

Crossing Over 2009



Plot :

Crossing Over is a multi-character canvas about immigrants of different nationalities struggling to achieve legal status in Los Angeles. The film deals with the border, document fraud, the asylum and green card process, work-site enforcement, naturalization, the office of counter terrorism and the clash of cultures. *Written by [Wayne Kramer](#)* (imdb)

Idioms, slangs and vocabulary used

Order of recognizance = ■ **noun** **Law** a bond by which a person undertakes before a court or magistrate to observe a particular condition, e.g. to appear when summoned.

Bussed out 3 hours ago = they were transferred out by bus to another place

Happy now? = this is the consequence of your attitude or action = حالا خوب شد؟ راضی شدی؟

My dad's **nationalization party** = a party when new citizens are invited to become a legal US citizen

Compadres! Let's do it = friends

Why don't you go back to **Camel-humping** Saudi Arabia? = برو به عربستان شتر سوار

No sister to do your **grunt work**? = difficult work = آجی نداری کارهاتو بکنه؟

I got this little **Glock/ruger**, homie = types of gun = نوعی اسلحه کمبری پلیس آمریکا

My uncle's **into** him for **50 large** = 50 thousand dollars = عموميم برای ۵۰ هزار دلار دنبالش است

Reverse ID on a Mary Smith number = try to find someone's identification

I didn't have time to stop my car. You just **shot out** like that = get a parked car out of the space quickly

You look **dazed** = without concentration

Adjudication officer = I judge whether an immigrant can be granted citizenship

AAA = Alcoholic Anonymous Association انجمن الکلی های بی نام و نشان

I make it fly = make it attractive or acceptable = کاری می کنم که جذاب تر شه

EB1 = *The EB-1 is a preference category for United States employment-based permanent residency. It is intended for "priority workers" or foreign nationals with extraordinary talent.* نوعی ویزای ورود به آمریکا برای افراد نابغه یا ویژه

I hope you are not **jerking me around** = fooling me. cheating me

Would you make it worth my while? = make up for it, compensate

You are **on the clock** from tomorrow = your job starts as of tomorrow

Rag-head chick = insulting word for an Arab or a Moslem =

Your essay **elicits sympathy** for suicide attacks = you are indirectly supporting terrorists = مقالات شما همدردی با تروریست ها را می طلبد

They didn't **go about it** the right way = do it

I'm gonna **put the baby down** = have it sleep = بچه رو بخوابونم

Consorting with the outcast = socialize, associate, mingle, mix

Never been invited to a **shunning** before = when people avoid, insult or do not respect strangers

He doesn't **pine** = does not complain

I feel **guttled** = shocked, disappointed

In a **hospice** = a place for old, sick people to spend time till they die

All of a sudden you **lay it on me** = you blame it on me

Bar/bat mitzvah = the religious ceremony held when a Jewish boy/girl reaches the age of 13 and is considered an adult

Have gone to **shul?** = a synagogue

Beat yourself up = blame yourself

Letterhead = piece of paper for a company to write its formal letters or requests

Twiddle your hair/thumbs = move or turn, have nothing to do

Wanna watch **you on the set** = on the shooting set

If she signs me, it is **major** = excellent

I'm pushing for a **one-on-one** = between only two people

Bite the dust = die or be killed

Print shop = place where photocopies

Did someone **have it in for** her = harbor a grudge against someone, **v. phr., informal** To wish or mean to harm; have a bitter feeling against. *George has it in for Bob because Bob told the teacher that George cheated in the examination. After John beat Ted in a fight, Ted always had it in for John.*

He was **cranking them up** (the documents) = forge, fake

Perhaps someone was **cutting into their action** = interfere

Do you doubt the **veracity** of my heart? = honesty, integrity

Need sb to **talk it through** with? = talk about it seriously and deeply

Don't **play coy** with me = don't pretend you are shy

How **austere** it was = painful or hard

Everything is a **red flag** = danger

I could **joust** with you all day = argue

She is **illegal** and **removable** = she will be deported

They're **shit out of luck** = unlucky

I N S guy = *The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1933 to 2003* = سازمان مهاجرت و اعطای شهروندی امریکا

I don't have to be worried about being **narced** on = call the police to arrest me for my illegal activities

She **intimated** to me that = she tipped me off = indirectly informed me

This is clean and press = when talking to a dry-cleaner = لطفا اینها رو خشک شویی واتو کنید

We won't have to **skulk around** anymore = to hide or move about secretly so that you are not seen or arrested = قایم موشک بازی کردن، آسه برو آسه بیا

On your own volition = without force or obligation = willingly

I **make your skin crawl** = you hate me

Start **over again** = start anew

Her **personal effects** envelope = personal belongings or possessions

An ordained rabbi = a religious leader for Jews = یک خاخام رسمی

This will prove more **expedient** = it is the least harmful choice

Another please. **Last call pal** = *American English* the time when customers in a bar can order one more drink before the bar closes **SYN last orders** *British English*

