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- - -

Alright, so I figured it out. Um, you know the person whose name is a

Brazilian street racer lady who has a connection to Dom's past. That character, whoever that is, she looks like one of those people in that race.

What's his baby mama's name?

It's uh...

Oh my god. I know, I...

There's a 100% chance that's like her sister.

Oh, sure.

It's like that's absolutely what it's gonna be.

- Yeah.

Oh, what is her name?

Elena.

- Yeah.

- It's Elena.

- That's definitely gonna be her sister

and then she'll join the family and be like,

"I'm little bee's aunt," or whatever.

- Sure, I'm there for that.

Okay, so my story, I had a Fast 10 story for you.

I saw a thumbnail for like another YouTube thing or whatever from the fast channel.

It says, "Get tickets now."

I'm like, "Oh my god, tickets are on sale today?"

Like four months in advance?

Tickets went on sale like last night, I think.

Yeah, so I was like, "Oh my god, I gotta get my tickets."

And then, then is when it dawned on me what day this movie is coming out on.

May 19th, let me take a gander. Friday. May 19th, technically May 18th, Thursday night, you could go see the movie. On May 18th is when we get in the car to drive up to South Carolina for Abby's cousin's wedding and we will be out of town all weekend for this movie this wedding I'm not gonna be able to see this movie opening weekend it's okay I am you know I am upset yeah no this is your gonna see it for me well I would probably see it before you anyway because I'm gonna try to sneak into a showing at my job so there's no fancy there's a couple movies coming up that I'm gonna try to sneak into showings for through work like I want to see out in out in

LA

No, no, no, no, like we usually we get like a screen my job. Yeah, usually we get screeners set up around town

So we'll get like private viewing parties at various theaters around the city and we can usually go to those

I'm gonna try to go see an advanced screening of Mario duh

So I probably will see that you won't see fast and then I want to see John wick for

John which also is out this year. I'm it's not in a month also, maybe the Creed 3

Yeah, so I told I've told Abby there if cinema is back. There are some movies that like Abby

I'm like I'm seeing this movie when it comes out. I you know the kid you know won't deal with it

So babysitter for John wick. I will not miss Mission Impossible opening day

Will not miss it

So there's that and

Mario I'd like to see

And then Mario you could you should take the kid to see Mario

I've joked about it, but and if she starts crying you can say get out of here

Film for me. This is a film for gamers get out of here only real gamers allowed. Oh

my goodness gracious, uh

I sent you the show doc you're in there. Oh, that's the one thing I didn't change the date of this movie

What was I gonna say to you? Oh, yeah, but you buy the collector's edition of Zelda. Yes

It's so bad. I

Say this I feel like I can say this because the last collector's edition I purchased was was breath of the wild

So I'm prone to buy Zelda collector's edition. No, I understand this one is bad. This one is not what I would have hoped

for

It just feels so I would I want a statue. I'm not a pins person. It's interesting

They're not revealing all of the pins. I think it probably hints to some of the yeah like story in some way

I mentioned that the other day too. They're being like so quiet and under wraps about this game

That's like preventing my excitement to a degree. I talked with Phil about that. I was it we were like what is

What's the hook here? Yeah, cuz the other game it was like Oh link wakes up. He's been asleep

"Ganon won, Hyrule's done, blah blah blah blah."

And it's like, "Okay, that's a cool idea. This game, it's like, what's the story?"

And they're like, "We can't tell you. It'll spoil it."

And I'm like, "What?"

This trailer did give more of the vibe, and it's certainly...

It's rather...

It looks dark.

Yeah, man. It's a Majora vein, for sure.

Go out and kill all of them, the kingdom and her allies.

It looks pretty messed up.

I think there's some liquid ocelot arm stuff going on. I think Link loses his arm and gets like a robot hand. I don't know if he loses it, but it looks like he's got powers. It looks a power in one shot through it. Well, he's using the arm in multiple times in gameplay. We've seen that for a while. Yeah, I think that's the robot arm or that's like Calamity Ganon's arm or something. Yeah, I think it's just how he's got. There's some Metal Gear solid stuff going on here. The darkness is going to corrupt him from the inside. It is, you know, there's clearly a time mechanic going on. There's... I just don't... The beginning of this game, I imagine is then like going under the castle feels probably pretty strong narrative start. I'm just nervous about the sky stuff, vehicle stuff, like I we need more and it's not out of a place of greed of I just want to see more Zelda it's like we need to know. Yeah that's why I said I'm like not excited for this game like the things they are showing it's like it's so there's so little here that I'm like I don't even like know what like it's Zelda. I'm excited because of the name of the game and that's about it some stuff does like is cool when he did a front flip and flipped a bomb at somebody I was like now that looks cool when I like the big blocky enemy that kind of came in and punched I like it the master swords all destroyed looking yeah like there's cool little things but the coke I like that he's got him I'd like that he's got a main of hair mm-hmm so it's very Ganon like I'm telling you I'm right here right now I feel like there's something very solid arm stuff going on I feel like this has been a theory for a while though because as soon as people saw the long hair in one of the triggers from a year or two ago people like it's just like Ganon is this even link like people like a prequel yeah because look I can even show you no no no no I'm saying that is link but I'm saying there's some arm swapping going on look this is what I'm trying to show you like people have

had these theories for a bit now like this link is not this link these ain't the same and with this game having like time travel stuff going on you just like those hmm interesting so that I mean they kind of are I guess he's got his hair pulled up in a ponytail but they look drastically different you know that That one, the older looking one, yes.

