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(dramatic music)

- Hello everybody and welcome to Chapter Select,
a seasonal podcast where we bounce back and forth
between a series exploring its evolution,
design, and legacy.

For season four we are covering the Fast
and the Furious series.

My name is Max Robertson, I am joined, as always,
by Logan Moore, hi Logan.

Max, this podcast, this is my Mexico.

- Let's go.

I love it.

I love how you just come up with these lines
from the movie you bring in.

- I legitimately don't know how I'm gonna,
until like the moment we start recording.

Like I don't plan this ahead.

- I can tell you're coming up with it on the spot,
and that's what I love about it,
because we've watched "Tokyo Drift" for this episode.

You might be wondering,

"6th episode, 'Tokyo Drift,' what's going on here?"

If you haven't been following from the beginning of this season where you're watching in chronological order,

and in fast and furious and chronological order means that Tokyo Drift takes place after Fast and Furious 6,

making this the sixth movie in the timeline.

Does it though? There's a whole lot of flip phones in this film.

There's a whole lot of early 2000s iconography that was not in the previous films we've seen.

Are these really in chronological order? I'm not sure.

I don't know, maybe in Japan the only piece of technology they're behind in is the cell phone, and they just have really high quality flip phone cameras that can stream live video.

So maybe that's a secret.

If you really think about it, today we have flip smartphones that can fold in half and flip, so maybe Japan is actually 15 years ahead of the trend and just have flip phones with HD cameras.

The Razor's coming back, baby.

2022 year of the Razor.

We're gonna bring back-- - The Razor already came back.

Razor's been back. - We're gonna bring back.

Singular's gonna come back soon too.

They're gonna take over AT&T. - T-Mobile will buy it.

It'll be T-Mobile, Singular, Sprint, Mega Power.

Oh my goodness gracious.

- Yeah, so we're, let's get right into the general history

and info of this film before we start talking

more about our own thoughts on it

And we've got to guess this episode they were going to fold in here as well in just a couple minutes

Fast and Furious Tokyo Drift came out on June 16th

2006

This was the first film directed by Justin Lin who has directed the past three episodes

We've done here producer this time around once again was Neil H. Moritz the writer was Chris Morgan

It was his first Fast and Furious movie - yeah, so this was a lot of people's first fast film

The actors this time around were primarily Lucas Lucas black bow Wow and sung King

The composer was Brian Tyler the stunt coordinator was Terry Leonard and this film's budget was approximately 85 million dollars and it made a hundred and fifty nine million at the box office, which is a far cry from

The like 800 million that fast six made last time

but again we're going back in time here

before the series got really big, so.

- It's interesting to think though,

like that's a six, seven year difference

and we've nearly, like what is it,

four times the money, three times?

- Yeah, well I think we talked about it before

in one of the previous episodes,

but wasn't this movie originally planned

to be like direct to DVD?

- It was, I was gonna bring that,

I was gonna bring it up,

I wanted to talk about that in a minute.

- So \$160 million box office for something

that you originally were planning to just shoot direct to stores on DVD is pretty good.

I gotta imagine that they were pretty happy with that.

Sadly, the critical consensus is a bit different.

Critics on Rotten Tomatoes gave this one, it sits at a 38% overall.

General viewers do like it quite a bit more though at a 69.

Nice.

And it sits at, so viewers like this one a little bit more, which is what I think is going to make for one of the interesting conversation pieces here as we move forward with this episode because our guest this episode is none other than our old friend Michael Ruiz who is here with us now Michael hello hi how are you okay I'm fine yeah I'm good so I mentioned this but this is a fan favorite within the fast franchise and I believe we've had you on this episode because this is the one that you have said is your favorite and it was the one that you wanted to talk about with us correct yeah I I think the last note on my note says I like this is just the like watching it again just made me realize that it is actually still my favorite out of all of them okay and I

And I think the last time I watch like I've seen I think not too long ago. I finally watched 10 the the cino one

Which is nice one I think or 9. Yeah f9 the best f9

So I just watched that one and usually we amber and I my wife will watch him every so often

So yep, this one watch this one with you

She did

Yep, what are her thoughts on it? She likes it

I don't think it's her favorite for sure

especially like those first three

Because they're days especially the first one has not aged well

But I don't think it has at least

But the like a tuna fish sandwich tell me you don't like a bunch of dudes stealing

DVD players out of the back of a truck

I think really out of the first two the only thing that aged well was we hungry and that's about it but

Yeah, I don't know. She probably was also pretty good. That one is pretty good

That that basically Roman Romans. What's a girl Roman Roman his age? Well, yeah Romans Romans good

What are your two I want I want to toss this to both of you guys before I get into my own thoughts on this movie and my own history with this one because I have talked in some of the previous episodes about how I

Did have some expect exposure to this movie of all the movies in the series beforehand, but?

I guess for both of you Mike will just stick with you. What's your general history with this movie?

did you see it in theaters back in the day and

I've already talked about your own thoughts on it, but

What's your own history with the film if you really have one? I kind of do

I just remember watching

so I remember watching these movies with like my dad because my dad was really into cars and stuff and in turn like

At when I was a kid, I was really into cars. I'm not so much into anymore

I think cars are cool or whatever but but this one kind of I guess in a weird way

It's like probably a mixture of this and then playing

Which I guess are two different kinds of cars but like playing like dirt if you guys know that game

Mm-hmm kind of got me more into like why I have like my Mazda or like why I have why I like

like hatchbacks and and more like Japanese style cars and why gravitate towards those like your Subaru

WRX is your your Lancers as well as which is one of the cars in here like

Kind of those things like I definitely gravitate more liking those than like any sort of like

American made card like a Ford or whatever

So I mean in terms of that like I guess this might have been the reason why I kind of like that stuff

But I think I did see this in theaters

I don't remember that at all. Like I probably just went into the theater. I was like, yep

That was a fun movie. It was great. And that's that's about it

I guess me liking this more has come down to I think we've talked on other podcasts on

Like model citizen show or whatever where I have terrible taste in TV shows and movies as of recent

and

Terrible, I think I mean I just like to have fun and I think this one's like a really good example of like

kind of dumb like really dumb but still like I don't know it's got a lot of

heart and still fun to watch and they have like good chase scenes and stuff

and the story there is goofy with the Yakuza and stuff but but uh but uh

otherwise yeah I just think it's it's a it's a fun ride I think the main

character though I don't know like why he was chosen like I don't understand

cowboy yeah there is nothing about him that is like man I like that like I like

that guy not necessarily like it's just I don't know like the look of I don't

want to know he looks like he looks like generic early 2000s of white man yeah

it's just like it's just some guy and I'm like okay I like compared to

compared to the other main protagonists in this series where you have Vin Diesel

who's a big strong muscly man and Paul Walker who's devastatingly good looking

with his blue eyes piercing through your soul this guy's just like very generic

looking yeah it's not even just like other people in the franchise it's like

other people in the movie you know that too in the same movie like you got you've

got wow you got you got Han who ends up being like my personal favorite

I don't know how he dies

I've seen the other ones and I do know he comes back. But uh, just I forgot what the girl's name is

That villain dude like all these people

very good

Like cool-looking people and then you got this one, dude

Like and I think maybe that's the point I guess I don't know makes him seem more like a fish out of water

perhaps yeah I think that's absolutely what they're going for and also like you could be this person like this like an average just some average guy you know so yeah it was good I love this movie Max when did you first see this one what are your thoughts on it did you rent this one at home did your aunt make you have to close your eyes at any of the scenes no torture scenes in this movie so no closing in the eyes I don't remember the first time I saw it it was definitely at home at some point in the intervening years because basically after Too Fast Too Furious I was at some point I'd watch these movies up in order all the way through so I've been on since then but I did end up actually seeing this movie in theaters it just wasn't in 2006 it was in 2021 back when movie theaters were starting to reopen again and they were bringing old movies back and I think in the lead up to Fast 9 they were playing old Fast and Furious movies and so I actually saw this last year in the theaters and it was Abby's first time seeing it which was also pretty fun to see it on the big screen. But this movie is so cool. Just the drifting mentality in Tokyo, it's just all that wrapped up into it makes it such a very cool movie. I always have distinct memories of when I've watched this movie another time was I was watching it on my iPad mini in line at a GameStop waiting to preorder a NES amiibo because that was the day Fast and Furious 7 came out and so I was watching Tokyo Drift before going to see Fast and Furious 7. I just have always loved this movie. It's definitely, you know, like Tokyo are like too fast, too furious.

