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Dawson takes a spin as Diplo

James Van Der Beek drops in on the electronic music scene in *Viceland's* first scripted series, *What Would Diplo Do?*

BACK WHEN JAMES VAN DER BEEK was breaking hearts as pensive Dawson Leery on *Dawson's Creek*, it's doubtful anyone imagined he'd one day become Generation X's version of William Shatner.

Over the years, the Connecticut-bred, New York theater-trained star has become a pro at self-mockery—whether it's spoofing the super-emotional Dawson (*Scary Movie*) or playing a hammier version of himself (*Don't Trust the B--- in Apartment 23*). "I stepped into way more fame than I had earned," he says. "My reaction was just to make fun of it all. That's how I kept myself sane."

But fatherhood is what really forced him to go funny. After his wife gave birth to their daughter in 2010, Van Der Beek's ambition to join Hollywood's "upper crust" of actors evaporated. "I thought about how long these guys are on set, away from their families. That's not what I want."

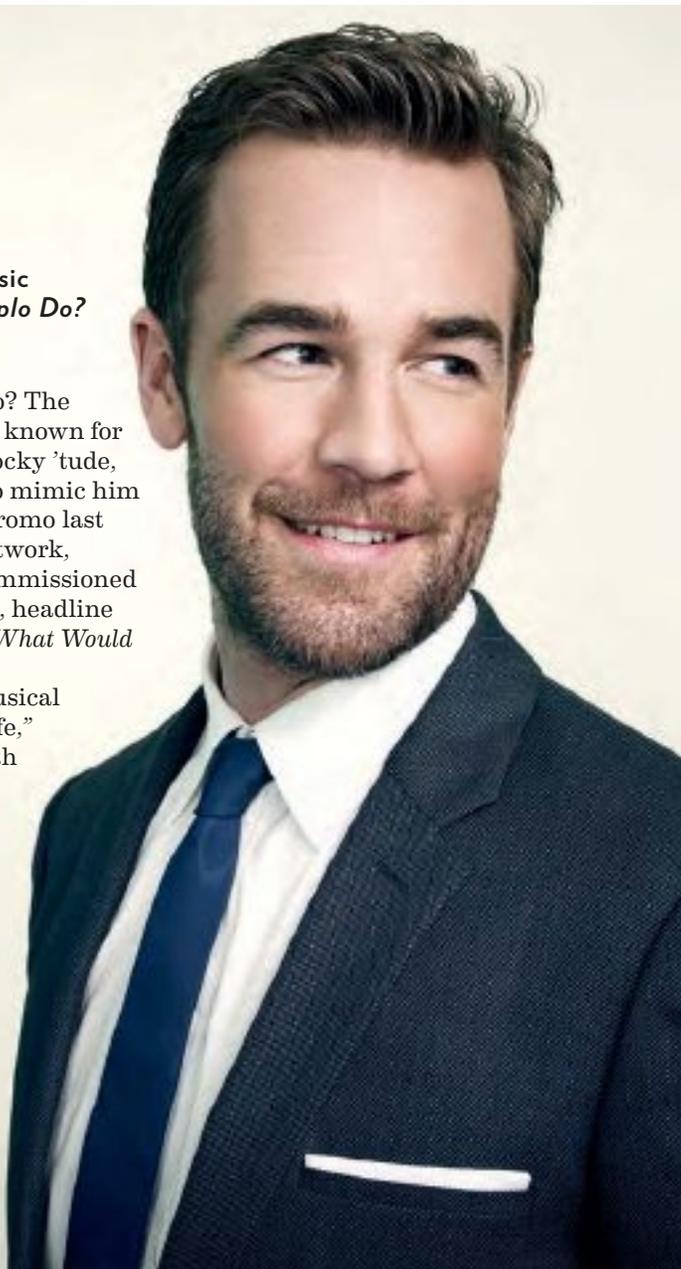
Now, three more kids later, the Beek is scoring laughs

impersonating ... Diplo? The global EDM sensation, known for his model looks and cocky 'tude, asked Van Der Beek to mimic him in an online concert promo last year. The *Viceland* network, loving the viral hit, commissioned Van Der Beek to write, headline and produce a series, *What Would Diplo Do?*

"I play Diplo as a musical genius who sucks at life," says Van Der Beek with a snicker. His faux Diplo fights ninjas and plays dress-up. How has the real Diplo reacted? "He gets it. He doesn't take himself too seriously."

The same can be said for the eternal heartthrob, who's never really DJed a party himself. "I'm more of a Pandora kind of guy."

—JOHN GRIFFITHS



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STEVE COOGAN IS LOCO FOR SPAIN

The star of *The Trip to Spain* (out Aug. 11) recalls the Iberian spots that wooed him

In *The Trip to Spain*, Coogan plays up his Don Quixote qualities



Parador de Sigüenza

"They have these amazing paradors, old castles made into hotels.

They're run by the Spanish government—the money raised helps to maintain them. There are holes in the walls from cannonballs fired at them from wars that occurred 500 years ago."



Alhambra of Granada

"The ancient Moorish fort of Alhambra verged on the spiritual. There were times I would have liked to have been with a beautiful woman, but I had to make do with [my co-star] Rob [Brydon]. He is many things, but a beautiful woman he is not."



Asador Etxebarri

"Every dish from this restaurant in Atxondo was extraordinary, all sourced from produce from the restaurant's farm. Everything was done in an inventive way. The beef chop and smoked-milk ice cream were to die for."