Tattoos and stuff.

Yeah, that looks more like...

The cleaner, the modern, that's definitely...

But there's like a time travel aspect to this game that we can tell, or a time reversal, or a pause time, so it's like...

Oh yeah, like you can reverse time and push things back.

Yeah, so it's like...

There's time...

Which is fitting for Zelda.

One of these links is from like a different time period.

There's gonna be weird stuff going on in a game like that.

Could it be...

- I wouldn't be surprised if the hook of the game is like Link to the Past where it's got the dark world and you can switch between different eras of Hyrule on a dime and maybe that's how they make it completely different.

That feels too intense for Switch hardware though.

To do that.

- Well, so I was thinking was Skyward Sword where you remember the desert and the little keystones and they would reverse time in a space.

But that game has you going back and forth in time

to old, old calamity times and then new.

So time obviously is a big thing in Zelda.

Time travel would be dope.

They've played this game so close to the chest

and it's three months away.

Three months away!

- What's weird is Zelda is not a series where people,

I mean, I don't wanna undersell it,

but Zelda is not a franchise where people

Talk about the story endlessly.

- I would disagree with that.

- To some degree, yes.

- That was like the pitch of Skyward Sword was like,

this is the beginning of everything.

And people were losing their minds.

- But no one liked that game.

- But people were losing their mind.

The timeline and Zelda's story.

- I would disagree with that.

The pitch of Skyward Sword was,

look, one to one sword motion, woo hoo.

- Yes, but the story stuff was also a huge factor

and it was the 25th anniversary of Zelda.

- I'm not trying to undersell the story of it,

but I guess I'm not,

Zelda is not Metal Gear, is what I'm saying.

It is not, there's not gonna be a Zelda game
where there's 90 minutes of cut scenes
without stopping of intense voice acting and dialogue.

This is still stories where it's told all via text
for the most part.

I know they've incorporated voice acting more lately,
but you get what I'm saying.

It's not a traditional 2023 story-centric video game.

And that doesn't mean there's not story,
but it means it's not like ever been the thing,
I feel like about these games.

- I mean the lore, I think lore is a huge factor in Zelda,
but the front facing narrative, sure.

- Lore in the characters, like Zelda, Ganondorf, and Link,
and like how those three interact
and what the different conflicts are
between them in each game,
like that's kind of what I'm thinking about, so.

I'm excited for this game, I mean it'll be good,

But it is...

I just want more. I'm hungry.

I just wish they could say something else about it.

Like it is very...

Do you think the blowout direct is...

April? End of March, early April?

Here's the thing.

I don't know if they have one.

Like history would say they do.

But...

This game's gonna sell like 20 million copies in 8 weeks whether they do that or not.

So...

If they've been that quiet up until this point, what's to keep them from just being even more quiet?

It's like already the most anticipated game of the year other than Hogwarts, probably.

So...

I don't... I mean, I'm not really gonna be...

I'm probably not gonna be paying too much attention from here on out, like...

I don't know if I would watch a big gameplay exposé.

I mean, I would, but it just doesn't work, mainly.

I'm kinda like, I'll just, I'll get to it when I get to it

kinda mentality when it shows up, so.

- Yeah, I'm not gonna like drop everything and start it.

We'll see.

- 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 this bonus episode for season four,

we're covering the fast and the furious, sorta.

My name is Max Roberts and I'm joined, as always,

by Logan Moore, hi Logan.

We're back to the family, sort of.

- We're back to the roots of the family,

an origin story that wasn't planned

to be an origin story at all.

- This movie is so bizarre.

- We are-- - It's so weird

that we're even doing this, to be honest.

- Members, we are talking about

one of Justin Lin's first movies.

I think it's his second film, Better Luck Tomorrow,

a small indie film about some Asian American high schoolers

And one of those high schoolers just happens to be one Han,

who is played by Sun Kang

and goes on to be in Fast and Furious Tokyo Drift,

and they have since confirmed that is the same Han

between the two, kind of retroactively connecting

Better Luck Tomorrow to the Fast universe.

So we thought it'd be a fun bonus episode

to watch and talk about for you guys.

We've both never seen this movie before this, so it's been fun for me to actually have a movie I haven't seen before for this season.

Uh, yeah. I mean, I obviously have not seen any of these, so this is yet another film in the fast franchise, sort of.

[laughter]

Yeah, again, it's very strange that we're doing this one, and I have a lot of thoughts, and I feel like it's...

Let's do the let's do the rundown and then we'll get into kind of the nitty-gritty about this one because I feel like it's hard to

Do much else without diving straight into it. Okay, so better luck tomorrow. It originally released on April 11th

2003 it premiered at Sundance a full year earlier in January 2002

The movie was directed by Justin Lin as you said

produced by Justin Lin Julia Sato and Ernesto, Foranda and

MC Hammer was another producer on the film. I believe he helped finance it. He

He saved the movie from not happening. Which is very interesting

The writers on the movie were once again Justin Lin Fabian Marquez and Ernesto Feranda

The actors in the film include Perry Shen, Jason Tobin, Seung Kang

Who is Han as you mentioned Roger Fan, John Cho and

Karen Anna Chung the composer was Michael Gonzalez and Tobin Mori

there was no stunt coordinator on this one because

There's not really stunts in this one the film was shot for a budget of

\$250,000 and it made 3.8 million at the box office

Rotten Tomatoes wise this movie actually has very

Positive reviews for the most part. It's got an 81 overall aggregate score, and it's got a 79% from audiences

So it's pretty well received and I'm I guess I'm curious like what people's exposure to this movie is because obviously for us

It's like the Han origin story movie, and I think that's the first thing I want to talk about with this is

Let's directly link this to Fast and Furious

When as you were watching this movie were you thinking about this the whole time like oh, there's Han and soon

He'll go to Japan soon. He'll meet Dominic Toretto

And then one day he'll go to Japan and like because that's what I was thinking the whole time

I was watching the movie and especially the scenes that Hans and I'm like, okay, but how does this tie in to the one Dominic Toretto?

