
KÖNIGS ERLÄUTERUNGEN SPEZIAL

Textanalyse und Interpretation zu

Paul Haggis

CRASH

Patrick Charles

Alle erforderlichen Infos für Abitur, Matura, Klausur und Referat



Inspiration

collected “a bunch of stories” with no real idea of what was going to happen with these notes. He wanted to tackle issues of race and crime and, specifically, life in Los Angeles. He specifically mentioned in interviews the idea of “urban isolation” he experienced living in Los Angeles: this idea is present throughout the film from the very beginning.

Director Paul Haggis working with Don Cheadle (left) and William Fichtner
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But in a June 2014 interview with the Huffington Post, Haggis said “I wanted to write that movie and bust liberals. It’s too easy to bust folks we consider to be racist.” He said that “all” of the characters’ racial fears were based on his own fears. *Crash*, he said, was an exploration of people who are convinced of the righteousness of their own opinions and are blind to their own prejudices.



2 SUMMARIES

Film details:

Original title: *Crash*

German title: *L.A. Crash*

Country: USA

International Première: September 10 2004, Toronto
International Film Festival (TIFF)

Première USA: April 21 2005

Première Germany: August 4 2005

Length: 112 minutes

Original language: English

Budget: ca. \$7.5 million

Rating in the USA: R (Restricted – children under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian)

Rating in Germany: FSK 12

Filmmakers:

Director: Paul Haggis

Producers: Cathy Schulman, Don Cheadle, Bob Yari, Mark R. Harris, Bobby Moresco, Paul Haggis

Screenplay: Paul Haggis & Bobby Moresco

Cinematography: J. Michael Muro

Editor: Hughes Winborne

Production Design: Laurence Bennett

Costume Designer: Linda Bass

Music: Mark Isham

Cast:

Detective Graham Waters: Don Cheadle

Mrs. Waters: Beverly Todd

Peter Waters: Larenz Tate
Detective Ria: Jennifer Esposito
Anthony: Chris “Ludacris” Bridges
Lucien: Dato Bakhtadze
Officer John Ryan: Matt Dillon
‘Pop’ Ryan: Bruce Kirby
Shaniqua Johnson: Loretta Devine
Officer Tom Hansen: Ryan Phillippe
Lt. Dixon: Keith David
Daniel Ruiz: Michael Peña
Lara Ruiz: Ashlyn Sanchez
Elizabeth Ruiz: Karina Arroyave
Rick Cabot: Brendan Fraser
Jake Flanagan: William Fichtner
Karen: Nona Gaye
Bruce: Ken Garito
Jean Cabot: Sandra Bullock
Maria: Yomi Perry
Cameron Thayer: Terrence Howard
Fred: Tony Danza
Christine Thayer: Thandie Newton
Farhad: Shaun Toub
Dorri: Bahar Soomekh
Shereen: Marina Sirtis
Choi Jin Gui: Daniel Dae Kim
Kim Lee: Alexis Rhee
Detective Conklin: Martin Norseman

SUMMARIES:

CREDITS AND OPENING SCENE

A winter's night in Los Angeles, a crime scene by the road

02:15–04:45

Detective Graham Waters and his partner **Ria** have just been involved in a minor car accident while on their way to a roadside crime scene. The other person involved in the accident is **Kim Lee**. While Ria argues with Kim Lee and the traffic police, Det. Waters goes to examine the crime scene, where the body of a boy has been found. When he sees and recognises the body he freezes, stunned. The screen goes white and then we see the city, early evening, and we are told it is YESTERDAY.

04:50–06:30

Farhad and his daughter **Dorri** are in a gun shop. Dorri is translating for Farhad, whose English is limited, and the gun shop owner is becoming increasingly impatient and aggressive. He calls Farhad “Osama” and refuses to sell him a gun, and has him thrown out of the shop. Dorri stays behind to get the gun and when she asks for ammunition, the shop owner tries to confuse her with the wide variety of bullets available and makes sexual innuendoes. Dorri points to a red box and says she’ll take them: the shop owner asks her if she knows what they are, but she takes them and leaves.

06:30–09:30

Anthony and **Peter** are leaving a restaurant in a good part of town. Anthony is complaining about the way they were treated in the restaurant, because they are both young black men. Anthony is

angry and indignant but Peter takes it all with humour. Approaching them on the street are **Rick** and **Jean Cabot**. Jean is complaining that Rick is always working, even during dinner. To appease her, he gives her the battery from his phone. They glance up, see Anthony and Peter approaching, and Jean takes Rick's arm. Seeing this, Anthony immediately complains about the racism inherent in the instinctive display of fear, saying that he and Peter as young black men should feel nervous in a largely white area of town. Rhetorically, he asks Peter why the two of them are not scared, and Peter replies that it's because they have guns. They then steal the Cabots' car at gunpoint. Driving away from the scene of the car-jacking, Anthony is angry with Peter for fixing his little statue of St. Christopher to the car's dashboard.

09:30–11:00

Anthony and Peter drive past another crime scene, where **Waters** and **Ria** are just arriving. An undercover detective called **Conklin** has shot and killed a black man driving a Mercedes. While the two detectives are investigating the scene, Waters discovers that the dead man is a vice detective from Hollywood, called William Lewis.

11:00–14:18

At the **Cabots'** home, **Daniel Ruiz** is replacing the locks while Rick is working with his staff. Jean is suspicious of Ruiz' ethnicity (Latino), shaved head and tattoos, and demands that Rick have the locks changed again in the morning. She becomes increasingly agitated and when he tries to calm her down she begins shouting, accusing Ruiz of planning on selling their new key to his gangster friends. Ruiz has obviously heard everything: he packs up his tools and leaves, dropping the keys on the kitchen table for Jean.