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Hello everybody and welcome to Chapter Select, a seasonal podcast where we bounce back and

forth between a series exploring their evolution, design, and legacy.

For season 4 we are covering the fast and the furious.

My name is Max Roberts and I am joined as always by Logan Moore.

Hi Logan.

Max, did you know Wonder Woman's in this movie?

Yes, I did.

Yes, I did.

Logan, welcome to the new era of Fast and Furious.

Yeah, I could tell very quickly that this is a new era.

It is.

This is the turning point in the franchise and you are experiencing it slightly earlier than the rest of us when watching these movies as they came out.

But yeah, this is the turning point.

there's no going back from here.

I gotta say, I mean, this is getting into my impressions, but I did quickly miss the early 2000s nostalgia.

And I know we'll have one more of those coming up with Tokyo Drift, so it's not like we've totally exited that area yet because of how we're watching these.

But absolutely, I got like 10 minutes into this movie and I was like, "Oh, yeah, that kind of warm comfort food vibe of the other movies we've already watched is gone now.

This is just a movie. Well, we're watching, I mean this episode is about Fast and Furious, the fourth movie in the series. Came out in 2009 and I'm only saying that because it's an eight year gap, eight, nine year gap from those movies. It's almost a decade. So you can clearly tell how much has changed in just that span of time. And now we're entering the back half of the franchise stylistically, thematically.

It's like a softcore reboot, but keeps all the characters.

It's basically God of War 2018, the movie.

Sort of.

You always use that comparison as if no other piece of media has ever done that until God of War in 2018 was like, "Hey guys, what if we did this?"

It's the easiest, it's the first one that comes to my mind.

I guess I could start comparing it to Days of Future Past.

You could start comparing it to that or you could compare it to this, Fast and Furious, or well I can't compare Fast and Furious to itself.

Creed.

Creed's a sequel and a reboot.

Is it a reboot?

Hmm, interesting.

I never really thought of Creed as a reboot.

We're now on Creed 3.

But I never thought of Creed as a reboot.

They just delayed Creed, by the way.

Yeah, I know, like, I think I'm actually kind of okay with that.

I am okay with it, because they weren't showing anything and it was allegedly out in two months.

So I'm happy, you know, we'll see how that goes.

And then Rocky yelled at even Drago, what's his name?

Oh my gosh, I forget his name.

But he's mad.

Yeah, he's mad.

Dolph Lundgren.

He's mad at Dolph Lundgren and the people who own the Rocky IP.

Anyway, this is not a Rocky podcast.

Maybe one day, actually our friend Mario Rivera is doing a Rocky podcast, I think.

Or no, he's watching along with Kinda Funny.

He's not doing it.

He's watching along.

He's just watching.

Shout to Mario for watching them at least.

Alright, let's talk about Fast and Furious.

As you mentioned,

this movie came out in April.

April 17th, 2009.

It was directed by Justin Lin.

This is the first movie we've

watched by Justin Lin. He also did direct

Tokyo Drift, though, as well.

Correct. Yes.

It was produced once again by Neil H. Moritz.

Vin Diesel took producing

credits this time. And Michael

Fottrell, we'll say.

It was written by Chris Morgan.

The primary actors in the film included Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana

Brewster, Gal Gadot, Sung Kang, and Jon Ortiz.

The composer was Brian Tyler.

He did Tokyo Drift and everything else except for Fast and Furious 6.

Basically from Tokyo Drift through fast or f9. He is the composer except for Fast and Furious 6

So we'll hear his name a lot more in the future

Stunt coordinator this time around was Mike Gunther and Freddy Heiss

And the budget was 85 million and this movie made

360 million dollars at the box office, which is I think is the highest grossing one so far. I mean again, we're going chronologically

I don't Tokyo Drift didn't make that much. I think I've already looked that up in Tokyo Drift. Yeah. No, this is the lowest performing. I

actually think this made like

Over a hundred million more than too fast too furious and they only spent about another 10 15 million on this movie

So the return on investment is even more substantial this time around

Yeah, but that movie

Too fast had a lot more practical stunts in it compared to this and that's not to say there's not any in this movie

But I think the seed we can you know, I think it'd be surprised

maybe

Rotten Tomatoes score for this movie though

Horrible

28% from critics and

Even though it made a whole lot of money only a 67% from audiences

Which is again like everything we've seen so far has been pretty middling on both sides

Which is funny

Because again leaning into my hypothesis before we started this whole series. This is the worst

mega franchise and movie history all these movies have been poorly received so far for the most part at least what you would consider poorly received on

Both critic and fan sides because I feel like the fans score way higher most of the time because it's easier usually general audiences

Usually I feel like most movies that are considered

quote-unquote good here like 80 85 and up on the rotten tomatoes meter, but again, that's a faulty metric

Before we talk too much about the movie itself though and more about what we think about it

Let's talk about our own histories with it

I can start with this actually and then we'll go to you because I have literally no history with this movie

I remember when it came out. I remember some people going to see it, but I don't remember anything specific with it

I was just I think my reaction was honestly more like oh they made another one of those that's kind of interesting

And that was about it and that was my reaction

I know literally nothing else about this movie would have come out when we were in let's say eighth grade, right?

Yeah around that around that time for sure 2000 early 2009

We would have been in eighth grade because we both graduated in 13. Yeah, that sounds right

So but yeah, I remember nothing. I think I remember a couple people that I know seeing it, but they didn't say anything like

You gotta go see this movie or anything like that. It's like oh, yeah, I saw the new one. Yep. Okay

so my history with this film was

the marketing obviously quite effective in the way that

They do brand it kind of as a reboot with the tagline new model original parts as in the original cast is back

We finally have got you know, Paul Walker Vin Diesel Michelle Rodriguez Jordana Brew

Brewer? Brewster? Brewster, I think. All back together for the movie. I was like,

"This is gonna be great. This is awesome." And then you watch the movie and you're like, "Oh, no."