This one's always cool.

And I feel like this is the one everyone talks about loving a lot.

Like Tokyo Drift has always stood out, especially in the older movies as, "Oh yeah, I watched Tokyo Drift.

Like Tokyo Drift's the cool one."

And I think part of that is because it is set in Japan and it's a fresh slate.

No old school characters.

I also think it's our age group and like the stuff that preceded it because you think about

like this probably and I don't I'm not entirely sure I don't know the timeline but like this is also when Need for Speed the one where good one the good one I can't remember which one it's called it's not carbon I can't remember not most wanted is it carbon is a good one for sure underground underground underground so it's like when that was coming out and the butchers an amazing one with like the tuning and stuff like that or even like the rock star game Midnight Club, that was out too.

I feel like this was coming out around that same time and those had those kind of cars in those games, like Spotlight on those kind of cars.

- Real time follow up, Need for Speed.

This movie came out in 2006, so the need for speed that year was carbon, was 2006, but the year before was Most Wanted.

In 2003 and 2004 were Underground 1 and 2, So it's kind of leading into, but it was that era of Need for Speed where it was good.

'Cause those are all really fairly solid Need for Speed games.

So it was definitely that time.

- It's definitely just like that time.

And so like definitely in our age group would definitely love Tokyo Drift more than, you know.

- We talked about with Fast One how that movie was kind of the precursor to all that stuff happening.

And this movie came out in the midst of all of those games being popular.

And so yeah, that tracks and makes more sense.

- I also think, at least for me and Logan,

Mike, you're a little bit older than us,

but 2006, I was like 12.

Like I think this is a perfect 12 year old movie, kind of.

- Yeah.

- It's like, it's just cool enough.

It's way cooler than you are at 12,

so you're like, this is awesome.

So it definitely was something that grabbed me early on.

- I was in high school.

- Yeah.

- I mean, I don't know, I was pretentious,

So I probably hated it at the time.

I, you know, I was one of the kids that liked, I was like, Oh, Casablanca

is my favorite movie of all time.

And you're telling me too.

So older, younger Mike would not have liked the resident evil saga.

No, he would not have liked the re he would have liked the first movie,

but not the rest of the movies.

Now the fourth movie masterpiece.

Anyway, Logan, do you have any experience with this?

Were all the kids at your school wearing Tokyo Drift shirts?

I don't remember that.

Did your grandpa go see it?

No, my dad watched it.

Check out these Japanese people.

My dad did watch this film and that was my previous exposure to it.

He just randomly watched this at one point.

It's like, "Hey, this movie is good. You should watch it."

And I was like, "Okay."

And then I did, and I remember we had it like DVR'd somehow on like Dish Network.

It was on TV and I DVR'd it at one point and I had watched it that way.

And I re I so re watching it this time though it became apparent that I don't think I ever finished watching it

So I think I saw like two-thirds or three-quarters of this movie, and then I never saw the ending

Because like the ending stuff that happens here. I was like I don't think I remember this

I don't I remembered a lot of the opening parts, but I did not remember the ending

Now that I've seen it though

Complete from front to back as of today because I watched it earlier this morning when I woke up I

Have to say this is one of the worst ones in the series that we've seen so far

Which is why I'm glad that Mike is here because I knew this is gonna be a surprising twist I

Totally thought you were going to love this movie. It's actually like not surprising to be honest. I think that this movie

Well, I thought after too fast I thought like you would be well, here's the problem

So we've said we've kind of set things up this way to where we would watch this

Chronologically and it would come in where it's at. I

feel like partially that his

That has hurt because this movie is

Greatly boring compared to what some of the recent ones we have now seen

and that does not mean and

I beyond that though. I just also don't think it's very good

I have problems with I mean we can get into all this as we move forward

Protagonist is boring. I think the villains boring. I think the chemistry between the two

Lovers at the center of this is very forced and not

Enticing whatsoever. I just I don't know there's a lot of problems I have with this movie

Han is and the other thing too. I think the saving grace would be Han

This was the thing that I guess stood out to me watching this because he's the person that you know in this movie

The way and maybe this is something that Max can speak to since I know him and I have been watching all of them in

This order Mike you probably can't speak to this as much

it was

Apparent to me that this was Han's first movie because it is and he doesn't have all the

idiosyncrasies of the character that he has in later movies he just kind of comes off as

Man in Japan who has a lot of cars and money and now we have the context for how he has all of that

But his character itself doesn't feel very

Developed in this movie yet, and it I feel like he get I feel like some King or what is his name? Yeah?

Yeah, I feel like soon King kind of gets more comfortable in that role in the future movies

And he kind of fits that Han mold better

In this movie. I don't feel like he really

Does yet and that doesn't mean I think his performance is bad, but I feel like his character just

It's clear that this is the first

Introduction of his character even though for us. This is now his fourth appearance

So yeah even the Han stuff I was a little bit

Thrown off with to some degree so interesting

I did like I will say so to talk more about how we have watched these movies

I did enjoy knowing certain things in retrospect like when he's like oh I have money and

There's certain other callbacks like I mentioned before where he's like. This is my Mexico. I'm like oh cool

That's like a cool callback to win

Dom jets off to Mexico at the end of the first film like there's cool callbacks mainly to the original film

one because also

There was really only the original and yes, and then other things they sort of wrote in

Later like it. I guess what?

Here's a good way I could I could

describe it

Something like better call Saul where it incorporates things that were mentioned in

Breaking Bad things will be mentioned things were mentioned in Breaking Bad involving Saul's character

And then they loop those things back in with better call Saul the prequel series, and it's like oh wow

It's almost like they knew ahead of time what they were gonna do with this that doesn't come across

Hear as much to me like it feels like I don't know

I don't know if that makes any sort of sense the comparison

I'm trying to draw here the things like him being like I have money and these like it doesn't feel like

Justin Lin was planning movies down the road like we know how he gets that money and stuff like that like I don't know if that

Makes any sort of sense. I mean just we're just diving right into Han it feels like yeah sure

let's just start with this. To me, I wrote my note down was like Han has a smoothness and

matureness about him that definitely stands out from the rest of the cast. I mean, it makes sense.

Everybody else is high schoolers. We're dealing with high schoolers and when-

High schoolers that have Tobey Maguire syndrome that all look like they're 30.

Yes. So obviously that sets them apart. But then having this weird context of the other movies,

because we're watching them in this order and I've seen them a bunch. It is... I wrote down as like,

we kind of see why Han dives into like just dating a bunch of different women and hanging around and

working with the Yakuza and things like that. It's because Giselle died or died, who knows?

So like I kind of reverse see this push of a life of leisure and abandoned and working and stuff.

But I think the cooler thing is Han takes in Sean and kind of in, he has that whole speech of, you know, I care about character and I want that around me more. And I think that's something that

ties into the whole family vibe before we actually really have fully established Family Family Family

because it's the third movie. So I think that's why Han was so endearing and a fan favorite back

in Tokyo Drift before he makes all these appearances in future movies.

Before he dies two thirds of the way through this movie, which is also something we need to talk

about as well. Well yeah, that's the Letty problem for you, I would think. Same thing now. And so,

It's just, I think that's good. It's not the same connection Dom and Brian have, but

Han carries this film pretty much on his back, along with the setting, I think,

and the style of driving it. The setting is great, yeah. I think Tokyo really carries

the film in a lot of ways. Yeah, so at least that's what I think about Han. It's interesting

to watch all these movies in chronological order now and have a little bit of context for Han in

in that way and I think it reverse explains his actions.

Like before it was just like, I'm a cool guy with money

and I like hanging out with women.

And now you're watching it and going,

he's a chip chewing chameleon man who dated Gal Gadot

and he's sad that she died off an airplane.

- Well see, I guess that's one of the things

I'm talking about that like with Hindsight

or technically Future Sight because all these movies

came out afterward, I don't get the sense in this movie

that his character is living this lifestyle because he's sad or because he's...

I think the Mexico thing is kind of...