I I

Guess it's all adjacent right there in California. So it's not a stretch. I think they're even in like the LA area

So it's not a stretch that Han would meet Dom

But after the initial scene it wasn't so much. I wonder how this ties into the fast and furious Lord

It was just more, I was more curious how much of this Han from Better Luck Tomorrow, you know, before Tokyo Drift is the same type of Han characteristic-wise that shows up in

the Fast and Furious movies.

And so that's what I was watching, just mannerisms, dialogue, that sort of stuff.

What carries over?

And I was kind of surprised at some of it.

I feel like what carries over is his name and that's about it.

Like for the most part Han does not get, Han does not have a lot of characterization in this film I feel like.

He's quiet.

He's very quiet.

He's the reserved member of the group and he's Virgil, who's one of the other characters, kind of the wildcard's cousin.

I feel like the most characterization we see in this movie is when one of the, he like beats the crap out of Virgil at one point I believe, right?

And it talks about like, talks about how like Virgil is, or Han was just looking for a reason to beat Virgil up essentially. But like there's not a lot of moments in the movie that center around Han solely, which makes it even more bizarre that he ends up being the character that has plucked from this movie and placed in the others. I guess more so than anything, it's more just bizarre that this is like pseudo-canon to the fast universe. And it really is and it isn't like it's clearly like a

clearly like retroactive and yeah, it was never designed this way, but the character of Han

is

generally pretty

Quiet in the movies doesn't usually talk a lot. I think that carries over

He gets the he has the sense that he's the smartest

In the room or one of the smartest like he's smarter than the other guys and he doesn't have to say much

Because you know he knows what to do or what the situation demands and whatnot

So I think that persona kind of carries over here especially since he's you know he takes charge over Virgil

some form of responsibility for him and a

connection there obviously

Cousins, so there's some blood family things. They're not not that fast family per se but

You know Han is definitely the coolest of the group he drives the Mustang

all that stuff so that I feel like those types of things are why he was plucked out of this because

He is the coolest

When Han was first introduced in this movie

Did you get the sense that he was like much older than?

Ben and Virgil because that was the sense that I got and then I realized like oh, they're all in high school

Together like I got the sense that

Virgil and Ben were like in high school and he was more like in his 20s or something like that and he just hung out with him.

- I suppose a little bit, but it was more he's the cool

high schooler, smoking cigarettes, cheating on the test,

driving the Mustang, and I think with that comes a persona

of maturity, because Virgil is, as you pointed out,

he's kind of the counter to that, the foil to Han.

He's loud, obnoxious, doesn't know how to do anything.

flies by the seat of his pants.

And so I think that that stark contrast makes Han appear older, more mature, and it comes off that way.

Are they all seniors in this movie as well? I can't remember because I know

Derek is, and I think it's implied that Han is as well, or maybe they say that, but I don't know if Virgil--

I think Virgil and Ben are like

like maybe juniors or something like that? I don't know if they're all seniors.

- Yeah, they're a little lower because,

yeah, Derek is a senior and he's valedictorian
and president of all those clubs and all that stuff.

- 'Cause I feel like there's a scene

where they're talking to Derek and he's talking about
how he's like gonna graduate soon and stuff like that.

- Yeah, they're a little bit younger, I believe,
is how it comes off.

It's interesting stuff.

And you know, I mean, we're talking about
how this kinda ties in and I wanna,

So this movie goes places I don't actually,
I wasn't expecting.

I didn't look like--

- What did you expect coming into this?

- I certainly didn't expect a prostitute or murder.

You know?

I didn't expect like hardcore cocaine usage.

I just expected like teen angst, but not teen angst.

So that was a bit kind of an off-put there,
but I think a lot of the aftermath of this movie,
which involves them horrifically killing another student.

I think that explains actually a lot of Han's behavior
in Tokyo Drift.

Besides Giselle dying, who knows if she's dead or not,
off the back of a plane,

what is Han doing when he's in Tokyo?

He's working with the Yakuza, selling drugs, making drops.

He's hanging out with a bunch of women,
probably prostitute.

Like, he's a part of that scene over there,
and I feel like that naturally stems from
the consequences of this movie.

Selling drugs, cheating, hiring prostitutes.

Like, that makes sense.

Now, him becoming a super spy doesn't make sense.

But I do think the Tokyo Drift stuff
is a bit more of a logical tie.

Again, I know this wasn't designed this way.

- I was gonna say, I don't see it as much as you do,

I don't think.

I'm not saying that it was built this way, but I do think that there's some...

Cohesion.

It's not a- it's not a leap for his character to get to where he's at in Tokyo Drift compared to where he's at in this movie.

But I don't think-

And also, he didn't-

They weren't- Han wasn't trying to kill.

I'm blanking on the kid's name.

Let's see.

It's Jon Cho's character.

Yes, Jon Cho's character. The next day...