But since my original viewing of this film, which would have been around that time in my life,

I didn't see it in theaters. The first Fast and Furious movie I saw in theaters is actually Fast

5 but when I did see Fast and Furious I was like this is oof as rough as the worst one yet that's not very good and but in viewing since then so I think this is probably the third maybe the fourth time I've seen this movie I've I've liked bits of it more it's this weird time where I go wow this is actually better than I remember. Oh, this is worse than I remember." But at different parts in the movie. And so, at the very least when I watch this movie, which is not that often, I do... It's interesting. It keeps me engaged at least, going kind of a little whiplash, which at the very least is fun on that end of it. But overall, this is the worst Fast and Furious movie, I think.

- I, again, maybe once I see more of them and I can compare them to this, then it'll be more easier for me to be like, yeah, this totally sucks.

I didn't even, I did not hate this movie and I don't think it's horrible, but it absolutely drags.

Like there were, this was the first one of these movies we've watched where I was like, wow, how much is left in this?

And I was like actively checking how much longer had to go and again that's it wasn't because I thought anything was terrible but it was just boring at times and the plot is the plot's the biggest problem I think and uh again uh spoilers and we'll get into the story and stuff like that but you and I briefly talked about this before we start recorded this and the biggest problem with this movie is just the through line plot is that centers around the fact that Letty has died.

Now, I have not watched any of these films.

I know this is a hard thing that, this is something that's easy to criticize now, back

in 2009, not so much.

But again, I'm somebody who knows nothing about this series, but I do know that Letty is not dead in future films.

She's clearly in them.

So the whole time I'm watching this, I'm just like, she's not dead though.

Like at what point does she come back in the movie?

Like I was expecting her to show back up

and then we get to the credits and they're rolling

and she's not back and I'm like, oh wow,

they really just, this was just the commitment

of this movie is just saying that she's dead

which makes me more fascinated in the future

to see how she comes back into play.

I got a feeling it will be terrible if I had to guess

how they force her back into the fray.

But yeah, her, me knowing up front with such little knowledge of this series that she's

clearly not dead takes a lot away from the plot, which then in turn I think made a lot

of the moments where, you know, Dom in the movie is like, "Oh, I'm sad that my girlfriend's dead.

I'm gonna become Batman and hang this man out a window and threaten to kill him."

I'm like, "Come on, chill out, bro.

She's not really dead."

Like, it was just a very weird viewing experience for me because of that.

The retroactive, the retcon of Letty, I mean that's essentially what is going to happen

here in the future. It robs this movie of a lot. And this movie doesn't have a lot left

to be robbed and so when you take the motivation for Dom in this film out, it hurts. Now, I

will say they do Letty dirty, because she's in the movie for 15 minutes and then she's

She's dead.

She dies off screen!

She dies off screen!

I thought that, the number one reason why I thought she would come back in this movie itself is because they say that she died off screen.

And then they kind of show it through like weird flashback Batman detective mode things.

I was gonna say, he has a detective mode.

That Dom has all of a sudden.

But yeah, she dies off screen.

I'm like, oh well that's like number one flaw of movies whenever a character dies off screen.

I've got to see the body if you confirm the kill.

Show me a body and then I'll believe they're dead."

But yeah, and so I assume she would show back up in this movie because of that.

Nope, she absolutely does not.

And looking back through the lens of, you know, the original Cruise back together, wow, this is great, this is awesome.

You even get that Tokyo Drift hit with Han there, especially if this is just the fourth movie, you know, you're watching these when they come out, it's like, "Oh, this is great."

And 15, 20 minutes in, Letty's gone.

Just like, "Oh."

goes to sleep and then she goes to sleep for good.

And, you know, Mia not in it, she's in it more than Letty, but she's also not in it a ton. Really it's the return of Dom and Brian. I keep going between Vin, Paul, Brian, and Dom. It is a weird thing because people want to call them by their actor names in these movies even though I try not to when we're recording I do try to call them their character names, but it is very much Vindi's own Fall Walker. Yeah.



Because these are their roles that they're known for more than anything.

It does rob that original pitch a bit with her dying so early in the film, and then obviously now knowing later she's not dead actually at all.

I think one of the other...

Like while we're just on the topic of criticizing things, we'll go more piece by piece through this tour here and talk about things in a finer detail and flesh things out from there.

But the one other thing I did want to say, broad criticism of the film, is that the bad guy is just horrible. Like, really horrible. Like, I would say worse than Too Fast's bad guy. And the reason is, is because he's this mysterious, the whole movie, it's just this mysterious faceless, "Oh, we gotta get Braga. We gotta get Braga." At least there was a face to the bad guy in Too Fast. That was the, was that bad guy good? No. But in this movie you are chasing this specter and it is not interesting in the slightest.

They're trying to figure out who he is and he's got all these people working for him and then the reveal is "Oh it was me all along." It's like "Oh okay, whatever."

I would have preferred if the actual drug kingpin got out of a car and it like a famous actor like oh my gosh it's Matt Damon the drug king or something like that instead it was just a bait-and-switch and which is fine but for 85 to 90 percent of this movie it is literally just this this speller of Braga hanging over the events of this movie and it's like I don't care about Braga because you have not shown me Braga so I as a viewer can't connect with this. At least in "Too Fast," the guy was evil and they made him cartoonishly evil in some of the scenes. It was so over the top that it was hard to take it serious, but I in turn can't take this serious because I don't see him. He's just this dude that you keep talking about.

So hmm interesting what about Phoenix the other I mean the main henchman and the other villain of the movie

I mean I didn't but I didn't take him seriously the whole time because I thought he was just Lackey to the dude up the ladder, so I was like oh this guy's just a grunt loser

So but he's the one that killed Lettie. I mean he's the one Dom is actually oh, you mean you mean boss, man

Yeah, boss, man. I just called him boss, man. Okay. Yeah, boss, man is I wrote down

I wrote down while we're talking about him. I wrote down in my notes

Why does boss man have a hammer and sickle tattoo on his neck?

