



**Written and Directed by:** James Sweeney

**Produced by:** David Permut, James Sweeney

**Cast:** Dylan O'Brien, James Sweeney, Aisling Franciosi, Chris Perfetti, Francois Arnaud, Tasha Smith, Lauren Graham, Susan Park and Cree

**U.S. Release Date:** September 5, 2025

**Running Time:** 100 minutes

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<https://www.roadsideattractionspublicity.com/filmography/twinless>

## **SYNOPSIS**

In ***Twinless***, two young men meet in a twin support group and form an unlikely friendship. Roman (Dylan O'Brien) and Dennis (James Sweeney) both search for solace and an identity without their other halves and soon become inseparable outside the group. But when Roman meets Dennis' ebullient co-worker, Marcie (Aisling Franciosi), all is revealed to be not what it seems, as each man harbors secrets that could unravel everything.

*"Storytelling is humanity's coping mechanism for the mysteries and challenges of life," says Sweeney. "Film can be a guide, a relief, or a sly dose of empathy."*

## **Excepted from a conversation with James Sweeney**

### **Are you a twin?**

I am not, tragically. For the record, nor am I an only child. I have a sister. She exists.

### **How did you assemble the main cast?**

Dylan and I initially met in 2020 over zoom and talked until his iPad died, but he would argue the first time we really bonded was our outing at a tiki bar. The rest, as they say, is history.

My first film *Straight Up* features a slew of Gilmore Girls references so I was initially reluctant to cast Lauren Graham. My casting director convinced me it was meta in a good way.

Marcie was the trickiest role to cast and Aisling Franciosi was the biggest surprise for me. She read the script on a ski lift in Italy. A week later she was flying to Portland.

In my humble opinion, each plays a character we haven't seen from them before. Also fun fact: the four of us are (varying degrees of) Irish.

### **How did you juggle being the writer, director, producer and actor in this film? And at what point did you consider firing yourself from at least one of those jobs?**

If perfect is the enemy of good, then balance is the nemesis of the multi-hyphenate. I overprepare and then I fix it in post. As for termination, that's a private answer I'm exploring in therapy.

### Who do you want this film to reach?

In order of importance: 1) identical twins, 2) fraternal twins, 3) everyone else

## **FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **JAMES SWEENEY (Director, Writer, Producer, "Dennis")**

James Sweeney is a multi-hyphenate filmmaker. He wrote, directed, produced, and co-starred in *Twinless*, which premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, winning the US Dramatic Audience Award and a Special Jury Award for Acting for Dylan O'Brien. Roadside Attractions will release the movie this summer. James was recently named one of Variety's 10 Directors to Watch. His debut feature, *Straight Up*, a screwball romantic comedy, won the Grand Jury Prize at the San Diego Asian Film Festival and was nominated for Best First Screenplay at the 2021 Independent Spirit Awards.

### **DAVID PERMUT (Producer)**

David Permut is an Academy Award-nominated, Emmy-nominated, and Grammy-winning producer whose four-decade career spans film, television, and documentary. Widely respected for his range and longevity in a rapidly evolving industry, Permut has produced an eclectic body of work—from genre-defining blockbusters to politically urgent dramas and cultural landmark documentaries—while maintaining a deep commitment to stories with social impact and emotional clarity.

His most recent feature, *Twinless*, will be released in September 2025 on Hulu. Written and directed by James Sweeney (*Straight Up*), the dark comedy stars Sweeney and Dylan O'Brien as men navigating the surreal experience of twin loss. Produced with Paramount's Republic Pictures, the film premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award as well as U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Acting for Dylan O'Brien. *Twinless* is emblematic of Permut's enduring ability to back emerging filmmakers and emotionally resonant, unconventional stories.

Permut is currently in post-production on *Being Heumann* for Apple, based on the memoir by disability rights icon Judy Heumann. The film is directed by Academy Award winner Siân Heder (*CODA*) and stars Ruth Madeley, Mark Ruffalo, and Dylan O'Brien.

He is also in post-production on *The Invite* for Annapurna Pictures / FilmNation, directed by Olivia Wilde and written by Rashida Jones and Will McCormack, with a cast that includes Wilde, Seth Rogen, Penélope Cruz, and Edward Norton.