A little bit, yeah, to a degree. There's that one scene where he kind of hints to it, but that's about it.

Otherwise, it just... you get the sense that he's doing this stuff because he likes it.

Even when he rips off the yakuza, he's like, "What did you do? Why would you do that?"

And he's like, "Well, that's just the lifestyle we live."

Like, he's just doing these things just because he feels like, "That's what he does.

Yeah, I'm gonna be with a bunch of women. Yeah, I'm gonna get in with all these scuzzy schemes. It doesn't feel like he's

Diving into this stuff as a way to numb the pain of Giselle dying in the previous movie

He's just doing it because yep. This is who I am. This is my personality

This is and I think and I think that's apparent because obviously they didn't know

Three movies down the line when they made this one what his arc would be and so it's it's kind of a way to

Explain why he is this way in Tokyo Drift

But I just don't feel like it works out as good and obviously if they knew what was going to happen in fast six

Further down the line with his character. I think they could have approached some things better in this one

And that's what I'm saying. It doesn't it doesn't feel as cohesive as the example I used before with like a Breaking Bad and a

Better call Saul where it was like wow this feels like one unified thing that they made at the same time

This doesn't feel like that to me. No, it's definitely retroactively

Piece together. Yes. Yeah. Yeah, I mean

Going back to the Han discussion just like I think

They did enough like mystery and allure with him to where if they wanted to go back to it

They could go back to it. I don't think there was anything set in stone of like, oh, yes

They like maybe they had it set in stone. They're like, oh, yeah, I used to chill with Dom and his crew and stuff like that

Maybe that was like the one connective tissue there, but I think other than because obviously the end of the movie

Obviously, yes, but the but other than that, I don't think there was anything their future

I mean, this was a supposedly you said directed movie directed DVD, right?

I mean like where they're even gonna be plans for a fourth movie of like the fifth movie, whatever

I don't know. So I think that I think the franchise was kind of on a movie by movie basis at this point

Yeah, because I mean they I I think they were just playing with the cars that they had dealt and like we're setting things up

if they could but then also ending things if

You know, they couldn't make another one again, though. That's the weird thing about where this falls

I feel like if this was just chronologically the third film and they could have told the story

It's so it's so weird because I just don't feel like this fits into where we're at right now

now. I think there's one thing we haven't said coming off of Fast Six is clearly I

think I said this in our last episode with Mario in Fast and Furious 6 clearly

Justin Lin loves Han and so he did whatever he could to keep Han around in

all of his other movies. Yeah but I also think the crowd reception too is that

like people wanted to see more Han also. People love Han and I so I think they did

whatever they could to keep him in there. About the whole direct to DVD and future

movie things. I found this interview researching this movie to kind of dig into the DVD thing.

There was the universal pictures, co-president of production, Jeffrey, Jeffrey Kirshenbaum

quote, we talk in turn. The talk internally was that the franchise was played out. At

that point we were weighing whether to go straight to video or not for future sequels.

weren't sure what we were going to do." So they talked about, you know, that the

movie attested well Tokyo Drift, but Universal thought, this article says, that the sequel

needed more pop. And so this is the fun twist. So they go to Vin Diesel and they're like,

"Hey, can you like just make a cameo and we'll just see how it goes?" And Vin Diesel

made a trade. Instead of being paid, Vin Diesel's like, "I want to own Riddick." And so Vin

Diesel got the rights to the Chronicles of Riddick to make this 15 second cameo at the end. And apparently the response in the preview test audiences was so "electric." It was like a rock concert, the audience went ballistic. And so it was actually then that they thought we need a reboot with the original cast and that's what creates Fast and Furious and launches it into everything was this one cameo, this one trade for the Chronicles of Riddick, which pivoted it from direct to DVD to we'll put this in movie theaters was Vin Diesel's 15 seconds.

What a negotiation on Vince part. Hey, can you make can you make a 15-second cameo? I don't know

Can you give me the rights to an entire film franchise?

You don't have to pay me

That's pretty funny on his part, yeah

There's a lot of avenues we could go with the discussion on this one. I'm trying

Mike you're is there anything here that stood out to you is the person who likes this movie them

I guess let's go to that before because I don't want this episode to be a list of things that I kind of have a problem

with

Necessarily because that's kind of what a lot of my notes are again. I want to stress. I don't hate the film

I think it just is

There's nothing

Special that I really like outside of the location

I like I do like the focus on drifting but even at even that I feel like

I was gonna say I I think it's pretty

crazy or

unique that

They based this entire movie on like a car maneuver like the entirety of like the driving style

It's just like it's the only one that's like that. None of the other ones are technically like that

I mean like street racing street racing, but you could do that with it like

This like I like that too. You pop you like popularized drifting like put it in like everybody's ever

And it's so over the top too like the funniest scene in this movie is where

Sean and is it Nila you said right? Yeah. Yeah there when he's like, oh, I've never seen you drift before and she's like

That's cuz you never asked and then the next is them going through that going through the hills and it's just like

Six or seven cars just all drifting in unison. I'm like, okay

This is real goofy and dumb and they're like just drifting through all the streets together as like a big unit

like it's so silly looking I think that's like and again this is coming

back to like the kind of stuff that I like now I think that's like kind of the

reasons why I like that scene is like one of the reasons why I love it like

love this movie is just that it's just like it's just corny good like fun

family movie like our family like what is a family but like like as opposed to

to like the crazy action stuff that it is now

or even like in the other two it's like

cars and what is it called, point break with cars

or whatever.

- Yeah.

- It's you know like, I think I preferred this like goofy

just like kid who gets in trouble and has to go across

the country or across the world in order to escape trouble

to then just get into more trouble.

It's just like kind of goofy and weird and

I don't know, it's definitely one of the weird,

it's the weird one out of all of them,

but I think it has, with Han too,

Han is, I mean we already talked about that I guess,

but I feel like his character really,

I don't know, he does put the whole film on his shoulders

and stuff like that, it's super good, I don't know.

- Well let's talk about Sean,

'cause I think that's where a lot of my problems come from.

I think on paper the idea of, yeah,

this American kid having to go to Japan

because he's a street racer and he's getting having to move from everywhere

he's ever been in he's getting pretty early in trouble I think that's a good

fine plot I don't have problems with the broad story beat to this movie Sean

though and his portrayal and how he's characterized in this film he's just

greatly uninteresting yeah he is not an enjoyable character to follow for the

runtime of this film. I like Sean. Why do you like Sean? Let's hear it from you then.

I find just the simple nature of that premise of high schooler in trouble has

to go to Japan for whatever I find that endearing and I find like his few

character qualities of he always stands up for himself and which gets him either

into trouble or and by the end of the film so he can stand up and do what is

right. I enjoy that. It's very simple, right? The premise is boy in trouble learns how to become a

responsible young man. Like, it's super simple. I just enjoy that. And I think him being so bold
as

to like challenge DK to a race without even having a car available to him. Like, I just think those

kind of character traits are nice and fun. And I think his delivery is just that right level of

cocky southern boy

Energy and yeah putting that in Tokyo. I think is a good juxtaposition. That's why they

Wrote it this way, you know fish out of water. Mm-hmm

I just find it he connects with all the characters well, too. I think he's a good enough

He's a moldable piece and fits wherever he needs to go

yeah, I think I mean

this I Sean is like the

One thing that I probably like dislike about the movie. I don't like him as like actually my last note here

I put definitely still fit my favorite movie from what I can remember even if the lead is forgettable

I actually don't remember his name

Cuz I didn't remember his name until you guys just started talking about him during this podcast

but like every other character like even

Like DK like I think is way more

Like of an attractive character like see his story of like oh, it's just I mean you wonder like why he is

The way is because he's like running things with his uncle with the Yakuza and like why is he doing that? It's like his dad

died or whatever and

Like that stuff is way more interesting and figuring out like his character and why he is the way is is way more

Interesting than anything that I feel like Shawn does because Shawn is just a punk kid

Who can't get who just gets into trouble all the time and then randomly is just like oh my friend died

I'm gonna do the right thing finally because somebody died like it's like I don't know

It's it's just kind of like I don't know what Shawn's arc is in this room

Yeah, his art is his art is that his arc is that by the end of the movie?