Because he's a bad guy. That's how you know, he's a bad guy. He loves the Soviet Union

He's gotta get it tattooed on his neck. Apparently that guy

Yeah

he was a better villain than who ended up being Braga because he but even then the only way we know he killed Bledy is

because of

detective vision

nitro and and then he

Knows I yeah, I don't know. It's kind of bizarre

But he was but I would say yeah, he was a better conflict than

Then Aaron have been then Braga was with Ben and them

Let's start going through this more sequentially though

And I've got my notes here and we'll not go through every single detail of the film

But it starts off with an action scene and I wrote down it opens with a truck like fast one

Mm-hmm, which I did think was kind of a cool callback

It very much is meant to emulate the first scene from the original fast movie

You're introduced to Han quickly, which is a cool way for them to tie in Tokyo Drift, which again

We've not watched but I obviously know he's from that movie. So it's cool that they start integrating that

The first thing I wrote down notably about this action scene though is the action has entered a completely new level

This is a really good action sequence for the most part. It's very good. It's leagues better than anything else

So there's been in the other movies. This feels like a

choreographed

stunt

Chase scene with a lot of moving parts and a lot of things going on and it's cool. It's good

It's probably the high point of the movie to be honest. It is the high point of the movie absolutely hands down

Actually, I watched on the bonus features of the blu-ray. They have a whole

10, 11 minute thing about shooting this scene.

Most of it is practical.

I was actually genuinely surprised most of it's practical.

So much so that the individual tankers that detach,

they're actually cars with people inside them

that drive them.

- Interesting.

- They're, you know, that wasn't CG or anything like that.

They really were spinning those tow trucks around

- I could see it. - And backing up.

They weren't hitching to the trailers,

but the explosion at the end,

while the roll down the hill is obviously the computer

and the explosion as it's tumbling and stuff,

the explosion off of the road is real.

It colliding into the main semi-truck.

All that was real practical effects

and explosions and stuff.

I was surprised to learn,

to me there's more practicality than CG

in that particular scene,

which I've always enjoyed that scene to begin with.

It's just very fun, big, there's some tension,  
and they use cars as tools.

You know, when Dom flips around and hits the semi-truck  
to break the ice and then let him out.

- He says, "Hold on!"

And then he smacks it, whips his car around real quick, yeah.

- It's just high action, intensity, fun,  
heist kind of energy that the series has not had up to this point.

No, it's totally, as far as this being a launching point for the franchise moving forward and  
all the things you're talking about, about how this sets the stage for what's to come,  
that's very much felt right away with what they do with this opening scene.

It's the best part of the movie, I think, and there's just a lot of cool scenes in it,  
sequences in it like with him spinning and hitting the tanker like you said, him driving  
underneath the flaming tanker there at the end, and she's screaming at him and he's like  
"Hold on, I'm gonna time this up real quick and then go right under it."

That's a really famous scene, I've seen that before, or that shot at least.

Yeah, it's a statement piece as well.

It clearly communicates to the audience, fans that have seen the movies before, this is  
a new Fast and Furious.

We're doing something different.

If you've never seen this before in the previous movies, you just think this is how it always  
is.

We've entered a new era, things are more intense, they're doing bigger, crazier things, buckle  
up.

That's what this scene communicates.

That's the next thing I wrote down.

So they obviously go and they sell their gas that they've stolen or whatever it is, oil.

And then there's some scenes there and Dom runs off.

When it jumps to Brian though and him running around as a cop, I immediately wrote down

"The early 2000s nostalgia is gone.

This just feels like a normal movie now."

And then I wrote down "Why and how is Brian still a cop?"

So the end of, but he's clearly come back to the FBI.

I mean, he's ended on good terms with them at the end of Too Fast, Too Furious.

His record's clear.

He like, he has a sense of justice.

But he talked about how he wanted to like open a garage in Miami or something like that, didn't he?

And him and Roman acted like they were gonna-

They were like, yeah, we'll open a garage.

He's back in LA.

He's a California boy.

And then he's back in LA and he's, yeah, he's being a cop again.

And you're just like, okay, I guess we'll run with this.

literally run with it because we're doing parkour through the streets. Yes I wrote down so there's

a big chase sequence and then he gets up there and that guy's getting ready to shoot him and then he

tackles him off the roof and I wrote why not just shoot the guy rather than tackle him off of a building into a car. So it's cooler to tackle him off a building into a car. Yes, yes pretty much.

From there it really just sets it's a lot of setup. Letty dies from there which is what we talked about Dom comes back to town they kind of slowly start to bring all the

characters together Brian's got a hunt down Braga I don't know if there's

anything in these scenes that you want to mention it I am honestly surprised

you haven't mentioned it yet what if he finds out he investigates the scene with

his detective skills detective mode and he discovers nitro meth and there's only one guy in town that sells or does the nitrometh so he interrogates the man yeah I've got that no I've got multiple notes written for that okay I'm alright I thought that's where we were I wrote down I wrote down two things I wrote Dom held an engine in his hands he held an entire engine with one arm do you know how much an engine weighs yes like tons or maybe not tons but it weighs hundreds hundreds of pounds. The average weight is between four and seven hundred pounds. Yes. Yes. That's a V8, a V6 is three to four fifty. It doesn't matter. You can't hold that much with one arm. He's a Vin Diesel. As you've seen his biceps, they're huge. It is. The absurdity is so over the top, but it works. I just, you can just see it. Like, yeah, of course Dom can hold an engine because he's been with cars his whole life and he has big muscles yeah I wrote I wrote Dom held an engine in his hands and then the second note I wrote down is the thing I said kind of before is that Oh Dom is just now Batman like he really is just running around town threatening people interrogating him them basically going where is where is she where is she yeah so he's basically become this vigilante and then you've got Paul Walker over here Brian trying to use his cop skills to get on the tail of Braga.

So is he Jim Gordon?

Not really.

He's hunting down a David Park man.

The David Park thing is like a huge part of the early portion of this movie.

And then they end up going street racing.

It gets them into the race, which is the job for Braga.

This is your application.

And there are some other things that happened before that, what?

Dom and Mia see each other again for the first time in a long time, they drive around.

Brian and Mia see each other.

Brian and Mia see each other.

I wrote down Mia is hot again.

I think Jordana Brewster's very attractive in just throwing that out there.

I understand Paul Walker's taste in women, or Brian's taste in women.

She's cute.

About them seeing each other again.

I think the interaction at the restaurant is actually a stronger character moment for

The Fast and Furious in general.

Brian had to face Mia and verbally face some consequences

of his actions to just lie to everyone and then leave.

- Yeah. - And that clearly hurt Mia

and she confronted him about that.