In 2023, Permut executive produced *Rustin* for Netflix, alongside Barack and Michelle Obama through Higher Ground Productions. Directed by George C. Wolfe, the film tells the story of civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, the architect of the 1963 March on Washington with Martin Luther King Jr. Rustin received critical acclaim and was named one of the Top 10 Films of the Year by the National Board of Review. The film earned Colman Domingo an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor, as well

as nominations from the BAFTAs, SAG Awards, and the Golden Globes, cementing its place as one of the most honored films of the year.

That same year, Permut served as executive producer on *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*, a Western limited series created by Chad Feehan and produced in association with Taylor Sheridan (*Yellowstone*). Starring David Oyelowo as the legendary U.S. Marshal, the series premiered to record-breaking viewership on Paramount+. Oyelowo's performance earned both SAG and Golden Globe nominations, and the series was widely praised for expanding the scope of the Western genre with historical authenticity and contemporary relevance.

In 2016, Permut produced *Hacksaw Ridge*, directed by Mel Gibson and starring Andrew Garfield as World War II medic Desmond Doss, a conscientious objector who served without carrying a weapon. The film premiered at the Venice Film Festival and grossed over \$180 million worldwide. It was nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won for Best Film Editing and Best Sound Mixing. It also received three Golden Globe nominations, a Producers Guild of America nomination for the Darryl F. Zanuck Award, and was named one of the National Board of Review's Top 10 Films of the Year.

Permut's early credits helped shape entire genres. He produced *Face/Off* (1997), the internationally acclaimed action film directed by John Woo, starring John Travolta and Nicolas Cage. The film became a cultural phenomenon, earning an Academy Award nomination and securing its status as one of the most iconic action films of the modern era. A sequel is currently in development at Paramount.

His producing career began with *Give 'em Hell, Harry!* (1975), a filmed stage play starring James Whitmore as President Harry Truman. The film earned Whitmore an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor and won Permut a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album — an exceptional early achievement.

He followed with *Richard Pryor: Live in Concert* (1979), the first feature-length stand-up comedy film ever released theatrically. The film grossed over \$30 million and remains one of the most influential comedy specials of all time, frequently cited by Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, and comedians across generations.

Over the years, Permut has built a dynamic filmography that includes *Dragnet* (1987) with Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks; *Blind Date* (1987), marking Bruce Willis's feature debut; *The Marrying Man* (1991), written by Neil Simon and starring Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger; and *Captain Ron* (1992) with Kurt Russell and Martin Short.

He went on to produce *Consenting Adults* (1992), directed by Alan Pakula; *Charlie Bartlett* (2007) with Anton Yelchin and Robert Downey Jr.; *Youth in Revolt* (2009) starring Michael Cera; and a number of acclaimed independent films, including *The Polka King* (Netflix, Sundance), *Match* (IFC, Tribeca), *Struck by Lightning*, and *Punching Henry* (SXSW).

In the documentary space, Permut has produced several award-winning projects, including *The Boys: The Sherman Brothers' Story* (Disney), co-produced with Ben Stiller; *Visible: Out on Television* (Apple), a five-part series tracing LGBTQ+ representation on TV through six decades of political and cultural change; and *The Fabulous Allan Carr*, chronicling the life of the flamboyant producer behind *Grease* and the 1989 Oscars.

In 2019, he produced *The Investigation: A Search for the Truth in Ten Acts*, a live stage production of the

Mueller Report directed by Scott Ellis and performed in New York with a cast including John Lithgow, Annette Bening, Michael Shannon, Kevin Kline, and Zachary Quinto. The piece was streamed live, turning dense political documentation into urgent public performance — a testament to Permut's belief in storytelling as civic action.

Permut's television work has also garnered critical and cultural recognition. He produced *Prayers for Bobby* (Lifetime), starring Sigourney Weaver in her television debut. The film received nominations from the Primetime Emmys, Golden Globes, and Satellite Awards, and won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding TV Movie or Miniseries. It is still regarded as one of Lifetime's most impactful and enduring original films. Additional TV credits include *Love Leads the Way* (ABC), *A Triumph of the Heart: The Ricky Bell Story* (CBS), *Breaking the Silence* (CBS), and *The Color of Rain* (Hallmark).

Across every format, genre, and generation, David Permut's work is marked by precision, purpose, and an instinct for timeless stories.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### DYLAN O'BRIEN ("Roman/Rocky")

Dylan O'Brien is one of the brightest talents of his generation with a body of work that speaks to his proclivity for championing unique and personal storytelling.

