't know if I'm gonna release this, but maybe I will. And if you're listening to this and you heard me ask that question, you see why? I mean, I don't know. I love walking and in LA it's kind of weird to, to be someone who loves to walk. 'cause there's not a lot of people who walk in Los Angeles.

You know, I'm from New York and walking's, walking's a walking's like a whole culture. Yeah, but you know, it's a beautiful place to walk around and think like we rush around trying to get from place to place, or we stay inside because we're told to be afraid to be outside. If we keep telling ourselves that it's scary to be out, then we start to [00:13:00] believe that it's scary to be out.

But if we come out together. Then we support each other. If we're able to look out for one another, build community with each other. It's possible. These are the basics,

huh?

I've been rereading, uh, *Desolation Angels* by Kerouac.

I'm downstairs. It's a really cool book. If you've never read it before, I, I would suggest reading *Desolation Angels*. I know everyone wants to read on the road and yeah, I suggest read on the Road too. It's a really cool book. But [00:14:00] if you're looking for something that is, to me, I believe at its core, the most Kerouac type book or a book, the one that he, I feel like really shows exactly what he was as a writer, the things that he was suffering with, and trying to really understand.

You read *Desolation Angels*, it's one of the best, one of the more underrated books.

I mean, I've never gotten through *Visions of Cody* and don't know if I ever will try again. And I know a lot of people love that book. I really don't understand why. Um, I think like *Desolation Angels* way better than *Visions of Cody*. So definitely check that out. But if you wanna see someone who. A writer who was not afraid to be [00:15:00]

publicly emotional and publicly flawed. Someone who just put it out there, all of his humanity, the scars, the wounds, his pain, his happiness, all the things and the pain that he also.

I created all the things that he misunderstood and how that created suffering for others. He's a writer that did that. I know there's a lot of. Issues around what he,

how he saw the world, and issues of sexism and racism and things in his books. I mean, that's there, but it's also someone who put it out there that he had a misunderstanding of these things and that his ability to try and find things.

He was a [00:16:00] searcher. And when you search, you make mistakes. You know you're searching for something. You're searching for truth internally and externally, and that's what he was doing. So anyway, I, I would suggest to Ian Angels is definitely one of those texts that, it's definitely one of those texts that I suggest to people when they ask about Kerouac.

All right, well.

I was talking about podcasting before. I just wanna go back to that for a second and just say, I really hope that the podcast that I do here with writing Remix has, you know, had a, a deeper impact for people. And I would love to know, you know, if you listen, please, you know, send me your questions. I would love to answer them.[00:17:00]

Maybe I'll do an episode where I answer your questions on a walk. But you know, a lot of times now we put out material and not that we don't, I don't know if people listening if I would love to communicate, you know, podcasting is about building a community and there's nothing more I want than to hear from that listening community and that podcasting community.

Social media is this weird place because we have to create social media posts with the podcast. And a lot of the times I put questions out or suggestions and people to suggest things and even just ask people to email. And I know everyone's very busy and it is another thing, but I feel like we. I consume way more, and [00:18:00] podcasting is a participatory medium.

You know, it goes out to the audience and the podcaster wants to hear from the audience. You know, I think that's the main thing about what makes it such a great modality is that there's a community, like you are building one as a podcaster, and that's how you know your podcast is doing what it's supposed to do.

You know, it's community building and then maybe it inspires someone else to also make a podcast. And then these two podcasters collaborate with one another. And it's a very, it's a very social medium, and writing is too, but this is a very social and humanized medium. And so please like, let me know what you think about this and you know, I would love to hear your questions and.

Things maybe that you'd like to hear me talk about on another walk. But, um, thank you for listening [00:19:00] to this. Thank you for coming with me. Um, this has been fun actually. I was really nervous, as you could tell. Like, I had no idea what I was doing. I was just like, let me just put the, the reporter on and just talk and see what happens.

And you know, at first I was like, oh, people are gonna look at me, but I forgot. No one's out on the sidewalk, no one's walking around. And if, even if people are, these days, everyone looks like they're talking on their phone anyway. But, um, you know, these will get better, but you know, this is different than the normal, uh, writing remixed episode or inspired belonging episodes.

Like this is just me with you on this walk. And so thank, thank you for listening and definitely reach out. Email writing remix podcast@gmail.com. And, uh, hit the link tree. Follow all the social media and engage, you know, if you see a story with a question or something in there, leave your comments, you know, email and uh, yeah, I would love to [00:20:00] collaborate Anyone out there.

Thank you so much.