And I think, I thought that was good

that he had to at least face the music a little bit there.

Obviously this gets resolved over the course of the movie

in a Hollywood style fashion,

but I liked that Brian was facing the music a bit.

It's a bit of a wonky scene, or maybe not wonky, but it's kind of jarring for us as

the viewer too because we haven't seen these characters in so long, so they're trying

to reconcile like "Why did you do this?" and "Why has this happened?" and "Why did

you leave town?" and blah blah blah blah blah, and they're like, these have been things

that have been lingering for us as viewers for a long time too, so I don't know, it's

kind of interesting but awkward to see them reconvene and talk about these things so much

to later after all this other stuff has happened I guess or at least just the events of Too

Fast have happened.

But you've got-

Notice how he didn't mention Eva Mendez?

Yes, he didn't mention Eva Mendez, he didn't mention that he was off with his boy Roman, Roman, nowhere to be seen in this movie.

I don't know, it's just been such a long time.

How long would it have been between- are these movies- when does this movie take place?

Because I know the timeline is obviously different from the real release time.

Like what year is this movie set?

Yeah like if Fast One is supposed to actually be 2001, this isn't 2009.

Because Tokyo Drift is 2000.

Hmm, interesting question.

Because if we're watching them in chronological order, then Tokyo Drift is not set in 2006 or whatever, which is the same year I think that one released, if I'm correct.

I'll look it up.

[Music]

Huh.

So, fascinating tidbit about the Fast and Furious timeline.

According to the Fast and Furious fandom wiki, which I'll just defer to as fact, they've done more research than me.

The events of The Fast and the Furious, the first film, take place in 2004.

Okay.

And then, um, let's see.

Turbocharge Prelude, 2004.

So you assume that then leads into Too Fast.

It's interesting they don't mention Too Fast kind of in this chunk here.

But then in 2009 is Los Bendeleros, the short film before Fast and Furious.

So this is set in 2009.

So what they've done instead of bumping this back is they've bumped the earlier movies forward.



So when is Tokyo Drift?

2011?

Tokyo... no.

10?

Tokyo Drift.

Tokyo... what?

I guess... could it be 2009?

Tokyo Drift is 2014.

Oh my gosh.

Jeez, they shot that movie eight or nine years ahead of time.

This is the best movie series of all time.

Doesn't make any sense at all but sure.

Alright, well we're watching them in this chronological order so...

This is wild.

Gal Gadot shows up. Let's talk about her character for a minute

Because obviously she's in a bunch of different scenes, but I do want to talk about her character specifically

What is her name in this movie? Do you happen to know because I was just L

Giselle that's right. Yeah

She's a really weird character. I

Don't like her character

Much at all in this movie. I think she's pretty terrible

Interesting. I don't know if she gets better in the future films or if you have any strong opinions on her

But she's basically just this girl who shows up and is like yeah, I work for Braga

Also, I'm gonna throw myself at Dom Toretto really heavily for strange reasons in this movie

And that's never really established why she's doing that other than she just has a thing for

muscled up bald men apparently like there's so many scenes in this movie where she's just blatantly throwing herself at

Dom

so

You're you're not wrong at all. That's exactly kind of how she's written and presented in this film

You were correct. This is her first movie. So

in 2009, this was her

Hollywood debut and then she

Obviously goes on from there becomes Wonder Woman and all that stuff. She is

fleshed out way more and a

much better character in future films, so I

Personally as much but she clearly starts out here kind of as she's clearly

knowledgeable about this

world of crime and

Connecting heroin. Yeah, she's she's aware of this stuff, but

Her character pretty much is I

Would like to date Dominic Toretto, but Dom still loves another woman

So she's not even I figured that when I realized that they were trying to make her like a good guy in this movie

It's pretty obvious that she's gonna flip or something like that

Eventually, I figured maybe they would try to present her more as this character who yeah

She works with this drug dealer and yeah, she's caught up in a bad situation

But she's a good person with a heart of gold who got kind of roped into this world and she's been looking for a way out

No, it's just very much. I work with this guy

my business is drugs, but I do think Dominic Toretto's pretty hot and I'm gonna hit on him a lot and I'm gonna

wear a, not wear a bra in this

garage scene with him and then hit on him a whole bunch and

ask him what kind of women he likes and blah blah blah like weird things like that and that's really her only

eventually at the end Braga just tries to blatantly run her over and then she's like you saved my life now

I'll be on your side. It's yeah

It's there's no good character development with her whatsoever, which again

I don't think you would think about her character as much in this movie as well if she was not

Tell Godot and she eventually becomes like Wonder Woman huge megastar actress

She stands out because this is her first role and this is one of her first films

But retroactively you go back and watch this you're like, oh, that's that's her

So I think if she was any other actress, you might not think about it that much but yeah

It's another one of those for me

I see her as Giselle, but I mostly think of her in the context of the other films and so

You know again, like I said actually earlier when we brought her up

I always forget she starts out in this movie

You really you could cut her out of this movie and her character in future films is still

strong and fine like it and

When you see her in fast five, I mean I'm which is the next film you and I will be watching it's it's a total

improvement across the board, so I'm

Curious to see what you think of her as you see her evolve here kind of over the next

wave of films so

Do you have anything you would like to say about this whole racing sequence?

It's the only race in the movie. It is the only race in there. You count the racing Border Patrol

Come on. This is the only race coming off of three movies about street racing in this culture

I mean that's what inspired the original the Fast and Furious movie. This is the only street race

Mm-hmm again part of this pivot into an action

series predominantly and they try to make it a little bit different though because

because there's even the line like,

"Oh, well who's gonna close down the streets?"

And they're like, "No one."

They were racing through real LA.

- That's another message to the viewers is like,  
this is how we're making it different.

The stakes are higher, there's traffic, there's danger,  
and the other two drivers end up dying, I think,  
in the race.

So--

- I don't think they'd live from those wrecks.

- Well, I couldn't remember if one of them survived.

Like, I couldn't remember if they both crashed horrifically,

I do remember one for sure crashed horrifically. It's... I like the race. I've  
always been a partial to this one. The idea of racing in the streets with  
traffic being guided by the GPS. I like Brian struggling with the GPS and like  
shut up shut up. I just like that it follows him in general. Like the focus is  
still on him because it's a good callback to Fast One of this is not just  
a race where he's a cop and yes he's trying to invade this drug organization and do his  
job essentially.