Rather than getting in trouble. He just decides to face up rather than leave but in

The previous instances where he left the in where where he left when he got in trouble

He was more having to leave because his mom was kind of forcing him to so it's not even this issue where he's not been

Standing up for in certain situations because he doesn't want to it's just because he's not had a say in the matter

And now this time he's like I'll stand up for this in this situation at Grady and I'll race this man

With my newfound drifting powers and then he just wins the race and that's kind of just it

Well, he makes that he makes that jab at his dad about how his dad ran away

And so he clearly has a beef with his parents separating which then causes him to be a rambunctious youth and caused to get into big

Enough trouble. That's that's the other thing too too many cliches with his character his art

Yeah, like oh my dad. I don't I didn't have a dad growing up

He ran off and now I'm this rambunctious teenager and so that's one art

That's one character art for him

And then he's got young fish out of water doesn't know like I feel like we've seen broad strokes of this movie in

So many other things like it's like the karate kid with cars basically like oh, I don't know karate

I gotta fight the bullies, but then I will be trained by a

man

And then it's trained in the art of drifting and then he faces the bad boy again

And then he beats him and it's it's the it's a very played out kind of arc in that sense

This is the most this is the most formulaic fast and furious movie. I would say by far. It's certainly the lowest stakes

That too. Yeah, I don't

formulaic I mean

I think the first one and the second one are also fairly the first one's different when they

In the sense that I mean it's kind of cliché that he lets him go at the end and we're friends now

but it I mean no I mean the first ones totally it's the whole like cop goes undercover and

Yeah, this what it's like yeah, but then they jump in front of a train for some reason and he wrecks

Yeah, but back to Sean really quick. You know I think

He clearly acts out as an act of rebellion and just gets tossed around wherever he goes

That's what he does, and I think him actually challenging DK kind of shows he makes this

Line I want to say it's to bow out to Twinkie. We keep going about but to Twinkie

He's like I'm not gonna be here long enough for you to remember my name or to remember your name

Like he clearly plans on just getting in trouble and getting out of here and the first thing he does

When he's there first night or first night of school or whatever is goes out and street rates stays late

Like he's ready to just quit he's given up on himself and his family in this situation

and I think his arc is eventually learning family, you know, standing up for

people and yourself and facing people, bullies in your life and yes super

clichéd just a classic you know story that all the movies karate kid so on and

so forth but I think he's I think his arc is a bit more than just mom made me

move with my dad who I don't have a relationship with but him and his dad

have that whole forced again cliché just I'll stand up with you son and you gotta

let me face this myself I don't like I don't like his dad I don't like his dad

too I do here's the thing the one reason why I didn't like his dad is because

this his child all right you're telling me that okay max you're you're gonna

have a child all right and then you're gonna they're gonna grow up they're

gonna be a punk kid just like this kid and you're gonna be split up with Abby

you're gonna be in Japan you know you're in the Navy she you know all this stuff

right prostitutes will come out of your house when your son gets in there all

that kind of stuff all right so your kid is a butthead all right your kid is a

butthead and he like he does all this garbage and gets in trouble still in

Tokyo and then you tell him you can't do this you're gonna go to jail but then

through that trouble he gets in trouble with the Yakuza which is a way bigger

problem than anything else that he is doing and then he goes back and like I

gotta do this I gotta fight the Yakuza and then his dad's like okay his plan

for a resolution. It's no I love it. He's like I will go to the MIT

I will go to with a Yakuza and say let's race like that is that so fast and furious

That is great. I love that. That is great. It's the it's just the dad character just being like, oh, yeah

Yeah, you could just go on ahead into gang territory and maybe get yourself killed

It just like as long as he doesn't have to leave Japan and get kicked out and go somewhere
If he dies, okay, that's fine. You just can't leave here.

Yeah, while cliched, I think Sean, you know, I think he works. At least for me.

And maybe that's some rose-tinted glasses also kind of coming into this,
but I don't have a big beef with Sean. I enjoy him enough.

I just think there's tidbits from other characters that I feel like are more
interesting than what Sean has. Even like Neila being like the outsider and having
to grow up in Japan or what yeah like I feel like that's even more like I would
rather invest my time in a story like that I want to talk about I want to talk
about Nila let's get into her here first before we do I want to say one final
thing on Sean and don't don't tell me Mike I don't know if Sean appears in the
other movies and that's something I'm greatly looking forward to finding out
that is one thing I do not know and I'm very interested in seeing if he pops up
again I assume he will but I don't know for certain so Mike Logan had the same
thing about Eva Mendez from too fast too furious he's like does she show back up
I don't know if any I don't know if anybody in this these movies shows back
up again I assume they have to because Vin Diesel shows up in Japan cuz his boy
got killed in a street in an accident which is all of a sudden now accident

Yeah, which we have to we have to talk about that specifically. Well, let's talk about needle real
fast

let's let's talk about Neila because I I

Think her character is largely fine in this movie. I again

I don't think there's any chemistry whatsoever between her and Sean and so I think them being
I feel like it almost would have been better

if they were put together just as like

friends rather than trying to make them feel like they're coming together is like

Like falling for each other in some sort of way because I don't get any sort of chemistry on that
level between them

I I mean I kind of do in a weird way. Like I don't know. I also think it's just there

like that relationship is just there to stir the pot with

DK we're like, you know Han says that you know, you're his kryptonite, you know, but that's the other thing

I don't understand it. It's never really shown in these movies that

She likes him like why is she with him like?

With DK. Yeah, because the whole movie she's kind of like poorly about him and is like no stay away from him

He's a bad man. Don't go near him blah blah blah like there's never any instances where you see her actually being with him that she's

Like yeah, this is my boyfriend or whatever and I like this guy. It's just a relationship and control

I think yeah, I think they also kind of mentioned it where like she like her family

Like knows each other his grandmother has a great start. Yeah. Yeah something like that and they probably just grew up

dating out of obligation

Yeah, yeah, okay security and stuff

I think if if anything is cliched in this movie and a lot of stuff is I think their relationship

Sean and Nila I think is the most

Cliche of it is just the foreigner, you know falls in love with the the girl in in class

out of it I mean I like Nila's character I think she's you know she's cool I like

Nila dope and she's also a capable driver and all that stuff but beyond

that I also like that all these races like one of the things that you win is a

girl yeah that's what the two major races in this movie outside of the first

one where he's just crashing into everything. Winner gets me. Yeah the first

race he's in and the final race he's in, winner gets the girl essentially. Well the

final race wasn't the stakes were not winner gets Nila the stakes were... Sort of.

I mean that wasn't specific. Stakes where loser leaves town. Yeah but I mean the implication is

that she's gonna have to if I if I should also say this I don't call this

man DK I call him Asian Justin Timberlake because that's what you

call them quote you're like the Justin Timberlake of Japan

yep JT of Japan I got that right that's a that's a that's a line I wrote down so I just called this man just Justin Timberlake the whole movie anyway so yeah the I don't know the implication is that if Justin Timberlake wins the race then she's gonna have to stick around him and stay with him like she shows up to the race in Yakuza Man's car does she not? I think she gets out of his car there. No I don't believe so. No well maybe not but she's hanging around them the whole time anyway yeah they kind of are racing. She was at the bar where he proposed the race. But that was after she went with DK to save Sean from being shot in the street. That's true yeah that's true. Let's talk about I mean while we're just talking about characters I think the only other one to really bring up here would be Bow Wow Twinkie Twinkie and there's not a whole lot to say I like him I love I will say I love that they I just love that they come up with these characters and they're like hey I have an idea for kickin like cool what hip hop star would you like to play this character cuz we're now we now got Bow Wow Tyrese we've got Ludacris and we've got Ja Rule and then you've said that the two guys whose names we always forget from Fast Five and-

>>

Yeah, they're musicians as well. Like this is like a core staple of Fast and Furious for better or worse, honestly. Like, you come up with a character, there's like a 50% chance they might be a musician that you're looking to cast in that role. So, maybe we could get real Justin Timberlake in Fast X or something.

Was this made during when Bow Wow was really big?

Or was it the tail end of it?

What are we calling really big Bow Wow?

I think like Mike is really big.

So like Mike would have been like five or six years before this?

Did he not have a TV show too?

Am I crazy?

I think Lil Romeo did.