In January 2025, O'Brien premiered the film *Twinless* in competition at the Sundance Film Festival. *Twinless* follows two men, played by O'Brien and James Sweeney (who also wrote and directed the film), who meet in a bereavement support group for twins and form an unlikely friendship. The film debuted to rave reviews at Sundance and went on to win the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award. O'Brien, who also Executive Produced *Twinless*, was awarded the U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Acting. *Twinless* will be released domestically in late summer 2025 by Roadside and Lionsgate.

The 2025 Sundance Film Festival was O'Brien's second Sundance in a row. In January 2024, he premiered the film *Ponyboy* there. *Ponyboy*, a groundbreaking drama, is the first film to center an intersex character and actor (River Gallo) in a lead role. O'Brien portrays the film's antagonist, the menacing small-time criminal Vinny. *Ponyboy* went on to win the Grand Jury Award at NewFest, New York's LGBTQ+ film festival. It will be released in theaters June 27, 2025 by Fox Entertainment Studios and Gathr.

O'Brien has also recently wrapped production on *Send Help* from director Sam Raimi. O'Brien co-stars with Rachel McAdams in the horror-thriller about two colleagues who are stranded on a deserted island after a plane crash and must overcome past grievances and work together in order to survive. *Send Help* will be released on January 30, 2026 by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Studios.

Other recent credits of O'Brien's include the feature films *Saturday Night*, *Not Okay*, *The Outfit*, and *Love and Monsters*, and guest appearances on the television shows *Fantasmagorica*, *The Other Two* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

### AISLING FRANCIOSI ("Marcie")

Aisling stars in the independent feature, *Twinless*, opposite Dylan O'Brien for writer/director James Sweeney. The film premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival and received the Audience Award for Best Picture.

She most recently wrapped filming a leading role in Kurt Sutter's latest series for Netflix, *The Abandons*, opposite Gillian Anderson and Lena Headey.

Aisling stars in Universal/Blumhouse's *Speak No Evil* opposite James McAvoy, which was released theatrically on September 13th, 2024. She can also be seen in *The Last Voyage of Demeter* for Amblin Pictures opposite Corey Hawkins and A24's *God's Creatures*, which premiered at Cannes, in which she starred alongside Paul Mescal and Emily Watson.

She received rave reviews for her performance in Jennifer Kent's film *The Nightingale*, which played at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019 and won two awards at the Venice Film Festival in 2018. Her breakout performance as 'Clare'—an Irish convict indentured to a British lieutenant in Tasmania in the 1820s—caught the attention of many critics, including one who claimed "Franciosi's virtuosic performance [hit] every emotional note: tenderness, terror, resolve, resentment, and rage." In turn, she was recently nominated for a Gotham award in the category of "Breakthrough Actor".

Aisling starred in Netflix's feature film *The Unforgivable* opposite Sandra Bullock. Written by Christopher McQuarrie and directed by Nora Fingscheidt, the film is based on the British three-part series of the same name.

Aisling's credits in the television space are equally as remarkable. Best known for her role as 'Katie Benedetto' in the BBC drama series *The Fall* opposite Jamie Dornan, Aisling won 'Best Actress in a Supporting Role' at the Irish Film and Television Awards for her performance. She has also appeared as 'Lyanna Stark' in the sixth and seventh seasons of *Game of Thrones*. In 2019 Aisling won the EFP Shooting Star Award at the Berlin International Film Festival. Aisling recently wrapped the FX limited series *Black Narcissus* and also can be seen in HBO's limited series *I Know This Much Is True*, alongside Mark Ruffalo and directed by Derek Cianfrance.

### LAUREN GRAHAM ("Lisa")

Lauren Graham is an award-winning actress, producer, and New York Times bestselling author, best known for her work on the critically acclaimed television shows *Parenthood* and *Gilmore Girls*. Her body of work is filled with feminist characters who are spirited, smart, and hilarious.

For her performance as 'Lorelai Gilmore' on *Gilmore Girls* (where she also served as producer in its final season), Graham was nominated for a Golden Globe Award, two Screen Actors Guild Awards for Outstanding Female Actor in a Drama Series, and two Television Critics Association Awards for Individual Achievement in both Drama and Comedy. Additionally, she earned two Teen Choice Awards, a Best Actress nod from Viewers for Quality Television, and was honored by Planned Parenthood as a "Champion of Choice" for her work with family issues on and off screen. Graham also starred on NBC in the critically acclaimed series *Parenthood* as 'Sarah Braverman.' In 2016, Graham reprised her beloved role as 'Lorelai Gilmore' on Netflix in the four-part series *Gilmore Girls: A Year In The Life*. 2025 will mark the 25th anniversary of the show's premiere and it still regularly appears in Netflix's Top Ten.