It's a double layered thing where he's trying to do that on one hand but he's still trying  
to prove himself to Dom.

And he's trying to prove...

So take the respect.

Yeah, I want to take the respect.

I've become a better driver.

I've gone off to Miami.

I've done these things on my own.

You don't know what I've spent the past couple years doing.

I am better now than the last time you saw me.

And more than anything you get the sense that he just wants to prove that to Dom.

this race and he's going to until Dom screws him over but I like that they follow the race from Brian's perspective for probably 90% of it.

Absolutely and I still think, obviously this is the job and they're both gunning for the same position and I like the stakes there because if Dom gets the job it could be dangerous both for Dom and the villains here, but if Brian gets the job, Dom is quote unquote safe from harm's way or whatever and while the audience doesn't know it at the time.

I said or he could do something very extreme because he has no other options and he's Batman

at this point. Right and so I like the stakes there beyond

just who will get there first. There's pressure as to why we want to get first beyond quote the money and the respect. So it's a very well done race. I like Brian saying sorry car and then driving down a hill through this deck stair set, which is also a real stunt.

They do in the special bonus features on the disc, they talked about how they actually were having to put cars back together because they ran out of a budget to keep buying cars to crash. So they were crashing a lot of cars in this movie which is quite funny. So this race has always been a favorite of mine throughout the series and it stands out now especially as kind of really the only street race in the film.

The scene after the race though is maybe a better scene because we get to see Dwight

The driver interacting with some feet and filming them, can get all over those feet.

Yeah, I just wrote down "Dwight the Footman."

So that was something I wanted to make sure we talked about,

is this man and his attraction to feet,

and filming them, and getting all up close and smooching on them,

and other things.

Dwight's never touched this stuff.

Yeah.

Dwight's a good character.

He's only in it for a little bit. Good character, though.

Until he gets the cops called on him.

Uh... so yeah, that gets Brian.

What do you know? Dwight got arrested. That means that I can join. Wow, what a magical thing that has just happened.

Uh...

They meet up at what? The bar thing? The celebration?

Yeah, they meet up at a party bar or sneak in the club.

He thinks he sees Braga, Brian does.

Finn, or Dom has the weird scene with Giselle that we talked about before in the garage.

Yes, but that's also where he identifies the Gran Torino.

Yeah, there's really nothing else that happens of great note that I can think of until they go to Mexico.

Or they're in Mexico, and then they cross the border back to LA, correct?

That whole scene and then the explosion.

Yeah, they cross the border and this is when Dom decides he's gonna try and kill Phoenix.

like on the other side in Mexico.

- They're in L.A. I think.

- No, when the cars blow up?

- I think they're in L.A., aren't they?

'Cause they say they're coming from the Mexican side of the border.

- Oh yeah, it's on return, you're right.

- Because then they get the car and then they--

- 'Cause they have the drugs and they drop 'em off, yeah.

- And he stashes 'em in the L.A. impound lot, yeah.

- You are correct.

So yeah, he just decides like this is when

I'm gonna blow them up.

- Yeah, which is very...

Odd, premeditated, yeah it's kind of out of nowhere that he just decides to do it there.

I mean I like the way he does explode the car.

It's cool, he blows them all up though. It seems like a plan without much

plan behind it though. He's just like, "Oh, I'll blow up these cars and then that'll allow me to kill the guy who killed Letty." Let's talk about how he just took a bullet to the shoulder and barely moved.

- It doesn't move at all?

That's what happens when you're as thick as Vin Diesel, apparently, and just gets shot.

It's like having Kevlar armor all over your body.

- It's just a big action scene, explosions, gunfire.

Now Brian and Dom are united

and they have \$60 million worth of heroin.

At least this time we get to see the drugs

instead of it just being implied

like in "2 Fast 2 Furious."

- Yeah, I wanna see that heroin.

Show me the heroin.

Show me the aluminum foil and brown packing tape.

- This is when we were in the late 2000s

and we started seeing drugs on TV and movies,

like in Breaking Bad.

Show me that blue stuff.

Show me what meth looks like.

Show me what heroin looks like.

I wanna see these fake drugs on these shows.

What happens from there?

They end up setting up the sting to get Braga.

They set up a swap.

- They go back to Mia's house.

take that's when out of his shoulder

yeah that's before the only thing they have the fight with uh... he tells them

about lady and how she was trying to

clear down his name that gets

tom pissed and he

beats crap out of brian

like uh... it's crazy and all he gets is like a little bloody knows and he just

wipes his nose afterwards and i'm good

uh... yeah

taps into the rage side of

don's character

i do need to call out the phone

used in the scene, the LG rumor, I had that phone.

Those phones were awesome.

So nice to see the LG rumor preserved for cinema.

- Eventually they set up the swap between Braga's people

and them for six million, I believe.

They set up a sting or the cop man demands



that Brian bring back the drugs.

He doesn't do that.

up a sting operation instead. This is also where Brian and Mia get back together finally and hook

back up or whatever and which their reconciliation relationship yeah but their reconciliation is kind

of odd it's just implied that they've like now spent time around each other and have become

close to one another again just because of they've just I don't know they've just kind of naturally

forgotten about things that happened in the past because they've been drawn together because of

of this situation again and then that has led to them falling in love with each other

again.

You can't stop destined love, okay?

I guess.

It's kind of, it's kind of, because I know they're sort of the couple in these movies

that everybody likes, I know there's Dom and Letty too, but they're the main couple in these movies.

It's kind of odd that they just really have, I think them as actors, like, like Paul Walker,

and Jordana Brewster I think they have good chemistry on screen but they just

don't have good writing at this point in these scenes in my opinion so they get

back together and then they set up the sting old man in a gray suit comes out

and it's Braga just kidding no it's not and then you tell me a guy who crawled

his way out of the the slums or whatever is wearing pink that's the clue that

that tips them off that this is not the drug lord. We haven't mentioned the incompetent

officer who Brian just shatters his nose. Oh yeah, he just beats his face into a wall?