"Where's Steve? Steve, thank you." Like Han wasn't out there to kill Steve and he stands off to the

side for the whole like he's not he doesn't want to be a part of the actual killing and I could see that messing someone up and driving them to basically be act the way he's kind of acting in

Tokyo Drift just kind of nonchalant and stuff and it's just it's I can see it

it's not hard it's more the super spy stuff that makes

zero sense outside of Han though let's talk about the larger movie and I guess

my problem with this movie and I messaged you about this and this is the

main reason why I think I couldn't get engrossed in this film is because of Ben

Like I think he is so bland as a central character and I don't understand I don't

feel like he does much in this movie other than kind of react to what's

happening around him like the characters that are fleshed out and have more like

actual traits and I mean he has character traits obviously he's you know

working at a fast-food restaurant he's trying to be on the basketball team he's

trying to prepare for college he's trying to do all these things he's

teaching himself different words and like so he has like

Characteristics and things like that, but he's an obsessive trait. Yeah within the context of the larger group. I feel like he's

just kind of

there and he doesn't like especially when as the movie begins to

evolve and they get more involved in these

Like schemes that they're pulling off. He's just kind of like, okay. Yeah, sure. I'll do it. Whatever like he's not really ever

Pushing to do this stuff and he even tries to get out. He just kind of goes along goes with the flow of whatever

Han and

Virgil and Derek are pushing and he's just like yeah, whatever and so I

Think that leads up to like the murder scene at the end like it does it just kind of

Comes out of absolutely nowhere and doesn't really I don't think it's out of nowhere

It's hmm. Yeah, I don't know. It's he is definitely a pushover most of the movie. He can't

ask the girl out, he can't snitch on her cheating boyfriend, he just goes along for the ride.

He's a bench warmer on the team.

Bench warmer on the team. All this stuff, he's a pushover, despite all of his pursuits and perfectionism and things like that.

And over the course of the movie he tries to stand up for himself over time and become his idea of a man or an adult.

And so he, you know,

he tries to get out of the group, stops doing cocaine,

apparently cold turkey, like,

major, super impressive that he just quits cocaine like that.

You know, he has that.

And he tries to just focus on his studies again

and kind of stand up and, you know,

not succumb to the will and manipulation of Derek.

And then that all fails when they go to Vegas

and then this prostitute is thrust upon him

and then that's robbed from him.

And I think earlier in the movies when they beat up,

they beat up a guy, I forget, Virgil,

like they felt so alive,

but maybe it was when they pulled a gun at the party.

- Pulled a gun and beat a guy up at the party.

You know, he kinda, he tries to stand up

and take action for himself,

and then it gets pushed back down in his face,

and he can't seem to thrive.

And it's not until he snaps kind of at the end,

and just straight up beats Steve

within an inch of his life.

I'm not-- - Essentially kills him.

- Yeah, just kills him. - I mean, he's not that,

I know that he's not actually dead when he dies,

I mean, but he basically is-- - Kills him, yeah.

- The one responsible for killing him, yes.

- He reaches this breaking point,

And the comparison I'm about to make,

you're gonna roll your eyes.

But it is this idea of someone going good

and breaking bad.

- Walter White.

- Walter White kind of thing.

Now, completely different.

And there's, breaking bad is infinitely better than this.

But I do think the build up for Ben is there.

It's just, it's kind of like what you said yesterday.

He has the personality of a potato.

Yeah, I guess my problem with that is that if you did want to build him up as slowly

becoming this bad figure or adapting to be more like the bad influences around him,

they could have done more after the murder scene to kind of cement that, because

after that happens he's like shocked. I mean, which he would be, I suppose, but he never really...

There's even scenes where he's like I need to go to the police and I need to report this and like he feels guilty and he's

Like I need to do the right thing

So like his best impulse is which he doesn't do obviously in the movie kind of ends on an ambiguous note

But it's sort of implied that he's not really like fully

Broke bad or anything like that and even at the end when he's with the in the car with the girl

He likes and she's finally accepted to be with him

Yeah, like he you can tell he's like off-put like I can't do this

like I killed this girl's boyfriend and I like I got the sense at the end of the movie that he was I

Mean, I know hit the final

Narrative or the final thing he says is like the narrator is like, I don't know what happens next
blah blah blah blah blah

but like for me

Based on all the scenes after the murder

It's like well

He's gonna like break down and he'll have to tell the police or turn himself in or something like
like I I just can't

see couldn't see a situation where he just like goes on living his life and

acts like everything's fine and that's to me I guess is the is the difference

between like you're saying like like Walter White like embrace like this is

who I am and I know I'm just talking about that I'm just talking about the

broad idea of him becoming a good character and then becoming bad I don't

think he fully is like bad by the end he just kind of flies off the handle in one

moment and then he reverts back to being sort of this good-natured version of

himself to some sort of degree. I there is I feel like there's no world where

that Steve's body isn't found they dug like a that too they dug like a two-foot

grave for him and some guys in somebody's backyard yeah just go mow the

lawn and bump his body I'll pop right up yeah it was that was interesting it's

It's Ben, Ben's not like, I don't feel super attached to him, but he is, he's an interesting

vehicle for the audience to look at these other characters. Primarily I think Derek,

Virgil, and to a lesser degree Steve. Like, to me he's like the window to these other

characters and the way that they behave, which is interesting.

Well and like Stephanie too to some degree.

Stephanie as well.

