

= Dave (Lost) =

" Dave " is the 43rd episode of Lost and the 18th episode of the second season . The episode was directed by Jack Bender , and written by Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz . It first aired on April 5 , 2006 , on ABC . In flashbacks , Hugo " Hurley " Reyes is in a mental institution , where he deals with an imaginary friend , Dave . Libby also has a brief flashback in this episode , revealing that she attended the institution along with Hurley . The island events in the present day have Hurley seeing Dave on the island , while other survivors confront " Henry Gale " (Michael Emerson) after his stated backstory is revealed to be false .

The episode addresses a fan theory which considered the events of the series to be hallucinations or dreams . The character of Dave was written as both a side of Hurley who denied his problems and an analogue to Hurley 's disappeared father , and his scenes were filmed so that his reveal as imaginary would be a plot twist .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashback = = =

Hurley (Jorge Garcia) is in a mental institution , where he is friends with Dave (Evan Handler) , who tells Hurley to ignore the doctors , avoid his medication , and try to escape . One day , Hurley 's doctor , Dr. Brooks (Bruce Davison) , proves to Hurley that Dave is not real , by taking a photo of the two , and then showing Hurley that Dave is not in the picture . Later that night , Dave wakes Hurley up to escape with him from the institute . Dave hops out of a window , but Hurley confronts him and declares that Dave is not real , and shuts the window on him before going back to bed .

A later flashback reveals that during the moment Dr. Brooks took the picture of Hurley and Dave , another patient was staring at Hurley from across the room , Libby (Cynthia Watros) , which explains why Hurley has had this faint recognition of Libby while on the island .

= = = On the island = = =

Hurley confesses to Libby that he has an eating disorder , and shows her a stash of Dharma food . Hurley expresses interest in getting rid of it , and she encourages him to do so . Just after Hurley destroys his supplies , other survivors go into the jungle . Following them , Hurley and Libby see that an enormous package of food parachuted from the sky . After Hurley panics at the suggestion of again being in charge of the supplies , he sees Dave , and tries to follow him as he goes into the jungle .

After Hurley loses Dave 's trail twice , and berates Sawyer (Josh Holloway) for mocking him , he decides to leave the beach and go to the caves . On the way , Dave reappears , and tells Hurley that everything that has happened since the night of the escape attempt has been a fantasy ? that after Dave escaped , Hurley went into a catatonic state and has imagined everything since then . As proof , Dave points out the appearances of the numbers said by another intern , Leonard (Ron Bottitta) in both Hurley 's winning lottery ticket and the hatch computer number @-@ sequence . Dave takes Hurley to a cliff , and tells him to jump and get out of his dream , before jumping off himself . Before Hurley can decide whether or not to follow Dave , Libby finds him . Hurley states to her he believes everything happening is not real , and is only a comatose dream , including her , but Libby convinces him otherwise , in part by kissing him .

In the hatch , Sayid (Naveen Andrews) and Ana @-@ Lucía (Michelle Rodriguez) interrogate " Henry Gale " (Michael Emerson) . After Henry 's new cover @-@ up story is proved false , Henry finally admits that he is indeed an Other , but says he would be killed if he talks . Later , Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) confronts the prisoner , demanding to know if he let himself be caught , thinking it might have been to find the Swan . " Henry " , however , calls the hatch a " joke " , saying that during the lockdown , he never entered the numbers into the computer or pushed the button ; he simply

stood there , and watched the timer 's numbers turn to red hieroglyphs before they reset back on their own . Locke , however , replies angrily that Henry is lying , but he replies that he 's " done lying " .

= = Production = =

ABC was concerned about the content of the episode , arguing that the idea that the story could be all in Hurley 's head was offering an explanation for the show as a whole , since a recurring theory among the fandom was that the events of the series were hallucinations . The character of Dave was meant to be a side of Hurley who felt he had no problem , and encourages Hurley to overeat , and is played by Evan Handler in a way director Jack Bender described as " mischievous , impish @-@ like " . Showrunner Carlton Cuse revealed his name comes from Hurley 's father , David Reyes - who would later appear in the series played by Cheech Marin - because the writers " wanted Hurley to imagine a friend and have that be wrapped up in his unresolved relationship with his dad " . The final scene with Libby was so secret that only Jack Bender and his assistant director had it in their scripts , and to prevent Libby from being the only woman in the mental institution , every woman on the set , including Bender 's daughter Sophie , was dressed in robes and pajamas to appear as background characters .

Director Bender decided to depict Dave in a way audiences would first believe him to be real , but without the character actually interacting with the physical world , similar to films such as *The Sixth Sense* and *A Beautiful Mind* . For the scene in which Dave walks through the jungle with Hurley , red and orange flowers were placed to add some " magic " to the scene , something Bender described as a " ' Hurley in Wonderland ' feel " . The scene in which Hurley attacks Sawyer was intended to be a humorous moment , with Bender suggesting that the tent be knocked over , and Josh Holloway adding Sawyer trying to escape but being pulled back .

The scene in which Dave starts listing to Hurley why the island events are occurring in his mind suffered from continuous interruption , as military exercises on Joint Base Pearl Harbor @-@ Hickam led to many takes being ruined by plane noises . Weather problems also plagued production , with loud waves causing Hurley 's and Libby 's beach scene to be redubbed in post @-@ production , and rain on one day changing the location of the basketball game scene to an indoor court , and also leading to a second day of filming on the cliff . The cliff was digitally redesigned in post @-@ production to appear as if the actors were standing on the edge . Dave 's jump was done by making a stunt double jump in front of a bluescreen , with the body hitting the water and resulting splash being rendered through computer graphics . The mental hospital was shot at the Laniakea YWCA in Honolulu , except for Dr. Brooks 's office , which was done inside a studio .

= = Reception = =

16 @.@ 38 million American viewers tuned into this episode . Reviews were mixed . Scott Brown of *Entertainment Weekly* praised Jorge Garcia 's and Michael Emerson 's performances , and said that the episode made the island " feel dangerous again " . Ryan J. Budke of *TV Squad* felt that the B @-@ story in the hatch was more interesting than Hurley 's scenes , and considered " Dave " depressing , in opposition to the other " so light @-@ hearted " Hurley @-@ centered episodes . *IGN* 's Chris Carabott gave the episode a 7 out of 10 , considering it entertaining even if it " doesn 't really impact the series as a whole , " but the website later ranked " Dave " as the 9th worst *Lost* episode ever , describing it as meaningless and saying the flashback " felt pretty extraneous . " *New York* magazine listed " Dave " sixth in a " Twenty Most Pointless Episodes of *Lost* " list , considering that " using an episode to disprove a theory that wasn 't so prevalent was a waste of time . " On the other hand , the *Los Angeles Times* ranked the episode as the 30th best of the series , describing it as " perhaps the most misunderstood episode of *Lost* ever , " saying that Dave not being real was meant to be a twist , but just " the biggest expression of just how messed up Hurley was before he found the island . "