Oh my gosh, the brutality. It's a great way to end the fight before it starts. But Stasiak,

he also is the one that screws up the sting because, I don't know, he wants all the glory

is impatient so again just proving that Dom and Brian are the smartest the men

wherever they go yeah so the we after the sting they end up going to Mexico which is where Braga runs back to I think Vin Diesel has the best line in this movie once they get there in the church and he puts a shotgun to his head and he says you ain't forgiven I thought you're gonna say the jurisdiction line which one's that Brian's leaning against his car while they're waiting for Giselle and he goes I don't have any jurisdiction here and then Ving or this is where my jurisdiction ends and then Dom goes this is where mine begins as vigilante Mexican justice no the best lie in the movies when he puts a shotgun to Braga said and says you ain't forgiven while he's praying very I think that's a very good line they end up kidnapping him and they try to get him back to LA which results in a what I wrote down is this ending is like Mad Max very much is like a Mad Max scene at one point where there's all the cars across the desert Vin Diesel one of the coolest scenes in this movie and in this chase scene so they're obviously being chased through the desert Vin Diesel rather than rolling down his window or doing anything like that he just elbows out the window of his own car sticks a shotgun out the window with one hand or with one hand on the wheel and one hand on the shotgun and he blows out a dude's tire.

So he just elbows out his own window when he has a perfectly acceptable window roll down function on his car I would imagine.

- I thought about this, the car's old.

It probably is like a hand crank.

He doesn't have time to crank the window down to then pump.

That was what I thought, 'cause you're right.

Why not use the button and just let it roll down?

But it's probably a crank.

And it's just cooler if he just smashes it with his elbow.

Throws his bow into it and the window explodes they go back through the tunnels

Which is a huge chasing this is where it gets a little this is where it gets CGI for sure

Absolutely because they can't really film that

And I didn't think it looked bad though like I know CGI looks much better here. We've come a long way within the past

six or seven years

From too fast too furious, which is kind of impressive honestly. It's too fast is early 2000s, and we get to this and I'm like oh this

I could go see this in the theater now and I really wouldn't think too much of it to be honest

It looks better than some of the Marvel stuff that's been coming out lately of them being totally real with you

But that's not the VFX people's fault I

there's really nothing else to say here that obviously they get Braga on the side of Mexico on back in California and

there's a couple fights there and

Dom

Come on you got a

I wrote down in this scene, there's so many cuts happening, it's almost hard to know what happens in that tunnel scene because it is so tight and congested.

There's a lot of things going on and it's hard to ever get a wide shot of the things that are actually going on.

Especially compared to the scene on the street where they would take a couple different shots outside the car and inside the car.

They would show different things going on.

This, it's just all the shots are mainly in the cars

or really tight on the cars in the tunnels.

So it's like hard to, and it's cutting nonstop

between these different shots.

So it's like hard to know what's going on

in some of these sequences.

- I feel like they were probably trying to go

for a claustrophobic feeling

'cause it's a secret tunnel under the border.

- Which they do.

- Conceptually makes sense, but you're right.

It's so fast and snappy.

You don't know really if they're driving into a pillar

that will kill them or not.

it's the way out isn't clear to the viewer.

So you're just kind of along for the ride

and it kind of gets a little snappy whiplashy

through the tunnel there.

But when they explode out on the other side

and opens back up, that's when they get to have

some more fun here with the finale.

- So Brian and what's the other guy's name?

Is it Phoenix? - Phoenix.

- Yeah, I thought Phoenix was the fake name

the man that Brago was pretending. It was Campo or something. Campo or...

Oh. Anyway, so they shoot out of the tunnel. Brian crawls out. He's about to kill him, correct?

And then Vin shoots out of the tunnel. Phoenix is about to kill Brian, yes.

Yeah, and then Dom shoots out of the tunnel, does a wheelie on his back two wheels,

runs into this man, crushes him between a car, and then just says, "F\*\*\*." And that's it.

He does a wheelie on his car and then he kills his van. Also he lets his dad's car blow up again, doesn't he?

Yeah, because he says because he jumps between the two cars in the tunnel, which is pretty cool. That's a cool part

He realizes he can't get out of his own car before he hits this wall

So he just opens his door and casually jumps to the other car

Uncharted Nathan Drake style. Yeah, and then decides that's my car now

So that's a cool moment. Then yeah, he blasts out of the tunnel kills this man and then just gives him a good one-liner

And that's that's basically the end of the film because then he goes to jail

Yes, well in the final scene, I think it's important for to point out that

Brian tries to encourage Dom to run away again, which is a callback to the first film but Dom

Has changed going from I'll never go back to I'm tired of running. I'm done running and I think that

That shows that he got the vengeance and he feels like Letty

Has been you know

Avenged and laid to rest and he's just done and I think

subtly that's point he without Letty he feels a bit lost and he's ready to face

you know I

keep saying it but face the music you for whatever crimes he's committed and so he gets arrested and

Sentenced to 25 years to life and then we get the tease at the end the oh it ain't over yet

them saving him and this is this tease at the end is kind of why my opening question at the top is was why is

Brian still a cop because Brian is still from at the end of all these movies

It's implied like Brian's kind of rogue. He doesn't I mean he's a cop sure

It is not.

But he's doing things that aren't cop-like and he's not really a good guy.

And then at the start of every one of these movies again it's like, "Brian..."

Or I guess too fast, not as much.

They rope him back into it.

So it's not shown, which is poor, but he resigns from the FBI after Dom's sentence.

I assume.

So Brian is no longer a cop as of the end of this movie.

But yeah, you're right.

It's like, why do we keep letting this guy chase villains?

He keeps breaking the law.

If Fast Five is about them trying to rope Brian back into being a cop again, I'm gonna be like, "I don't know what we're doing with you guys."

You're gonna call up J. Edgar Hoover and be like, "I'm questioning your hiring practices."