Because you get like insight into her family and find out like she's adopted and things like that and those things are all conveyed by

proxy of like

Ben and his relationship with her and things like that. So I

think that there's some other problem with this movie is it doesn't feel

Cohesive at times there are just things that happen. I mean the past the last about 45 minutes

I'd say gets a little bit more narrowed into this idea of oh, we're this group of guys at this high school. We pull off these

Schemes and people come to us and then the movie kind of starts to develop from there

but like the first half of the movie with

Like I think of like the whole basketball stuff where it's like, oh I'm gonna write this

Report in the school paper about you being a bench warmer and stuff like that

It's like I don't really like I see that as Derek manipulate Derek is a manipulator the entire film

I think that is him flexing his power within the school

as valedictorian, class president,

and all this other stuff.

He wants to use Ben and Virgil and to a degree, Hunt.

I think he probably even knows about the little scams

that they're pulling off, you know,

like returning all that merchandise at the store,

you know, that early little heist of,

which is so funny, it reminds me of the tuna shop

of just like so small stakes.

- Yeah.

- And then in this movie they go on to like sell cocaine

and murder someone, so it's in, you know,

that's one whole thing.

But Derek is like a master manipulator

and by the end of the movie,

Ben actually is the one in control over Derek's fate

to a degree, which is also an interesting shift in power

because Ben lets it go and Derek can't,

like Derek doesn't have control anymore

because there are other people that can reveal the truth.

It's interesting to see Derek kind of break there

at the end.

- What did you think about Virgil throughout this movie?

'Cause I thought things were going to go far different

than they did.

Like I guess it makes sense that he would just end up

shooting himself like this,

because you know he's kind of tortured and messed up

and you see that in a bunch of different scenes.

But I thought he was actually gonna fly.

Like if anybody, if you would have told me like,

Somebody's about to die and the next scene I've been like, oh well Virgil's the one who kills them like that would've been my guess

Yeah instead they go with Ben being the one who essentially kills

Steve I

So Virgil I think is the best

Character and performance in this whole movie

Mm-hmm Virgil has a

few great scenes and kind of just this theme throughout the movie of

He's always looked down upon within the group

Always kind of told he can't do something, right?

He's you know go do this get that do this come on. You're so slow

Can you do can you do this right?

You know he's kind of always pushed down and even when he is given

Opportunities to advance his position within the group or take control of a situation. He can't do the thing

quite right like when he takes over the cheating group, he doesn't he runs it too fast and loose and

Eventually, you know gets caught and beat up to just for talking about it so much in bragging the

The prostitute he's the third person to go

and he can't even have sex with the prostitute

because he tries to act all big and macho

and ruins that transaction and is embarrassed

'cause he's still a virgin.

Like he can't even do that kind of right.

And then he has a monologue in the car

after they beat that guy up.

And I think that is--

- Where he like breaks down and starts crying.

He's so amped up on the adrenaline and the excitement of it, and then he just has a total absolute meltdown.

I thought that that performance was great.

Everybody else is quiet because they think they're about to get shot up by the Hispanics that are driving next to them.

Because Virgil also isn't aware of his surroundings.

It's such a great performance and scene for him there.

And then, I mean, I wrote it down like this, Virgil can't even kill himself correctly.

Yeah.

Which I think is the ultimate

Just encapsulation of his character where he can't he is always

doing things wrong and can't do anything right and it's kind of a

failure within the group and as a

Person and I it's so true. He's such a tragic character. I he really elevates this movie. I think quite a bit from

you know, especially cuz like like I said Ben feels like he's got the

Depth of a potato and he's not that enticing. So like you need the other characters around him to kind of

Make this film a bit more engaging and Virgil definitely does that

It's a great degree and I'm cuz cuz Han is more reserved to in this movie

and so you can't really there aren't a lot of character moments with him and

Ben is kind of flat as well and you have to get more into his psyche to understand what he's thinking but

Virgil's kind of the one that puts it all out there to some degree. Yeah, he's easier to understand I suppose but

He is I I really was

Surprised quite frankly I couldn't he was punching punching up for sure in this movie

I think what did you think about this movie as far as?

Like kind of tying it back to the fast movies. Did you see any connective?

Tissue here between this movie and what Justin Lin went on to do in the fast films

Like how did you think about this from a yeah from his from the perspective of his style and the cinematography and things like that

I think most of its different. There's a lot of close-ups and

It can be quiet

The movie can be quiet and have some time to breathe and you know not have some hip-hop soundtrack beneath it

So I think for the most part

You can see it's

It's trying to be artsy and be within a budget

But I think he

They go really hard

Really hard in the town and the scope scope of this indie movie when they need to I think this shot in the garage

Where it's spinning around while they're suffocating. Yeah, Steve like I think that's a great

shot and moment that conveys the

Kind of insanity of what they're doing. Like that's how far gone this group is. I think you know, so he pun he does

He does what he needs to do and I can see it

There are some like sped up montages and stuff the way they clip it and you know zoom in and students are walking by fast

And things like that. I think those

Remind me of early fast and furious, you know those silly montages and things like that

So I can see why he was chosen to do Tokyo Drift.

He clearly understands the Asian American experience, obviously of course, and can convey speed and intensity.

So I just, and he's, what is Tokyo Drift?

It's about a high schooler who gets sent across the world because he dropped, you know, he's in trouble.

So it makes sense within his repertoire at this point.

So what about you?

Did you see that Justin Lin early kind of signature here?