So Bow Wow was in...

I think Little Romeo had a show on, like Mike was 2002 and Tokyo Drift was 2006, so Four Year Gap.

Okay, yeah.

So it was when he was kind of big and relevant.

I mean I definitely knew Bow Wow from like Mike, like 100%.

I mean I owned some of his albums as a youngster.

I watched like Mike a lot.

That basketball song, listen to that one a lot.

There was, um, I'm, you know, Logan, I thought you would really connect with Twinkie.

He was selling Jordans.

There was that Jordan scene.

He was like, "I got Jordans, they ain't even out yet."

Okay, okay, I'm glad you asked this.

So when he said, "I got Jordans here," and he held those up, I was like, "What the heck are those?"

I've never seen those in my entire life."

And this is probably a continuity error, almost a thousand percent.

Is that, when does this movie, when does this movie take place, Max?

Like chronologically in the timeline.

Let me pull it up.

Pull it up.

Because when he pulls the, this is again, pulling me out of the movie Justin Lin.

This movie doesn't take place after Fast Six.

Don't lie to me.

The shoes were with everything.

You got the flip phones, you got these Jordans.

He pulls out the Jordans and as the person who knows Jordans, I was like, I've never seen these before in my entire life.

What the heck shoe is this?

Is this even a real shoe?

And of course I look up Tokyo Drift Jordans and it pulls them up.

It is the red suede Air Jordan 21.

They retail for nearly 1k at resale.

When did those shoes come out though?

So they would have been, he says in the movie, these are the new model.

Not even LeBron James has got these.

These are new.

So Air Jordan 21s would have come out that year because I believe we're on Air Jordan 35 or 36 right now.

And so this movie came out 16 years ago, so yeah, that tracks.

Actually the 37 might be this year.

So don't worry about it.

So what he really had there was whatever the exclusive shoe that LeBron James could not get in 2014.

Yeah, no.

Those shoes would have been almost 10 years old by that time.

And he's like, "Not even LeBron can get these."

Okay.

But also they fought over an iPod, you know?

Yeah.

I...yeah.

Yeah, that too.

Yeah. All these things ripped me out.

Oh, come on, man.

You didn't like them fighting over the iPod? That was amazing.

No, I like that. No, this is what I would like to say, is again, similar to the same things I liked from Fast 1 and 2 Fast, is I like the early 2000s vibe of this movie.

The problem is, is I'm trying to suspend my disbelief and remember that this comes after Fast 6, which it doesn't. Don't tell me that.

I like that his suspension of disbelief breaks when he has to believe that this takes place after six.

We're watching them in chronological order!

Not when they're doing all the stuff in six, you know, they're uh...

I'm trying to remember the stunts in six, I don't want to say they're on one.

Planes. The plane. The tank.

Yeah, he doesn't have to suspend disbelief for that, but by god we've got flip phones and iPods in its 2014.

Vin Diesel tackles a woman across a bridge and lands on a car that's real to me

But when they all have flip phones and it's 2014 you're ripping me out of the cinematic experience

I mean, I feel like it's less of like is this set in

2014 or whatever and rather that the other movie is set in

2006 and maybe they just fucked up during that time and not this well this movie was filmed in

2006 there are 2004 2005 2006 but retroactively they've made it come after

Fast four five and six and they've said that it takes place in 2014

Chronologically, it's like no it doesn't look at everything in this movie. Yeah

Clearly film this movie ten years before 2014 and what do you know? What do you gotta do?

Which again it's a dumb thing to get hung up on I'm not actually hung up on it, but it is very again. It's very silly

Yeah, I mean that was one of the things I wrote down.

The vibe, look, and fashion styles of people in this movie suggest that it should definitely not take place after Fast Six.

But I did write after that.

But I do like being back in an early 2000s time period again.

This is nice.

Nice.

One of my first notes.

We back in the early aughts, baby.

Like let's go.

Yeah, and then I wrote about the Jordans.

I mean, while we're just talking about random one-off things, we'll get back to some sort of structure here in a second. One of my early notes when I was watching I wrote, "How can you send someone to a new school in a foreign country and expect them to learn literally anything when they don't know the language?" Like the core plot of this movie is like, this kid is going to go to juvie, we'll send him to another country where he learns, and then he sits down in, I don't know, history class and the lady's speaking Japanese and he doesn't know what she's saying or writing on the board. How does he learn? Why does He do his homework. How does any of this work? I don't understand does it make sense?

I like this is

Logan's not gonna have a single issue with the rest of the series, but my god this whole movie is

Suspension of disability I do want to say one of my other notes in this kind of gets back to Twinkie here

And then we'll get back on him if there's anything else we want to say I wrote I wrote down

This is why Mike likes this film. There's a Hulk car. There is a home. I wrote a note here. It says

Hulk car is good. I wrote a Hulk car baby and actually so that car used to be on

display down here in Florida at Universal Islands of Adventure by the

whole Corolla coaster so I've seen that car in person super fun and cool I I

love the reveal of that car the elevator thing cycling all these fancy looking cars Bala standing there getting all giddy and then what is the song I want say this is probably wrong. I always think it's Family Force 5, but I don't think it is. But that song comes on and it's just like, "Ah, yes. This is my kind of car reveal. I love the Hulk car with the purple carpet and the Hulk decals and the fists and stuff."

The arms.

Yeah, it's so good.

Also, I thought it was dented in at first. I was like, "Why has this man got dents all over his his car and I was like oh wait that's jutting out not in it's pretty it's pretty wild how many like Hulk things are in this because there's one point two where like they're practicing drifting and Han is reading like an old incredible Hulk comic book yeah it's really weird I was like what so wonder when that all the men are fishing yes that was that would have come out like 2002 or three yeah I think I'll just say if anything it might have been

Almost the same year that the Incredible Hulk movie came out

Like no, that would have been that was after iron land that Iron Man was out. Yeah a I think it was oh, oh was it

Yeah, man. This is 2008. They were this they were only like a month or two apart Hulk and Iron Man. Yeah

Yeah, one more thing while we're talking about the general era of this film, too

one thing I also wrote down that I just have to call out and we could talk more about the music here because you talked

about the song that kicks on when you first get to the when they first get to

the drifting parking garage I love the opening race of the film too with I

think it's clay and I wrote the thing I wrote is Kid Rock music baby we're back

in the 2000s ball with the ball while they're racing through this neighborhood

I also wrote a note about that I wrote Kid Rock during the race is quote

quote-unquote chef's kiss

By by far what is hilarious about it is that there's a moment where you think like oh they could probably end this scene right now

And then they just played the entire song

Just keeps going on and on you're like dang. They're really yeah, and the whole kid what kid rock song here

Yeah, that was great

That was probably the best use of racing and then the song choice is the best combo for sure

They use it all in the beginning we need to talk about Han again

And we need to talk about him dying dying in a fiery blaze

And this is going to incorporate some things again. I feel like I feel like Mike's here in an episode

That's weird because this has so much this episode

I feel like before some of the other ones we've done has so much to do with what's come before

At least with my own reactions and responses to what we have seen in this picture

I do think so obviously fast six ends with them drifting through the streets and that was cool to see and

The thing that was very cool about that for me is when that scene was happening. I was like this looks very familiar

I think I've seen this before and then he ended the movie. Okay. No in

In the middle of the movie when they're running away from the Yakuza

When they're running away from yeah, I said in Furious 6. Yeah fast six at the end of the minute

Yes, when it cuts to Japan at the post there in the shibuya crossing. Yeah. Yes. Yeah that whole scene

I was when that scene happened again in this I was like, wait a minute. I think this looks familiar

I think I have maybe seen this before because it's not a one-to-one but it's it's pretty close obviously