I think I do broadly know the plot of Fast Five though, and it's that they're all on the run and then they send the rock after them and he's like I gotta catch

Dom Toretto hmm I think that's broadly the plot of that film if I'm correct is there anything else you would like to say about the broad story of this movie or just overall before we get into some of the more specifics actually I do have a very specific question for you why do you think this movie is so bad is that the things we've touched on before with the plot and the letty stuff

retroactively not being good like what would you say are the things that make this truly awful in your estimation because I really do think a lot of it's

just the plot doesn't really work. Yeah so even at the time before we knew

Letty would come back this movie was still the weakest and I think it's just

the lull in it. It's not... there are long stretches of buildup but then it gets

very quick to... suddenly we're running drugs across the border and then we're

blowing up cars and now we're hiding. We bounce very quickly to get to the end. It feels almost

too accelerated after a long stint of, "Well, I guess we're gonna try and crack this case together. You're the good cop, I'm the bad cop," sort of dynamic between Brian and Dom.

There's a lot of scenes in the police station too, which I just don't, I didn't find any of those interesting. Like, Brian has a partner and she's trying to help him and stuff like

I'm like, I just don't care about any of these people and like we go back to that

those characters quite a bit throughout the movie and I get that he's

Again, this is kind of my back to my point of like why did we make Brian a cop again in this movie?

Like I feel like they could have done something drastically more interesting to bring them all back together in such a way

That like like even the plot this movie could have been still let he's dead

Vin goes or Dom goes back to LA to try to

Avenger he finds out that Paul Walker has been out on the East Coast for a couple years

but he's now back in LA for one reason or another two and maybe

Dom goes and recruits Brian to help him with this because he knows Brian when I don't like again that I don't agree that because

the tension between Brian and Dom I think is

Is essential because there was the betrayal at the end of the movie even though they saved Vince's life

Brian gave his car. The busta was still an undercover cop and betrayed all the

trust and he hurt Mia. No, that's true. So having Brian be a cop almost just felt

more like we need him to be, there needs to be tension between Brian and Dom and

let's portray that with one is a vigilante Batman now and the other is

the police officer and then how do those two end up working together because they,

while they're not directly confrontational where Dom's like I have

the same I will kill you they have the same goal but they go about it a

different way and eventually then they come together and form that team angle

with it and so I it's weird that Brian is just a cop again after not being a

cop but being a cop and things like that so it it feels more part of the soft

reboot angle of this it's just like Brian's a cop and everyone will accept

it and it makes it easier for people that may have started with this movie because again new model

original parts yeah like if brian's just a cop in the movie that means no one has to know that he was

you know uh a narc and then was in miami running from cop like it just cleans it up it serves the purpose yeah and especially because they were clearly trying to move away from too fast like

Like that movie's not referenced a single time in any capacity in this movie that I could really think of.

Not in this one.

Like he didn't even mention that he had been out in Miami or anything like that.

Not one bit.

So it's funny, it's sort of like Thor Dark World retroactively being one of the most important movies of the MCU simply because of what they do with Endgame.

Now it's not like they retroactively go back to Fast and Furious and make it the most important one.

But this is one of the more important movies simply because it is the springboard to the future.

It sets the stage for what this becomes.

Yeah, where we can excel this art form of bombastic action adventure movie and this is where they start.

Now is it a strong start?

No.

I think the leap that we make to five and six and so on is

Substantial and it's actually we'll discuss it in future episodes

But this movie had to be here and I'd rather them try on this stumble and then give us what we want later

I think the one other thing and again, I've not seen any of the other ones

So this is just me speaking from speaking broadly from the trailers and things like that and broad exposure to the franchise that I've seen

is that the other problem with this movie is that it tries to take itself too seriously and

It's clear that the other ones start being way more campy

It's like they know that what is going on on the screen in these films in the later films is dumb

And so we're just gonna lean into that and you shouldn't take any of this too seriously and



It's just supposed to be a big fun action movie that you go to the movie theater to see and you have a good time

This movie takes itself too seriously at times. It's got way too heavy of

themes with you know the whole plot centering out again around Lettie's death

But then we've got a drug lord at the center of this and he's deathly serious this serious character. It's

Dom's mad the whole movie. There's very little the best parts of the movie is when Dom and

Brian have some banter which is pretty rare because Dom for the most part in this movie is very

Focused and straightforward and headstrong on what he's trying to accomplish here to avenge Letty

Like I think about the moment where he's like, oh now you owe me a 10-second car and then he again

Moment he elbows out of the window of a car and he's like, well, here you go now we're even so yeah

I don't know. I feel like we've we obviously wanted to touch on the stunts and

Visual effects and the editing things like that. I think I feel like we've naturally touched on all those things

If there's anything else you want to mention there was another stunt thing

I wanted to mention the chase the Mad Max chase you were talking about

That also practical cars driving and stuff

But the flips were also practical and I was shocked that people were inside those cars

They used air cannons to pop them up and flip them

Stomping are crazy

There were men in those cars. I could not believe it. I was stunned

So, I mean obviously safety precautions were taken roll cages armor things like that, but still driving a car at 50 miles an hour and then flipping it is

A bit bonkers. So it's an interesting way to earn a living for sure. I was surprised at the

Practicality in this film because I definitely thought there was more

CG like the CG to practical ratio was in favor of CG significantly in this movie I

Recall and coming back and watching it and then learning about how they shot things

I was surprised at the dedication of practicality which

I

talked about in the earlier episode is some

Practicality is something they hold on to and it's nice to see

It's still being held on to here and we'll see how it goes in the future

But I was I was surprised and I'm happy about it

um

Again, I feel like we've touched largely on the editing and stuff like that throughout

I don't I don't know if we want to touch on that

Going to music and sound

This is the worst on that front by a mile the in the previous films the music really I think kind of set a tone

and again a lot of those there are some hits of

music in this that are from popular artists and things like that, but it's way further and fewer between and

It leads to the score itself being leaned on more heavily

And I think again that makes it more of a serious tone to this film. I think a lot of the

Tracks from various artists that were in the previous two movies that we've watched again

Made it feel more early 2000s and made it feel lighter made it feel more of that era and that's kind of

Gone with this film for the most part. I think

Yeah, it's I mean, this is the start of the soundtracks having one or two

Identifiable songs and that's like songs written for the movie or at least applied to the movie Blanco by pitbull

Featuring Pharrell Williams is the song for this movie

And then there's also another pitbull song that has a little John in it crazy with a K

Huh, apparently crank that soldier boy was not included or could have been included at the times what Wikipedia is saying

It's not as identifiable in the movie. I'm sure maybe going back and looking at the actual soundtrack they were

Sans probably on there of the time that but it doesn't feel like it's tied to the movie the same way that the previous

Two films that we've watched

do intertwine with their soundtracks and capture the vibe of

the movie itself so it is a miss and

Yeah, I'm curious to knowing that Brian Tyler is the one that does pretty much every movie from here on out

I'm curious to see how

themes evolve if we notice them if they're prominent how that stuff works beyond just

famous musicians providing you know the hit single for the film

All right, let's do best car

Best car baby. There are a lot of cars in this movie, but I don't know if there are many

Extreme standouts. Did I give you a link to the cars?