- There's a lot of really unique shots

and things that he does with the camera in this movie

that are a lot of cuts and like,

like he really tries to style up this movie

to great effect.

like even in scenes when he doesn't have to and I think that plays well with

The story of the movie like I think of some of the cuts and things that happen

like you mentioned the garage scene but I think of the scene afterwards where I bury Steve and they go back to the party and

there's like a lot of I think there's like a lot of flash cuts and

Between all the characters and they keep thinking about what they just did and it's cutting back between them like burying him and stuff like that

and a lot of that is a

Pretty well spliced together I think and has a has a greater impact on like what they've done

No, I also think there's one scene

where Steve and Ben are at like the batting cages and I think there's like a couple shots of like the camera like zooming in towards the

Towards him hitting like like the camera is the ball or whatever. I think those they did that a bowling alley

I think too. Yeah, like there's a couple really unique things that he's doing it with the camera in this movie

And how it is capturing some of these scenes and it's pretty impressive

for his first outing like I think also of we mentioned the the way that the

Car scene is spliced together where Virgil's given his monologue and it keeps cutting back over to the other

The Hispanic dudes in the car next to him and things like that. Like there's a lot of stuff that could have been

Well, there's a lot of scenes in this movie that could have been shot in a more basic way and would have gotten the point across, but he tries to style up most scenes in this movie more so than I think normal.

The Vegas scene when they're running around the strip too, the old Vegas strip I think of as well.

Like there's just a lot of unique shots and you can tell that he's trying to add some creative flair to this movie to stand out a bit more.

And it's not ever distracting though either is the good thing.

Because I think a lot of times, especially with a smaller scope movie like this, like

some of the things that I think he does in his fast movies, again they're very stylistic,
But they fit more within the context of the fast movies because they're action films.

So it's almost hard to have a lot of style, I feel like, in these sorts of movies that
are pretty small and character focused.

And to that degree, yeah, I think he does a lot of really great work here as a director.

Interesting note, again, indie movie budget, he's the editor of the movie.

So those cuts and all that stuff, that's all him too.

So his style's really coming through.

He wasn't the cinematographer,
that was Patrice Lucent-Cochette, I think.

So editor and director, and this was his second movie.

So not too far, it's still super early in his time.

And then everything else after that is Fast and Furious,
except Star Trek.

- Star Trek Beyond.

- Yeah.

And then the Vegas thing, the strip they're running around,
to me that looked straight out of Horizon Forbidden West
when you go to Vegas.

- Yes. - The same lights and stuff.

It was just the same vibe.

- Well that's like the old school section of Vegas there.

- Yeah, so that's just, that's what,
my brain immediately went to that.

I thought that was kind of funny.

- Yeah.

I think one of the, maybe not impressive things,

but we haven't talked about Steve a lot,

and Steve is played by John Cho, who is,

Definitely the biggest actor in this film. Bigger than Sun Kang, I would say, because Sun Kang is really only known for playing Han.

Jon Cho's been in a lot of stuff. Harold and Kumar, Star Trek. So yeah, he's got a deeper filmography, I believe.

And Jon Cho was in Justin Lin's first movie here, which is Shopping for Fangs.

Yes, so he was in Justin Lin's first two early films and went on to have a much larger career

so clearly Justin Lin, I mean really catapulted John Cho's career and

They surely have a close relationship. I imagine it's cool that it kind of all eventually came

Full circle back with Star Trek Beyond later. Oh, yeah. I didn't even think about that. Yeah

So and which is funny because obviously John Cho was cast in those movies and was playing Sulu, but

But Justin Lin didn't direct the first two because those were by JJ so when he came in for the third one

It's just like Oh John shows here. Hey, buddy. Yeah

Can really quick but before we keep talking about Steve?

Can we just talk about Justin Lin clearly just likes to bring back everyone that's in it. He has a very Christopher Nolan

Tarantino angle of I'm just gonna keep burning back the same actors. Well, I think that's I think that's a lot of

Directors who are quite prominent, you know, like I think of like James Cameron's always like hey Sigourney Weaver. What are you doing?

Yes, you come be in my movies, please

That's true. I you know, I

Who I'm now I have to see the picture

I mean

I feel like most directors kind of like to once you once you get it down with working with certain people

It's so easy to work with them again. I would have to imagine like all directors do this Scorsese has done this

I mean look how many different projects is like DiCaprio been in with Scorsese?

We've got another one coming out. Yeah, it's just you know, Jason Tobin is an f9

I should we notice that he's not Virgil, but he is he is it well, he's then there and in Tokyo Drift

So, you know

I thought maybe Virgil blew his brains out and then became a rocket scientist in f9 for a moment there

Because I did notice that was him. Yeah, fish for a hot second. So it's it's kind of cool to just see that stuff

I would love to see John Cho end up in the fast universe. I mean, come on. We have another movie to go

I got two left for now

But but just I mean well

Justin Lin's not even in the fast universe anymore. So Justin Lin still produced in row F

fast 10 so yeah, but he couldn't bother directing it because Vin Diesel drove this man insane

so there's it there is that but back to Steve yeah back to Steve I don't know if

there's anything specific you want to say about his character I just thought

it was interesting that he again he is the biggest name actor in this whole

movie for sure and he did he does pretty well in the role as well for his he

plays it pretty straight but he's solid in the film yeah he Steve's an

interesting character I think in the way he kind of reminds me of Derek just not

as much of a trying to I mean he is taking advantage of Stephanie and whoever

the other girl is but he I don't know he's just he Derek is using people to

advance himself in life and I feel like Steve is just taking advantage of people

to feel good about himself in life so they're they're similar but different

in their goals because they're both kind of the bullies of the movie I think to a degree.

And Steve, it's interesting Steve's approach at the end of the movie because he comes to

the group and says "Hey, let's rob my parents.

Let's give them a wake up call."