They must have been **lax** in **surveillance** = not very serious in security cameras

We **ran a check** on your name = we checked your name

Walk-on roles = small acting part with no words to say in a play or film, or an actor who has a part like this

I **take it** you are **familiar with Ms. Clair Shepard** = I guess you know her

She **traded you** for **voluntary departure** = she cooperated with the police so that she wouldn't be arrested and deported

It's **incumbent on** me to remind you of your newfound responsibilities as citizens = I must tell you

Got it on with a married man = had an affair

Recite the oath of allegiance = promise that you will be loyal to the USA

I ID'd Farid's **Beemer** = I identified his BMW = he was the driver of the BMW, so he is the murderer

My father wanted her humiliated and **brought in line** = obedient

She was seeing a **degenerate effing beaner** = a corrupt mexican

I only wanted to **get in his face** a little bit = bother, tease

I'll notify your **FOS** (factor of safety) = position, an operator talking to an officer in the field

Synopsis :

After immigrant Mireya Sanchez is deported, officer Max Brogan takes care of her little son, and brings him to the boy's grandparents in Mexico. Later the woman is found dead near the border. Brogan returns to the grandparents to tell them the bad news.

Cole Frankel, a corrupt immigration officer, makes a deal with Australian immigrant Claire Shepard: he can have unlimited sex with her for two months, then she gets a green card. In the course of the two months he separates from his wife and wants to make the relationship with Shepard one of love, but she declines. He exempts her from completing the two months and arranges the green card. However, authorities find out and arrest him and Shepard is deported. His wife Denise Frankel adopts a little girl from Nigeria, who has already been in the detention center several years.

Brogan has an Iranian colleague, Hamid Baraheri. Hamid's family disapproves of his sister having sex with a married man. Encouraged by his father his brother plans to beat them up, but he ends up killing them, and is arrested.

South Korean teenager Yong Kim, who is about to be naturalized, reluctantly participates in a robbery with four others. Hamid kills the four in a shootout but lets him go. He lies to the authorities that there were only four robbers.

Gavin Kossef, a young British immigrant, pretends to be a religious Jew, to get a job at a Jewish school, which allows him to stay in the U.S. In a test where he has to demonstrate his familiarity with the Jewish religion he does not perform properly, but a rabbi asked to assess it approves it, so that the immigrant passes the test. After the test, in private, the rabbi requires from the immigrant to take lessons from him to eliminate the deficiencies in his knowledge.

Taslina Jahangir, a 15-year-old girl from Bangladesh, presents a paper at school promoting that people should try to understand the 9/11 hijackers. The school principal reports this to authorities. She is not charged for this, but it turns out that her parents and she are illegally in the U.S. One parent of choice can stay with the girl's two younger siblings, who are U.S. citizens because they were born in the U.S., the girl has to leave with the other parent to Bangladesh, even though she has lived there only until she was three. She leaves with her mother, and cannot even say goodbye to her father.

Wikipedia:

Crossing Over is a 2009 American independent [drama film](#) about [illegal immigrants](#) of different nationalities struggling to achieve legal status in [Los Angeles](#). The film deals with the border, document fraud, the [asylum](#) and [green card](#) process, work-site enforcement, [naturalization](#), the office of counter-terrorism and the clash of cultures. Crossing Over was written and directed by [Wayne Kramer](#), himself an immigrant from [South Africa](#), and is a remake of his 1995 short film of the same name. Kramer produced the film alongside [Frank Marshall](#).^[1]

Crossing Over was filmed on location in Los Angeles in 2007.

Plot

There are several stories interwoven throughout the movie. For simplicity, they are separated out in this description, each with its own paragraph.

After immigrant Mireya Sanchez is deported, immigration officer Max Brogan takes care of her little son, and brings him to the boy's grandparents in [Mexico](#). Later the woman is found dead near the border. Brogan returns to the grandparents to tell them the bad news.

Taslina Jahangir, a 15-year-old girl from [Bangladesh](#), presents a paper at school promoting that people should try to understand the [9/11](#) hijackers. The school principal reports this to authorities. FBI agents raid the home and ransack her room, reading her diaries and a school assignment on the ethics of suicide, criticizing her room as "too austere" and noting that she has an account on an Islamic website. The profiler says this makes her look like a would-be suicide bomber. She is not charged for this, but it turns out that she has only resident status. She was born in Bangladesh and brought to America at age

three. Her father is studying for the citizenship test and Taslima's continued presence jeopardizes his chances and puts the two younger siblings at risk. The young kids are U.S. citizens because they were born in the U.S. Denise Frankel, the immigration defense attorney, suggests that instead of the whole family being deported, Taslima can leave for Bangladesh with her mother while the rest of the family stays in the US.