Graham's second essay collection, *Have I Told You This Already?* was released in November of 2022 and was her fourth book to appear on the New York Times Best Seller list. Graham's debut novel, *Someday, Someday, Maybe* – the story of a struggling young actor trying to achieve her dreams in New York City – received glowing reviews and was called "a charmer of a first novel" by The Wall Street Journal. It was an instant New York Times Best Seller. In 2016, Graham released *Talking As Fast As I Can*, a collection of humorous and heartfelt essays about her upbringing and her years spent as an aspiring actor in New York and Los Angeles. The book ran on the New York Times Best Seller list for multiple weeks.

On stage, Graham starred as 'Adelaide' in the 2009 Broadway revival of *Guys and Dolls*, and as 'May Daniels' in *Once in a Lifetime* at the Williamstown Theater Festival.

Graham stars in the upcoming Universal feature, *Reminders of Him*, an adaptation of Colleen Hoover's bestselling novel, and the independent film *Twinless* with Dylan O'Brien. Other feature credits include: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Max*, *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, *Flash of Genius* with Greg Kinnear, *The Answer Man* with Jeff Daniels, *Evan Almighty* alongside Steve Carell, *Because I Said So* opposite Diane Keaton and Mandy Moore, *Bad Santa* with Billy Bob Thornton, *The Pacifier*, *Birds of America*, *The Amateurs* with Jeff Bridges, *Nightwatch*, and *One True Thing* with Renee Zellweger and Meryl Streep.

This fall, Graham is receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Graham lives in New York and Los Angeles.

#### CHRIS PERFETTI ("George")

Chris Perfetti stars in ABC's Emmy- and Peabody-winning comedy series, *Abbott Elementary*, for which he won a special 2024 Critics Choice Award for 'Breakthrough Performance - Series' for his work as fan favorite 'Jacob Hill'. He is also the winner of a Screen Actors Guild Award alongside the cast of the groundbreaking series, now in production on its fifth season, which debuts on October 1, 2025. He also recently wrapped production with a key supporting role in the darkly comedic HBO limited series, *DTF St. Louis*, starring Jason Bateman and David Harbour. His notable screen credits also include HBO's Emmy-winning limited series *The Night Of*, The CW's *In the Dark*, FX's *What We Do in the Shadows*, HBO's *Looking*, FOX's *The Resident*, NBC's *Crossbones*, and films *The Virtuoso*, *Minyan*, and Hulu's *The Surrogate*. An award-winning stage actor, he recently starred Off-Broadway in Rajiv Joseph's *King James*; in the LA revival of *Inherit the Wind* opposite Alfred Molina; and in a stage adaptation of the acclaimed novella *Open Throat*, performed on Little Island in NYC. His theater credits also include the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Sons of the Prophet*, for which he won a Theatre World Award for outstanding NYC stage debut; MCC's *Moscow x6*, for which he received Drama Desk, Outer Critics, and Drama League nominations; plus major works at The Public, Atlantic Theater Company, Second Stage, Shakespeare in the Park and more. He has twice appeared on Broadway, in a revival of *Picnic* starring Ellen Burstyn, Sebastian Stan and Mare Winningham; and opposite Allison Janney and Corey Hawkins in a revival of *Six Degrees of Separation*.

#### TASHA SMITH ("Charlotte")

Multi-hyphenate Actor, Director, Writer and Producer, Tasha Smith has established herself as a versatile figure in entertainment. On the acting front, Tasha can next be seen in Lee Daniels' *The Deliverance* opposite Glenn Close and most recently wrapped shooting on Sony Pictures' *Bad Boys: Ride or Die*, opposite Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. Tasha currently stars as Marley in Netflix's hit series, *Survival of the Thickest*. Previous credits include the 2019 Netflix film, *Dolemite Is My Name*, opposite Eddie Murphy and Mike Epps, Warner Brothers' *ATL*, opposite T.I. and Universal Pictures' *Couples Retreat*, opposite Vince Vaughn and Jason Bateman.