Did I have I have it here? I know what I know which one I'm going with

okay, so for the

What is yours? What is yours? Let's start with you. I like I like Dom's car in this movie quite a bit

I've been a Paul Walker guy and the other ones we've done but I do like Dom's

1970 Chevelle that he drives a handful of times in this movie. I think it's cool and it fits him

Interesting, okay the one that I like I think it's

Nothing fancy, but it's it looks cool in the scenes that it's in

hmm

This is the first movie that we have watched together doing these cars things that I I am having a tough time picking

There are four cars that I like a lot

I'm gonna I need to talk through my drop me the link it you have out of here. Um

Well, I have the one I'm gonna have to find the whole list again

but the first car that I like a lot is the

Gran Torino which reminds me of

Gran Torino with Clint Eastwood, it's that same car and

or same style of car I

Like it a lot. It's the villains car. It's the one that's got the f-bomb on it. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, so I like

That literally says f-bomb

Does it yeah the green one? Yeah, there's there's I think I think there's some detailing on the side

That has like an atomic bomb and it says f-bomb

Sure. Okay. I'm this is probably a real thing

Again, I'm incredibly partial to the skyline GTR that Brian drives

It's blue

Much cleaner look than the one from too fast too furious, but I like it. It's Brian's car the

if everything goes according to plan the show art for this particular episode is going to be the

It's a Honda not an Acura, but well, I guess the Acura is the make but the Honda Acura NSX

Which is what Mia is driving at the very end of the movie. Yeah, that's a clean low. I like it

it's a great car and then

And then Giselle's Porsche, which is not on the page I sent you, I was surprised that

the Porsche was not mentioned, but Giselle drives a Porsche up to them, or a Porsche,

in Mexico when she helps them get to where Braga is at the church.

I just think that car is clean looking.

That's a nice, just clean car, doesn't do a lot of, it does very little driving at all,

but it's very pretty to look at.

So I'm really torn between all of these.

I also need to shout out the F-Bomb car I was referring to is actually the Camaro there.

It even says, it's right underneath the Gran Torino, the 1973 Chevy Camaro F-Bomb.

That's the one that I, I think that's the one that Phoenix drives actually.

I think, all things considered, I think I gotta go with the NSX, the car Mia drives.

It's just, it's a lean, sleek-- I do agree.

It's in it for such a short period of time, but it is an awesome car.

That's why I got that Hot Wheel for the show art, because it's a sweet, sweet car.

It's in it for just a very quick second, but yeah, that was the one at the end that I was

Like that's the coolest one driving down the street here. Mm-hmm

So cool the Acura NSX and the 1970

Chevelle SS. I just think that one. I just think that your fellas really cool and it fits with Dom

that's the car I feel like that people think about when they think of

Dom maybe I'm wrong and there's more charger than well the charger. Yeah

But that thing's a deathtrap

He says no, it's why he keeps blowing up. I'm sure it'll keep coming back over and over and over and over again

That's like a cat

What is uh, I don't feel like we need to have too long of a discussion about this talking point because I feel like we've mentioned

A lot before but what is the legacy of this film? It is did it started everything that came after?

It's the reboot. Yeah, this is the reboot of the series if you want to know where

What the series became came from here it is if you want to know how they went from Tokyo drift to fast five

it's this movie this was the segue and

It's a rough segue. It's probably again. It's probably my least favorite of the ones that we've watched so far again

I don't think any of these have been horrible by any means, but it is the one that is just the most I

I think that's another element of the legacy of this one.

Obviously going off of the Rotten Tomatoes and stuff.

This is one of the worst ones, too.

The legacy is that this is what rebooted it, but also this movie stinks, kind of.

Yeah, it's interesting in that, kind of having that duality to it.

It changed the franchise, but it also is not good.

When everybody found out that I was watching these movies and they were like, "Oh, I can't wait for you to watch this, and I can't wait for you to see this.

I can't wait for you to like no one mentioned this movie to me. No whatsoever this one

Yeah, like everybody's been like I can't wait for you to see too fast and Tokyo Drift and fast 5 and fast 6 and

Fast 7 and the last one with Paul Walker and blah blah. Yeah, no one mentioned this one

And so I think that's very much is the black sheep of the series in a lot of regards

I have too fast. It probably is because they don't

Acknowledge it for a long time. I would imagine maybe they acknowledge in the next one

I hope Romans in the next one. I know the rock is in the next one. So

your next retreat at least I

Fast five is my favorite. So I think it's a lot of people's favorites. So but are we good? I've heard a lot of

things about that movie over the years, so

it's

You are in for a treat for sure

But that's gonna do it for fast and furious before we move on

on to the rest of the series.

Thank you all for listening.

Appreciate it so much.

If you would like to find Logan online,

you can follow him on Twitter @moremantwelv

and his writing over at comicbook.com.

You can follow myself on Twitter @MaxRoberts143

and my writing over at maxfrequency.net.

You can follow the show on Twitter @ChapterSelect.

Season four right now, "The Fast and Furious."

Spring 2023, that window is going to be

Season 5, Resident Evil, very excited to be digging into that.

You can check out previous seasons of the show over at [ChapterSelect.com](https://ChapterSelect.com).

Thank you so much for listening and until next time, adios!

Chapter Select is a Max Frequency production.

This episode was researched, produced, and edited by me, Max Roberts.

Season 4 is hosted by Logan Moore and myself.

Season 4 is all about the fast and the furious.

For more on this season go to [chapterselect.com/season4](https://chapterselect.com/season4).

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