Cole Frankel, an immigration officer, gets into a car accident with Claire Shepard, an aspiring actress from Australia. Realizing that she is in the country illegally, Cole makes an arrangement with Claire where she will have unlimited sex with him for two months in exchange for a [green card](#). When Cole eventually says he wants to leave his wife for Claire, she makes it clear that she holds him in contempt and is only sleeping with him for the green card. In a moment of clarity, Cole exempts Claire from completing the two months and arranges for Claire to get her green card in the mail. Authorities eventually confront Claire about the suspiciousness in her immigration paperwork and she admits to the sexual arrangement she had with Cole. She leaves the country "voluntarily." Cole is arrested. His wife Denise Frankel adopts a little girl from [Nigeria](#), who has already been in the detention center for several years.

Brogan has an [Iranian](#) colleague, Hamid Baraheri. Hamid's family disapproves of his sister having sex with Javier Pedroza, a married man. Encouraged by his father, Hamid's brother plans to scare the couple, but things get out of hand and he shoots both of them and goes to Hamid who helps him hide the evidence. Brogan slowly suspects Hamid's involvement as the film progresses.

Also, Javier Pedroza works in a copy shop and made extra money by providing counterfeit immigration papers for undocumented. Claire had previously paid him for false papers before she had made her arrangement with Cole. But when Javier was killed, the authorities discovered her documents among his belongings which is what caused immigration to examine her case more closely.

[South Korean](#) teenager Yong Kim is about to be naturalized with the rest of his family, but he has started to hang out with a bad crowd and ultimately participates in a convenience store robbery to "pop his cherry" with his gang. Hamid happens to be at the same convenience store and kills the other robbers but (due to his own guilt over his involvement in his sister's death) lets Yong Kim go free.

Gavin Kossef, a Jewish musician (really an atheist) from the [United Kingdom](#) pretends to be a religious Jew in order to get a job at a Jewish school, which allows him to stay in the U.S. In a test where he has to demonstrate his familiarity with the Jewish religion he does not perform properly, but a [rabbi](#) asked to assess it approves it because of his voice. After the test, in private, the rabbi requires from the immigrant to take lessons from him to eliminate the deficiencies in his knowledge.

[\[edit\]](#)Cast

- [Harrison Ford](#) as ICE Special Agent Max Brogan
- [Ray Liotta](#) as Cole Frankel
- [Ashley Judd](#) as Denise Frankel
- [Jim Sturgess](#) as Gavin Kossef
- [Cliff Curtis](#) as ICE Special Agent Hamid Baraheri
- [Alice Braga](#) as Mireya Sánchez
- [Alice Eve](#) as Claire Shephard
- [Summer Bishil](#) as Taslima Jahangir
- [Jacqueline Obradors](#) as FBI Special Agent Marina Phadkar
- [Justin Chon](#) as Yong Kim
- [Sarah Shahi](#) as Pooneh Baraheri
- [Melody Khazae](#) as Zahra Baraheri
- [Merik Tadros](#) as Farid Baraheri
- [Marshall Manesh](#) as Sanjar Baraheri
- [Nina Nayebi](#) as Minoos Baraheri
- [Naila Azad](#) as Rokeya Jahangir
- [Shelley Malil](#) as Munshi Jahangir
- [Jamen Nanthakumar](#) as Abul Jahangir
- [Jaysha Patel](#) as Jahanara Jahangir

- [Leonardo Nam](#) as Kwan
- [Tim Chiou](#) as Steve
- [West Liang](#) as Mark
- [Mahershala Ali](#) as Detective Strickland

[edit] **Production and distribution**

The film originally featured a scene in which an [Iranian](#) character is murdered by her brother in an [honor killing](#), but the [National Iranian American Council](#) opposed the plotline as being unrealistic and offensive, and the killing was presented as a beating-up which got out of hand, removing the dialogue referring to "honor" and "family honor".^{[2][3]}

Additionally, [Sean Penn](#) filmed scenes as an immigration cop. However, his scenes were cut due to the controversy over the honor killing plot, though producer [Harvey Weinstein](#) later claimed that Penn's agent requested his scenes be cut out of the film.^{[4][5]}

Though the film was shot in 2007, it was not released until 2009, and even then only in a limited theatrical run. The film's original running length was 140 minutes long, but this film's producer (who had final cut privilege) was convinced to edit the film down to under 2 hours when [Harvey Weinstein](#) threatened to release the film straight to DVD and bypass a theatrical release altogether (in many countries outside of the US, this was the case anyway).^[6]

The film was distributed in the United States by [MGM](#) and [The Weinstein Company](#). It was given a limited theatrical release on February 27, 2009. It ultimately grossed less than half a million dollars in North America, and just over \$2.5 million internationally for a total of \$3 million. The film has reportedly made another \$1.7 million in US DVD sales.