Tasha's background as an actor has helped propel her as a premium pilot director/producer in both the ½ hour and 1-hour arenas. As a pilot director, Tasha directed the smash hit, *BMF* for Starz & G-Unit Film & Television as well as *Our Kind of People* for FBC & Lee Daniels. In the 1-hour space, Tasha has directed multiple episodes of *Mayor of Kingstown* for Paramount+, 101 Studios & Taylor Sheridan as well as *P-Valley* for Starz. In the ½ hour space, Tasha has directed multiple episodes of *Harlem* for Amazon, *Survival of the Thickest* for Netflix, *Bel-Air* for Peacock and *Ms. Pat* for BET+.

#### FRANCOIS ARNAUD ("Sammy")

Francois recently wrapped a lead role in Jaclyn Bethany's independent feature, *In Transit*, opposite Jennifer Ehle.

Francois can currently be seen opposite Gugu Mbatha Raw in the hit Apple TV+ series, *Surface*, as well as



season 2 of the critically acclaimed series, *Yellowjackets*. On the feature side, Francois can be seen in *Fucktoys* directed by Annapurna Sriram, *Marlowe* directed by Neil Jordan opposite Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger, and Jessica Lange. Previously, Arnaud was a series regular on FOX'S limited series, *The Moodys* alongside Elizabeth Perkins and Denis Leary. He was the series lead for two seasons on NBC's *Midnight, Texas* by Charlaine Harris, a series regular on the final season of the acclaimed Hulu series *Unreal*, and known for his role opposite Jeremy Irons on Showtime's *The Borgias*.

#### SUSAN PARK ("Sage")

Susan's pilot *Lucy & Sara*, which she wrote, directed, and stars in, premiered at SXSW and Slamdance Film Festival's 2024 Episode Program. She can most recently be seen on the Starz series *Shining Vale* opposite Greg Kinnear and Courteney Cox and *High Desert* for Apple + alongside Patricia Arquette. She can also be seen in the most recent season of *Blindspotting* opposite Daveed Diggs, where she also served in the writers room. Susan starred in the first season of TNT's series *Snowpiercer*, written and executive produced by Graeme Manson, in which she played 'Jinju' opposite Daveed Diggs and Jennifer Connelly. Prior to that, she worked on the Netflix feature film *Always Be My Maybe* opposite Ali Wong and Randall Park. She was last seen on Season 2 of HBO's *Vice Principals* as Walt Goggin's wife, 'Christine', and starred opposite Brie Larson in the comedy film, *Unicorn Store*. Susan previously recurred on the FOX Series, *The Mick* and ABC's *Fresh*.

#### CREE ("Bianca")

Cree will soon be seen in the new FOX comedy series, *Best Medicine* alongside Josh Charles and Annie Potts.

Best known for playing the scene-stealing 'Daisy' in the Hannah Marks directed, John Green best seller, *Turtles All The Way Down* for HBO MAX, Cree spent her summer playing a leading role in the Old Globe Theatre production of *One of the Good Ones*, written by Gloria Calderon Kelley and directed by Kimberly Senior. Recent features include *Stay Awake*, starring Chrissy Metz, Fin Argus and Wyatt Oleff, and *The Sleepover*, with Malin Ackerman, Joe Manganiello and Ken Marino. Notable Television credits include *Big Sky* for ABC, *And Just Like That* for HBO Max and *Mr. Iglesias* for Netflix.

**CREDITS**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BACKYARD PLANE AND TPC

“TWINLESS” DYLAN O’BRIEN JAMES SWEENEY AISLING FRANCIOSI

CHRIS PERFETTI FRANÇOIS ARNAUD WITH TASHA SMITH AND LAUREN GRAHAM

CASTING BY JESSICA MUNKS, C.S.A. COSTUME DESIGNER ERIN ORR

MUSIC SUPERVISOR LAUREN FAY LEVY MUSIC BY JUNG JAE-IL EDITED BY NIK BOYANOV PRODUCTION DESIGNER  
PRISCILLA ELLIOTT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GREG COTTEN

CO-PRODUCER ALEX ASTRACHAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DYLAN O’BRIEN MIKY LEE

KEVIN M. SULLIVAN DAVID GENDRON ALI JAZAYERI LIZ DESTRO

PRODUCED BY DAVID PERMUT, P.G.A. JAMES SWEENEY P.G.A.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JAMES SWEENEY

**[FULL CREDITS HERE](#)**