

CRASH

Technical File

Title: Crash
USA – Germany, 2004
Director: Paul Haggis
Script: Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco
Photography: James Muro
Editing: Hughes Winborne
Music: Mark Isham
Running time: 100 min.

Artistic File

Matt Dillon: Jack Ryan, officer
Sandra Bullock: Jean Cabot, district attorney's wife
Brendan Fraser: Rick Cabot, district attorney
Don Cheadle: Graham Waters, detective
Jennifer Espósito: Ría, officer, Graham Water's partner
Terrence Dashon Howard: Cameron Thayer, TV director
Thandie Newton: Christine Thayer, TV director's wife
Ryan Philippe: Hansen, unexperienced police officer
Michael Pena: Daniel, locksmith
Shaun Tour: farhard, Iranian shopkeeper
Laurent Tate: Peter Waters, Graham's young brother
Chris "Ludacris" Bridges: Anthony, young man
William Fichtner: Jake Flanagan
Loretta Devine: Shaniqua
Yomi Perry: María

Synopsis

An urban thriller, the fleeting encounter of a group of characters of different ethnical backgrounds, influenced by the media and the prejudices of our society. A racist police officer, with a diseased father, rude and overbearing, who is capable of the best and the worst, accompanied by an unexperienced young policeman. Two black young men who theorize **about racism. A black policeman with a sick mother and a missing brother. A district attorney** married to a hysterical woman. A TV director with an unbearable wife. An Iranian shopkeeper and his family. A Hispanic locksmith and his daughter. Patches of life in a multicultural society.

Awards

- Oscar to the Best film, Best script and Best Director (2005)
- It has won awards in several Festivals

Director: Paul Haggis was born in Ontario(Canada) in 1953. After studying photography and graduating in films, he started writing for television programmes and became famous with the applauded CBS series "Ed Streets". His film-maker career started in 2000, after years of success in television, when he obtained the rights and wrote the script for "Million Dollar Baby" to try his luck. Clint Eastwood shot Haggis's first draft without introducing any changes. On March 5th 2006 he became the first person in the history of the Academy Awards to write the scripts of two consecutive

winning films, *Crash* and *Million Dollar Baby* the previous year. He is also the director of *In the Valley of Elah* (2008).

Pedagogical interest of the film

1. It states the multicultural character of a modern city made up by people of different origins.
2. It presents the social division of society.
3. What is an opportunity of living together may become a hellish experience if we let ourselves be lead by prejudice and stereotypes.
4. The postmodern vision offers an approach to human beings devoid of heroicism.
5. The plurality of identities is not only external. It is also internal. Each character is capable of the evil and the sublime.
6. The problem of integration and social acces affects each generation: the arrival of the last immigrants.
7. The interest of the film for an intercultural pedagogy: people understand each other through dialogue.
8. The human being matters. Our actions matter.

DIDACTICAL PROPOSALS

1. WARM-UP

1.1 Explanation by the teacher of the three concepts that intervene in teh construction of inequality: a) stereotypes, b) prejudice and c) discrimination.

1.2 An exercise about stereotypes:

Write the first thing that comes to your mind about these terms:

Arab-

Gipsy-

Rumanian-

American-

Andalusian-

1.3 Viewing of the film

2.- STUDENTS' WORK

2.1 Individual work. –Look at each carácter in the following box and complete teh information required:

Character	Activit y	Ethnica l group	Are there any streotypes	And prejudice ?	Does he/she discriminate ?	Negative / Positive

			?			character
Ryan						
Young detective Hansen						
District attorney Rick and his wife Jean						
TV director Cameron/ his wife Chris						
Iranian shopkeeper Farhad						
Hispanic locksmith Daniel						
Anthony and Meter						
Police officers Graham Waters and Ria						

After the viewing of the film the organiser will set up a debate to try to make the group answer the following questions:

- The most characteristic feature of the society presented to us is its homogeneity or its diversity?
- This homogeneity is only ethnical or also social?
- What ethnical and social groups are represented?
- What examples can we find of prejudice?
- And of stereotypes?
- What discriminations happen in the film?
- Is the distinction good guys/bad guys useful to talk about the characters? Can they be classified in this way?
- What main idea or ideas does this film want to communicate?

Finally, each student will make a written exercise about the film expressing the opinion about it and what they feel they have learnt with the work.

2.2.- Group work.- the students are organized into 8 groups. Each group is assigned a carácter and they must note down the most characteristic feature of its role in the film. The following box may be provided for taking note of the character.

Character /partner	Activity	Ethnic group	Stereotypes?	Prejudice?	Discriminatory?	Negative/Positive character
Ryan	Sargeant					

ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTER	
Wording about other groups	Actions towards other groups
Positive.- Negative	Positive.- Negative.-

Also, must they

Each group must present their character to the others and decide whether it is a negative or positive character. Or both.

decide what conclusion may be extracted from the film. What does it want to tell us?

Gallery of characters

Sargeant Ryan and Young detective Hansen
District attorney Rick and his wife Jean
TV Director Cameron and his wife Christine
Iranian shopkeeper Farhad and Hispanic locksmith Daniel
Youngsters Anthony and Meter
Police officers Graham Waters and Ria