And I was like this is this what this is or is this gun is he about to wreck and die and then sure enough

enough he wrecks and blows up I was like okay wow they really did that in the

middle of this movie so I totally didn't remember that that was a thing when I

had watched this the previous time I just I don't know okay let me say this even aside from the fact that they later make it toward Jason Statham is the man who kills him so I think Hans death in this movie is very out of nowhere because that I don't think I feel like I feel like if the Yakuza would have killed him like that would have almost made more sense like it would have raised the stakes that much or maybe not the Yakuza I when I say Yakuza I guess I'm just applying that to DK and his boys too because they're like Yakuza light essentially if they would have been the ones that cause him to wreck or have been the ones that made him they do the person that hits him he just turns a corner and then a car hits him right yeah but it's yeah but I mean I happened because they handed the garage and I'm saying I'm saying if they would have spun him out or if they would have if they would have explicitly ran him off the road in some sort of way rather than a stray car coming out of nowhere and blasting into him then that would have almost been a better death just looking at this movie on its own because that would have raised the stakes then I think for Shawn and Neela and all the rest of them like holy crap we're really dealing with some rough people. They just killed our friend, holy crap. Instead it takes the, it took the power out of it for me again and I was trying not to imagine this Jason Statham being the one who kills him even though it is eventually. That's all retroactive. So the way I was trying to view it was that it really was just a random stray car that hit him and then he flipped over and he blew up and he died. But even in that sense it mainly just makes it feel like he just yeah just out of nowhere just boom blows up he's out of the movie now totally disagree yeah I kind of disagree on that I mean like if you're in a car chase and like they are the ones who are chasing you and they make you go into this road and then a random car hits you while you're doing that like I feel like that is entirely his fault that is definitely the death that you mean it's

the people's chasing him's fault like he wouldn't have done that if he wasn't

mean chase is what you're saying. No one's drifting through Shibuya.

So I think actually having him, so at the time, 2006, you know, pre-Jason Statham,

I think having Han crash into a stranger actually makes it more real for Sean,

Nila, because they're running away from DK, this problem. And that's what Sean's done his whole

whole life is run away from problems and just start all over. And having it just come out

of the blue and take away this father figure, this friend for them, you know, you don't

know when you're going to go kind of mentality. And that's when Sean bucks up. And again,

that's friend dies cliché, like, now I have to stand up and face the bully. But that's

the turning point for Sean of realizing I can't run away from my problems. I have to

stand up to them and face them and not only not face them with violence, which is clearly

what DK does, and DK's level of maturity stays the same of pretending, you know, want to

be Yakuza and, you know, trying to please his uncle. But Sean going and facing, returning

the money or, you know, returning what was already yours and taking responsibilities

for his actions, it's a whole pivot out of this whole high school, I'm a punk mentality

to, I'm a man and I'll face my problems. And I think that's pretty good. And I think if

you just had DK like ram him off the road, or another guy just come up and shoot him

or whatever, then it's just like, DK's the bad guy.

Well, I feel like it would have created a bigger, larger stakes in that final scene.

Like as it is-

I think the stakes were as high as they could have gone.

DK doesn't feel like a great compelling antagonist because his whole anger stems from the fact that Han was screwing him over.

So once Han's dead it's like, well he really has no lingering anger with Han about that

I guess.

It's not because Han was screwing him over, it's because he was embarrassed by his uncle and someone made a fool of him.

Well sure, but Han dying kind of ends all that.

So then what's his main beef with Sean?

It's "Stay away from my high school girlfriend, sir!"

But again, embarrassed him in front of everybody type of mentality.

showing him up and stepping in. I'll say this too. I mean, if it was just this,

like DK just rams Han off the thing. I feel like you would also say that it's

just some like cliché thing too. And that Logan, if DK just like went out and killed

him, that would be the same problem you've had with 2 Fast and 5 of we have

to make him as, you know, this is where we escalate and make him, how evil is he?

Really, DK's not evil, he's just a whiny punk kid.

Yeah, he's just as much of a punk kid as the main character.

No, that's a good point.

That's a good point.

But then retroactively, Jason Statham is awesome.

Now we have to talk about the other angle of this, though.

What?

So this is the great-

Beautiful? I don't know what you mean.

Yeah, this is the great part about this being retroactive, because

Because watching these movies in release order, being in that theater, you're just, The Rock's

been in two movies at this point, like the series has transformed, and you just see Jason

Statham get out of a car, threaten Dominic Toretto, throw the cross and blow up the car.

You're like, "Yes!

This is the coolest, most awesome thing that Fast and Furious has done at this point.

They're gonna fight Jason Statham now.

Like, let's go."

I like that they're gonna fight Jason Statham, but retroactively changing the events of this

point in the movie I am not so sure about.

No, it's great.

It's amazing.

It's amazing.

What they could have done is they could have cut to, I don't know, where were they in Fast Five?

Brazil?

To the inside of a casino and he offs the two guys that nobody cares about?

And then he calls Tom?

Like that would have at least made sense.

Like for me to have seen Fast Six and how that ends and then for me to jump into this and I'm supposed to believe that this stray car that just all of a sudden he turns a corner, blam!

How is Jason Statham there?

How did he know that he was going to come down that street?

How did he know they were running from the Yakuza?

You're gonna find out!

You're gonna find out!

You gotta watch Seven!

Apparently.

And this is, and again I didn't want to get too deep into this because obviously I do do have to watch Seven.

But even Dom's appearance at the end of the movie was a little bit odd for me because clearly, well for me, the reason in my mind Dom is there at the end of this movie is because Han's dead so he's going to Japan now to kind of figure out what happened and like his friend died so he's going there.

He's clearly only in Tokyo because Han died and what's the first thing he does?

He's like, "Hey, I'm just gonna go race some boys."

Like, I'm like, "Dom, shouldn't you be trying to..."

I mean, and again, I'll say this.

I feel like that's gonna be a scene in Fast 7, that race.

The race that that movie ends on,

I feel like will be a scene in Fast 7

and they'll explain why he goes there to race him

and those sorts of things.

I feel like that stuff is going to be explained.

So my questions aren't really...

- Yeah.

My complaints per se are just with what I've seen up until this point and obviously all of this can change after we watch the next one.

I hate how you guys are watching this movie series.

It's been really fun.

I do think- I think for you Max it's fun but for Logan, this is your time watching all of these is wild.

I think this is wrong.

Max has told me that he thinks this is a good way for me to watch it.

I will personally speak up and say I don't know about that.

Stop when we were planning this season you wanted to watch him like this. No, that's not what I'm saying

My point is I'm saying if this was a first-time viewership day

I think I would have had a bigger mark-out moment if if we watch seven and then I saw Jason Statham's introduction and realized

Retroactively, that's what they're doing

I would be like, whoa

But now I have to watch this movie knowing that when he just gets blasted by a car out of nowhere

I'm supposed to be like, "Oh, that's Jason Statham right there."

You're in the right there.

I like watching it in this order simply because of this type of discussion that it's created and watching you, basically subjecting you to an odd thing.

It would be like if you had sat someone down who's never seen anything from Breaking Brad to bring that back in and you're like, "Here, we're going to start with Better Call Saul and then we're going to watch Breaking Bad and then El Camino."

That's not how you should watch all of that, but it would be interesting.

I'm basically performing an experiment on you.

I think it, I do think it is, it's messing with my head more and it's making me that much more...

Well from here on out everything's in order.

Yes.

Hobbs and Shaw is kind of...

So you'll have a natural progression for the end.

Oh, you guys are watching Hobbs and Shaw too.

Heck yeah, dude.

Absolutely.

We got Jason Sait, the Black Superman Idris Elba in this film.

That's who you should have gotten Mario for that one because he has things to say about that movie.

So does Ricky.

They both said no to Hobbs and Shaw.

The universal champions in that film.

We have to acknowledge his presence.

That's true.

Yeah.

That's true.

I don't know if there's anything else I have to say about that.

Just the way we watched it to make this clarity max.

It's not bad but it very much is like.

It is not the- It's rolling me off greatly at this point in time.

And from here on out it will obviously be very straightforward and yeah.

But coming back to this has been jarring to say the least.

And I do think it has hurt my appreciation for this film just a bit.

I think we would have watched Too Fast and then I would have watched this.

I still would have been used to this you know early 2000s era of Fast and Furious movies.

Don't ramp my expectations up too much.

But you gotta think, for me, I have watched the first one,

I was like, okay, that's pretty good, too fast.

It's like, okay, not bad either.

And then since then, it's just been this slow ramp up

to where everybody's like, you're gonna get to the good ones.

The good ones are coming, yo.

And so now we've reached the crescendo with fast five,

and I like fast six. - I think you've reached

the peak now, it's all downhill from here, baby.

(laughing)

Not really.