Can I just say one thing?

I'm sorry.

You never see any adults in this movie other than like a teacher or two.

It's like all these, where is everybody's parents?

Like any of the scenes have been at home,

you don't see his parents.

Steve's saying to Rob his parents, you don't see them.

- Who's watching these kids?

- Derek's house is just wide open.

They imply, I think they say something

about how his parents are gone.

- Yeah. - Yeah.

But like they keep having these like ragers

over at his parents and they're never around.

Even when Virgil shoots himself,

like the only other person that's there

and reacting to it is Han.

It's like, where's everybody's parents?

Where's mom and dad at in all this?

Which I think if there were, I'll say this,

I think if there were parents in this movie,

and maybe this is not what Justin Lin wanted to go for,

but there are a lot of like expectations and pressures

that Ben specifically puts on himself, you know,

with getting into a good college

and trying to be at the top of his class

and doing all these extracurricular activities.

But maybe you could see where that stems from more

with his parents, like applying this sort of pressure to him, I feel like that would make his arc a little bit better, because a lot of it just seems like internalized pressure that he puts on himself, which then leads to him cracking. I feel like if that pressure was coming from an external source, it could have made his arc a little bit more sensical, I guess.

But yeah, you never see any adults in TV.

-There's no adults.

Even when he goes to Stephanie's house, the person who answers the door is not a parent, it's like her little brother.

So...

Yeah.

It gave me Jimmy Neutron vibes.

Probably just couldn't afford parents to a certain degree, you know?

But I do think there's like a line in the movie that kind of writes off, I think, the absence of adults, which is essentially grades are their alibis.

And clearly somehow, with all the cocaine and illegal activity, there's decathlon and all this stuff, they still are getting good grades.

So I guess the parents just don't care.

Which is, I think, probably an intentional commentary on the pressures of good grades in college and students and stuff and parents being absent unless something is going wrong.

But there is something going wrong.

It's just under the surface or out of sight.

And so it's probably intentional to some degree besides just keeping things as lean as possible.

So Steve, and robbing his parents for a wake-up call,

I feel like that is more the thing that comes out of nowhere more than Ben cracking at the end.

Steve's just like, "Yeah, we're gonna rob my parents.

I can't be this rich, spoiled kid anymore."

- Yeah, he's like, "It's time to put them in their place."

It's like, "Bro, what are you talking about?"

I feel like a lot of his, like, the reason he takes advantage of people is because he kind of comes from privilege and he seems arrogant as a result.

So him wanting, I understand in turn why the group wants to kind of like dig back at him and like beat him up or whatever, which is what ends up leading to his death.

But it is kind of out of nowhere to some degree.

I agree.

- Yeah, and they go through this whole process of like casing the house and prepping the heist and all of it.

It's interesting. - And then they just beat him up.

Kill him. - And then they just kill him, which is, it's so tragic.

And I mean, again, props to the performance of being a body getting choking out and struggling for life.

I mean, that, I said it earlier, it's gruesome, it's horrific so they all really kind of gave it their all there, which is awesome.

So yeah, Steve's good.

Steve's a good performance.

An interesting character, if not all.

Doesn't necessarily make sense the entire time.

- I forgot he also plays Spike Spiegel

in the canceled Netflix.

- Yeah.

- Cowboy Bebop.

- He's Spike.

- Yes.

- He's a decent Spike.

- Did you watch that?

- I watched the first episode

and then I saw how that show ends.

And no, no, no, how the final episode goes,

like the reveal of Ed.

- Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. - He's like, "Nope, I'm out.

"Deuces, I'll just watch regular cowboy beep-up."

- Yes.

- First episode's fine though, it's decent.

- The only character we really haven't talked about

would be Stephanie, and I don't know,

she kind of feels like the victim in all of this

on multiple accounts.

Her boyfriend's cheating on her.

she's when it's it's it's kind of implied that she's got some sort of

baggage with being adopted and she accepts that like she says like oh no my

parents are my parents but she also kind of implies like she's curious about her

her original parents her birth parents so she's got a lot of internalized

baggage and again she's got it's implied that even though she doesn't know that

Steve is cheating on her. Their relationship isn't, still isn't great at the same time.

Yeah.

She's trying to, like the rest of them, keep her grades up and be near the top of her class.

And like there's even the one part where Ben's like, "Here, I did your homework for you." And she's like, "No, like what are you, what are you doing?"

I like that. I did like that. I thought that said a lot about her.

I need to do this myself. So she's very hard on herself and she's similar to Ben in that way, but she gets taken advantage of a lot.

Even Ben is murdered.

Yeah, her boyfriend gets murdered. The person who she thinks she can trust by the end of the movie is the one who murdered her boyfriend.

Yeah.

She gets put through the wringer and a lot of it's stuff

she doesn't know about. She doesn't know her boyfriend's been killed, at least not when the movie ends.

She doesn't know Ben is the one who did it. She doesn't know Steve was cheating on her. So there's just like...

And she's

objectified

by Virgil quite aggressively.

Yeah, because they think she was involved in the porno or whatever and she that's like a rumor that goes around the school

yeah, so she she kind of gets a raw deal in as

a character I think her performance is

Solid for for this character of Stephanie and the role that she plays in the narrative

You just don't feel good for her by the end of it and I I think and part of that is her performance of

believing Ben and trusting him and, you know, going along with Steve and this whole formal

situation like accepting her boyfriend doesn't like to go to these things so she'll, you

know, she'll fall in love with a different boy and do it too. So it's interesting, you

know, to see but she doesn't shine as much as the other characters.