- I think it's five that I don't like.

- You don't like Brazil?

- I don't remember.

- The highest?

one of them it's either four or five that I don't work it's gotta be four it might be I only I always like mix them up because I can never remember cuz I always I've thrown with the rock in it for the first time five zone with the rock in it for the first time and this is they drag a safe around and well it's not police yeah so it's four okay yeah it's definitely for almost a sure bullet there I don't know if you knew this six is the best one though six Six is really good. So far. There's a tank in that one. Six is a really good film. I want to use Jason Statham in this whole on death. I want to use that as a pivot point. I think is a good one for the driving in the movie, the stunts and stuff and starting with the Shibuya crossing, drifting through Shibuya. Not real, but it is one of the best and most iconic shots probably that fast and furious has ever produced. How'd those people get out of the way so fast. How did they do it? I think that whole chase is just super-

That chase is-

It's great.

I think I like some of the earlier Fast and Furious stuff, and I guess watching this proved it too, is because it feels a little bit more like an actual car chase and not the craziest action scene you'll ever see in your life. You don't really get car chases like that.

I mean like that is with actual real cars except for the one thing or whatever.

Whereas like a lot of the stuff that comes out later four, five, six, whatever and onward is a lot of CGI stuff, you know. So it is cool to see like cars actually moving and doing the racing and stuff like that. And I think this one has like one of the better ones for sure out of the first three and I know we mentioned it earlier but I think using the style of driving drifting as the kind of crux of the whole movie yeah keeps it very simple very stylish you always it always looks cool you know even when they're learning to do it or racing in the parking garages so I think that is a really solid anchor for the the style of stunts and driving for the whole movie it's it's awesome man like drifting is cool that scene where they come up the

elevator and it's like what's drifting and that you they just show you with the the one shot it's like that's all yeah he's like he's need dictionary and then the whole quick lesson in it it's just that's a great scene to teach the audience what you're gonna be watching for the next 90 minutes yeah one of the things I like in the first race too is that they don't just show the card doing

Drifting they cut to the inside

there's a couple camera shots inside the car that shows DK like throttling the Gas in certain ways and changing gears and stuff like that and like you can tell that he's really interacting with his car a ton to make that happen which is

What you have to do in order to drift like that and it's not just this like magical thing where it's like you turn the

Wheel and look at the cars going like or you got a button and you press it you go fast

Yeah, they're actually kind of showing what they have to do in order to drift like that which is

Yeah, I mean there's been a lot of inside camera shots in all of these movies

So it's always been consistent in that manner

So it's not that I wouldn't have expected them to show those things, but it makes it that much more

Grounded in a movie series that is largely not grounded at all. So I

Think you know, I think in a way too, I guess how it makes it

The film itself is just more relatable is that aspect of like this new kid is learning

What drifting is and you as an audience like probably at the time like a lot of people were like oh?

What is drifting or whatever and then they're learning it right there with the main character?

So it makes it a little bit more like you could connect with those

Characters in that way because you are learning with them

I guess in a way I could see that being like why some people like gravitated towards it a lot more I

What do you guys think about all of the different scenes in this movie broadly because it is getting away from you know?

You and I max have obviously come off a fast six year which is

Tanks and planes and all sorts of other things this gets back to the street

to the roots of street racing so all of the action scenes per se are just races whether it be the opening race with the

High school jock dude or the first drifting race and then mainly the Indian one and then the other one were Honda's

Those are the four big ones I can think of

yeah, and obviously they incorporate drifting in other ways throughout the film as well, but

Do you guys have a favorite of those?

Four I guess I think that first like I like the races that are like actually in that parking garage

I think that's like a cool like

Yeah, that location for the race and like kind of really exemplifying like how

Crazy it is to like do these maneuvers is like kind of a cool and interesting thing. Obviously

The car chase where Han dies is also amazing. Yeah, I think that's probably the best one and

then I probably like that first race in Tokyo and then probably the very last one for the

For the movie those are those are the same two. I like as well

I don't care for the final race all that much. It's fine. It feels like a parent to like, okay

Well, Sean's gonna win this they already raced before any loss. So here's his come up and it's like it just yeah stakes feel very

Low, like it's apparent that he's going to win and what's on the line isn't anything. It's it's not even that drastic

it's like okay, well if he loses he just has to leave town, which is I

I mean, I get that the whole crux of the movie is that you have nowhere else to go, but I

didn't, I did misspeak on that.

The first race is my third favorite because with the kid rock and stuff, and also like

it is a much more like that is a much more suspenseful race because they are actually

like neck and neck for the most part.

And it kind of shows his destructive way of driving and how he drives.

And he's racing a Viper in his crap mobile.

But yeah, and he should not win the race because of that alone.

So, but yeah.

- I, the final race, the one part of it,
'cause you're right, Logan, the stakes don't feel right
because you know he's gonna win.

It's almost like a boxing movie or a sport movie.

Like you know the main character's going to win.

But the one thing I do love is how he fuses his love
of muscle cars and his new skill and appreciation
for tuning and drifting and stuff.

They take Han's car motor and put it inside the Mustang, which kind of brings Han into
the race in a way, like that spiritual kind of sense.

Like, Han's with you, even though he just died earlier in the movie.

So I like that.

It's a good fusion of also Dom and Brian in a way, because Brian's always in the tuners
and stuff, and then Dom always is a muscle.

So it's a good...

I like that.

my favorite part of the final race. But the chase through Shibuya and the parking garage race.

Because the parking garage just is naturally confined and it's all drifting.

It's a different type of street race that we've seen compared to all the other movies too.

It's very unique.

Yeah. And it has a comedic element to it because the one time we're doing it,
watching the whole race, there's another race later where Sean wins. But that one race we see
from start to finish, Sean's losing very terribly because he doesn't know how to drift. So there's
a comedic element when he comes up to the roof of the garage and the Mona Lisa of drifting is
in

shambles. So that, and then to use parts from the Mona Lisa at the end when he's the new drift king,

it's actually, you know, again, cliché poetic, but it's nice. And it's fun to have the street race have humor to it outside of "Monica!" or "Now watch this!" and then a bridge lifts up, you know? Yes. It's good storytelling, I think, to have it be like that. I think we've naturally touched on a lot of other things. There are some stray points I would like to bring up before we kind of funnel into the end of this episode here. I like the subtle callbacks to him looking to beat people are not callbacks i like the uh...

i think he tries to be people with wrenches sort of at the start of the movie really sits presented like that because you know that that's alluding to dom

yeah that's very cool there's some a lot of subtle callbacks like that to the o_j_ fast and furious movie

like that and throughout this entire film the wrenches one thing uh... which you wouldn't

really pick up on i guess unless you had seen the original film uh...

But that's a cool, it's almost presented in such a way that he's going to beat somebody up with a wrench

And then that's what's going to send him to Tokyo, but that obviously does not happen

The "You owe me a car" line showing up again too happens at one point

And I like that that kind of makes Han and Sean's relationship in this film

The roots of their relationship start in the same way as Brian and Dom's relationship

Which I do like between the two of them

Like you guys mentioned that Han carries the movie

They tried him they try to make the dynamics between Han and Sean the same as Brian and Dom and it all starts with

Han saying that this kid owes him a car now because he wrecked his other one that he let him drive and so I like

That similarity between them one other thing I have to throw out there
Which I thought was the most bizarre thing in this entire movie
And I didn't see anybody else mention it on the internet when I looked it up
And this is just of the era. This is gonna be another beard thing. No, no. No, this is a deep cut
This is a deep cut sort of thing that you would be like a little dull Logan
Of course would bring that up in the shot where he goes to
Hans garage for the first time and he sees everything that Hans owns all the cut
All the cars that Han owns and it pans over them
There's one car in his garage that has a g4 decal on it
Yes, which is so I saw that bizarre
And I looked this up and I was trying to figure out how that happened or why and no no
explanation
We just did g4 ever like sponsor races
No, nothing like that. No, they've never done. It just must have been just like a subtle the
Easter egg shout out to
That TV network which has now been revived so weird
I thought maybe they've like sponsored or like sponsor racers or something like that at one
point
Like during that time period but I don't know not to my knowledge. Yeah, those are the couple
of
Fun things I wanted to throw in there to go along with the Jordan discussion, which we already
had as well
Anyway, we've talked a lot about the stunts and the effects and stuff like that
I feel like we've even talked about the soundtrack. Is there anything either of you wanted to say
about that as well?
well that we naturally touched on the Tokyo Drift theme you gotta love it that
again that Family Force and Kid Rock like this soundtrack love it that
barracuda song this is probably the one soundtrack I know the moat I can
identify the most songs on it I'm saying listen to it a lot I also listen to the
soundtrack quite a bit. What a dork. I love this soundtrack man so I'm a big...