For sure. Yes. The one other thing I would want to talk about, we've done this throughout

our whole Fast and Furious season is we'll talk about best car there is

really only one car in this movie and it is Han's car which is a what is the make

and model again is a 1965 Ford Mustang there you go back to Mustangs I know

that because I bought it you bought the Hot Wheel for it yeah it's not even a

- It's not even a Hot Wheel, it's a Matchbox car,

'cause Hot Wheel does not have the hard top Mustang.

I realized after watching the movie

that I needed to buy another Hot Wheel for the art,

and was like, "Aw, crap, what do I do?"

And that's what we ended up doing.

There are a couple other cars, I'm trying to pull it up,

but none of them shine quite like the Mustang.

- I was gonna say, cars are not an important factor

this film they're not put into the spotlight really I mean other than

really just kind of implying that Han has a cool car and Han is a very cool

car which and he drives us around and you know Stephanie drives like an Audi

TT Roadster which I actually was almost one of my like my second car was almost

a TT but you only see that it like the very very and Steve drives a BMW conveys

well he's got a motorcycles too as well other BMW motorcycle and stuff so

conveys wealth and things but there's really it's that red Mustang which also

retroactively I didn't know Hundra was an American muscle he was when he was

rolling with me maybe he already knows Dominic Toretto in this world I don't

know about that the one other thing before we do like see I did want to ask

you one other quick question about the movie which is how it starts and how we

we get full circle back to the point

where they're seeing the dead body.

Did you like how that was told

and you're kind of shown up front

that they discover this body

but it's not really known how

and you're aware that something's gonna go bad

and they're--

- I was wondering how we got to a dead body.

And as soon as they had that fight

where Derek just pulls out a gun,

I was like, oh, this is how we get to a dead body.

- As soon as they started scheming with Steve,

I was like, well, something's gonna go wrong

during this high seas trying to get them

to pull off here, obviously.

- Yeah, I do like the,

I like the misdirection of their shock

at finding the body at the beginning.

It's not because there's a body there,

it's because the phone is ringing.

- Yeah.

- But we as the audience are surprised

'cause it's a body and we think they are too.

- Well, and he says something like--

- He says like, "That's the first time I saw a dead body."

Which isn't actually true, but I digress.

It's a good little misdirection there, so I like that.

But it's an odd start, I think,

'cause they spend a chunk of the movie

trying to make you forget there's a dead body later on.

Which almost actually works.

The real surprise is Ben is the one who does the killing.

Yeah, yeah, and they flesh that out and try to get, like show his journey to get to that point.

Yeah, so Legacy, I think we've touched on a lot of this and most of this will just be,

you know, restating the obvious, but this, these Legacy is Hans and this is a character for some

reason. It's tangential, tangential to the fast universe, which is kind of bizarre. So if you're

looking at a full list of all the fast movies, I think we've watched them all now between the

Shorts that were on the DVDs and stuff like this. I think we've seen every we fast associated

product that you can watch now except for like the video games maybe and the

Animated series which I think any of my seasons on Netflix. So no, thank you. Sure. Here's pretty good

I think I'm good at this point Ricky. Ricky says it's good. I don't know about that

I didn't even know there was a fast animated series really until recently. So yeah, they're lies

So that's the obvious one. I mean, I don't know if we need to touch on that one too much and then just

this is just one of Justin Lin's first movies and it's probably what put him on the map and

Eventually got him to go do bigger and better things

This this definitely paved the way for Tokyo Drift for him. It's like he said it's the Han origin story. I do think

The tidbit that MC Hammer essentially saved this movie is interesting

Yeah in a way Fast and Furious can thank MC Hammer because you know this movie was bought by

MTV it was one of MTV's first film acquisitions

back in the day

So MTV buys it they put it out indie film major indie vibes and MC Hammers responsible for it and kind of launched

Justin's helped launch Justin's career. I should say so that's something and then Logan the most important

bit of legacy is

45 minutes into the movie

Ben says and I quote he had the run of the place

rumors about us came and went fast and furious

One has linked with some Chinese mafia and it was fine with us because just put more fear in it

Did you notice that the moment it happened?

I paused the movie so I could write down the timestamp and get the quote exactly

I knew it that I knew it that I yeah the moment it happened. I was like they said the thing

Which is funny cuz I don't think I don't think they've ever said Fast and Furious in the fast films themselves

Which makes it funnier that they do say it in this movie. Yes

It's just one of those ironic

Like you couldn't have had it happen a better way if you were trying and obviously this movie was made before Fast and Furious was

A thing too. So it's not like this was done

Intentionally, I mean Fast and Furious was a thing

But this movie premiered in

2001 right or was it two thousand two thousand two and then two this okay so fast and furious was a thing then

But obviously Justin Lin didn't know that he would eventually end up being tied to the series in a prominent manner

He wouldn't have wrote that into the script in such a way

It's like it's just complete happenstance that that that occurred but it is very funny

And I think that does it for better luck tomorrow. Thank you members for listening

To this special bonus episode just for you just for you

If you'd like, you can of course follow the show at Chapter Select and check out

all our other seasons at chapterselect.com and you're, you know, check into

your membership at chapterselect.com/join and all that jazz.

If you'd like, you can follow Logan on Twitter @moreman12 and his writing over at comicbook.com and you can find my work over at maxfrequency.net and follow me on Twitter @maxroberts143. And until next time, better luck tomorrow.

Chapter Select is a Max Frequency production.

This episode was research 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.

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