Max's car he's playing the Tokyo Drift soundtrack. Sometimes I am. You're just blasting ball with the ball.

Yeah I'm a big big fan of this soundtrack. I like the music I mean the music felt like a key part of the film again which was nice because it hasn't really felt like that too much the past couple of movies and I missed that from these earlier 2000s movies. Like there's nothing wrong with having a bunch of licensed music tracks in your soundtrack. Do it more. Do it more. I mean don't do it to the degree that some movies nowadays do it. I feel like Guardians of the Galaxy came out and everybody got a little too wild trying to put licensed tracks in their movies.

Those are good songs though.

It's good in Guardians how it's implemented.

But like I'm talking like Suicide Squad came out and they're like "Let's put a licensed song in this every five minutes."

People love that right?

No.

When used well it can be great and I think they do it to great effect here.

Okay before we get into Legacy and the final wrap up.

Best car.

It's gotta be the Lancer.

There are a lot of options.

There are a lot of options.

Look I've set it at the top, or I don't know if we set it in the pre-show or if we set it earlier in this episode.

There's a Dodge Viper in this film and it's a red Dodge Viper and it's driven by this clay man and look that is my favorite car ever.

Early 2000s red Dodge Viper, I'm predisposed to love it.

So that's my like bland default answer but I'm gonna choose something else because that car does not drift in this film so therefore I'm going to disqualify it

since it does literally nothing other than has to drift to account yeah it
also gets wrecked which is painful to see my favorite car in this movie I
believe it is I believe this is what it is

Hans orange are Mazda rx-7 is mm excellent I love that car I love the
look of it not only is the body cool but I love the black and orange coloring on
it I am a huge sucker for that color scheme on that car I thought his his car
was excellent it's too bad that Jason Statham ran into it and then blew him up
I this was a hot wheel I looked at and it was very expensive Hans car yeah Hans
So I I could not justify buying Hans car. How much was it?

I'm curious what the hot video resale markets like 50 bucks for a hot wheel home. I get 50 ish
Yeah, I thought you meant the actual I thought you meant the actual car and I like 50,000 I was
like

Would be cheaper than the Viper was as described in the film so

No, I'm a big big fan of the rx-7 and the Lancer but I

Don't I really like the Mustang too at the most things great the one they build at the end

Yeah, cuz I like the it reminds me of Lettie's car

In six where it's kind of all sitting in the back and the front of the car is pretty

You know flattened then I also like the idea of what we talked about earlier putting, you know
this kind of Nissan tuner engine and drifting in it but if I had to pick a car it's definitely got
a I think I have to go with the RX-7 the orange and the black and doing donuts around ladies
and

getting their phone number and all of driving it over 187 kilometers an hour or whatever like
they

can't catch you it's a very good car and it's a shame that it it blew up but also hulk car
really the best i was gonna say i thought mike would definitely say hulk car no i mean like
again like the lancer is like one of my favorite cars just in general like like like how logan
likes to dodge viper the lancer is actually legitimately in like my top five favorite cars
probably so it is like by default that will be the car that i would choose the hulk car amazing

is great. But yeah, I mean, I'm with you, Max. I like the Mustang a lot. That would probably be, I do also like American muscle cars. So the Mustang was definitely the one that I liked out of those, even more so than Dom's car. So. >>

They did with this movie, but I do like that they all of the cars that are seen in this movie Do come from Eastern car manufacturers, and they do come from that part of the world

Which is again something obvious that they would do, but it makes the appearance of the Mustang later in the movie that much more

Distinguished and you're like oh wow this is they've now got an American muscle car. That's racing. This is different

This looks a lot more unique compared to everything else we've seen in this movie, and they put a tuner engine in it

It's like wild like super weird. But yeah, it's it's cool

like I think it's really cool that they did that and I like that they actually like started like testing it cuz obviously

It wouldn't just work like that, you know

Yeah, that was like kind of cool that they did do that process or show that they did that process to do it

But this is why she's spittin this movie more so than a lot of others

You could tell that they were very intentional with the cars that they were choosing to put in these scenes

Yeah, I think you had to with the focus being on drifting like you had to be super specific

But also have like the favorites, you know

Like the the Lancer and the skyline have been were in the last two movies were they not like those were new cars that uh

Paul Walker, yeah all the way. Yeah, he was he was driving skylines all day. All right, let's wrap up

with a discussion about this film's legacy, which I think is

It's a very interesting. It is a very weird one

I don't know. What would you guys say as people who have now seen this whole?

Franchise because I don't know where to I guess my thoughts to just put it out there. I don't know

Right now how to answer this question. I feel like I need to see the other ones first. I would say

For the fast and furious diehards. This is amongst their favorite one

Yes, but I think if you're just a fan of them and just like them I would say that it's probably mid-tier

to lower tier and

Then if you just don't like them then it's probably the worst one

So but yeah, I feel like the diehard like fast and furious fans

Like at the very least respect Tokyo Drift and they like what it was trying to do with

Especially with, again, it's supposedly supposed to be a direct-to-video one.

I think they set out to do something

and with the budget that they had, it worked out.

- I think there are two critical things

that shape this movie.

Outside of the die-hards like Mike was talking about,

Han, this was Han's first Fast and Furious movie.

it solidified him as a fan favorite,

and so seeing him in four, five, and six afterward

was always a treat going through those movies.

- I'm sorry, did that confuse people in real time,

or was it made apparent?

I mean, I guess you would just have to assume.

- He was alive, so it's like,

and then as you've kept referring to

in the past few episodes,

they keep talking about going to Tokyo.

- You could piece it together as a viewer,

that take place beforehand.

Yeah, I think, yeah, I think,

like upon watching it, you're like,

"Oh yeah, this happens before this time."

'Cause if you were to go from this to Fast and Furious,

where he shows up in the start,

I'm sure people in theaters

are probably a little thrown off,

like, "Wait, what's going on here?"

- Yeah, it's kind of a cool tease,

and then you're like, "Oh."

But the other piece of this legacy is Justin Lin.

You know? - Yeah.

- This was his first Fast and Furious movie,

And then he got to do the next three.

And then he comes back later and does, I want to say nine.

- Nine, I think he, yeah.

And then he showed up on the set of X and then left.

- Yes.

But Justin Lin is responsible for what this series

has become along with Chris Morgan and Vin Diesel

and things like that.

But this, with Justin Lin, this pivoted

the Fast and Furious movie like I read earlier.

Universal thought the series was done,

but Neil saw Better Luck Tomorrow

and gave Justin kind of the keys here,

keys to the Fast and Furious franchise,
and they turned it around.

- Did he give him the keys in that cool way
that Paul Walker holds the keys?

- Paul Walker holds them?

Quite possibly.

And I just think Justin's work here,
it saved the series.

And that's this movie's real legacy.

- Well, I gotta butt in and just say,
I think the movie's true legacy at the end of the day
is that this is what gave Vin Diesel
the rights to the Chronicles of Riddick.

- Yeah.

- I mean, yeah.

- That's its real legacy.

This entire movie was made just so Vin Diesel
could acquire the rights to Riddick.

- I think that does it for Fast and Furious Tokyo Drift.

Thank you so much for listening.

If you'd like to follow the show on Twitter, you can do so at chapter select.

And then if you'd like to follow Logan on Twitter, you follow him at more man 12 and
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frequency

dot net.

If you'd like to follow Mike on Twitter, you can follow him at the Michael J Ruiz and Mike
does stuff over on Bantam Banter with Ricky Freck, who's been on Chapter Select previously

and actually will be on our next episode, which is covering Furious 7. So we'll see you all in two weeks for that episode. Until next time, adios!

Or maybe sayonara? Should I have said sayonara?

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.

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(door closes)