



## movie reviews

[Reviews](#) [Great Movies](#) [Answer Man](#) [People](#) [Commentary](#) [Festivals](#) [Oscars](#) [Glossary](#) [One-Minute Reviews](#) [Letters](#) [Roger Ebert's Journal](#) [Scanners](#) [Store](#)

**CHICAGO SUN-TIMES** [News](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Classifieds](#) [Columnists](#)

### search

Search powered by **YAHOO!**

### register

You are not logged in.

[Log in](#) »

[Subscribe to weekly newsletter](#) »

### times & tickets

[Fandango](#)  
[Search movie showtimes and buy tickets.](#)

### about us

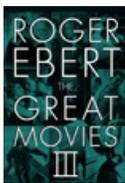
[About the site](#) »

[Site FAQs](#) »

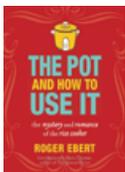
[Contact us](#) »

[Email the Movie Answer Man](#) »

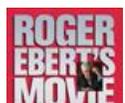
### on sale now



[Buy now](#) »



[Buy now](#) »



### FASTER (R)

Ebert: ★★★ Users: ★★★ You: [Rate this movie right now](#)



Dwayne Johnson and hairstyle.

### Faster

BY ROGER EBERT / November 23, 2010

"Faster" is a pure thriller, all blood, no frills, in which a lot of people get shot, mostly in the head. Rotate the plot, change the period, spruce up the dialogue, and this could have been a hard-boiled 1940s noir. But it doesn't pause for fine touches and efficiently delivers action for an audience that likes one-course meals.

[Dwayne Johnson](#) stars in the kind of role he's possibly been avoiding up until now. Once known as [The Rock](#), he has developed a kinder, gentler screen persona that more closely fits him in real life. It's a melancholy fact of Hollywood today that "Faster" could be a good career move, sending him on the trail blazed by [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) and [Bruce Willis](#). Johnson has very broad shoulders and wicked tattoos, and a gun seems to grow from his hand.

As the film opens, he's being released from prison after a 10-year term. He walks out the gate into a desert wilderness and begins to run — run — to a nearby city, where a circa 1970 Chevelle is waiting for him in a junkyard. This is because modern cars all look boring, and most action heroes drive classics. He whips off the tarp and peels outta there. A private eye gives him a list of names, and he sets out to murder everyone on the list.

### cast & credits

Driver [Dwayne Johnson](#)  
Cop [Billy Bob Thornton](#)  
Killer Oliver Jackson-Cohen  
Cicero [Carla Gugino](#)  
Warden Tom Berenger  
Lily Maggie Grace  
Roy Mike Epps

CBS Films presents a film directed by [George Tillman Jr.](#) Written by Tony and Joe Gayton. Running time: 95 minutes. Rated R (for strong violence, some drug use and language).

[Printer-friendly](#) »  
[E-mail this to a friend](#) »



### in theaters

### latest reviews

- [Black Swan](#)
- [Carlos](#)
- [Leaving](#)

[more current releases](#) »

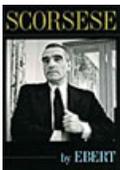
### one-minute movie reviews

### still playing

- [Black Swan](#)
- [Buried](#)
- [Burlesque](#)
- [Carlos](#)
- [Catfish](#)
- [Conviction](#)
- [Due Date](#)
- [Easy A](#)
- [Essential Killing](#)
- [Exit Through the Gift Shop](#)
- [Fair Game](#)
- [Faster](#)
- [For Colored Girls](#)
- [Four Lions](#)
- [The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest](#)
- [Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1](#)
- [Hatchet II](#)
- [Hereafter](#)
- [Hideaway](#)
- [Howl](#)
- [I Spit on Your Grave](#)
- [Inside Job](#)
- [Jack Goes Boating](#)
- [Last Train Home](#)
- [Leaving](#)
- [Let Me In](#)
- [Life as We Know It](#)
- [Love and Other Drugs](#)



Buy now >



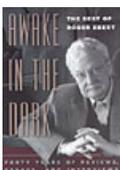
Buy now >



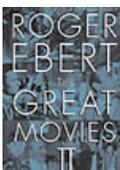
Buy now >



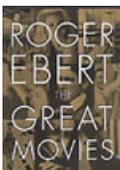
Buy now >



Buy now >



Buy now >



Buy now >

His character is named Driver. A clue to this, and the title, is that he invariably drives at the top possible speed, and obviously never took driver's ed in high school, because he doesn't know how to turn around and drive in the other direction except by slamming on the brakes, twisting the wheel and whipping through 180 degrees.

Driver is soon wanted for one, then two, then three murders. The cops know who he is. His photo is on the TV news. This all takes place in Bakersfield, Calif. What are the odds a tattooed killer with a shaved head could elude the Bakersfield police for long while piloting a classic Chevelle at 80 mph and laying rubber all over town? In "Faster," excellent.

The cop on the case is Cicero ([Carla Gugino](#)). She finds herself saddled with a partner known as Cop ([Billy Bob Thornton](#)). He's two weeks from retirement. As we all know, anyone two weeks from retirement, be he cop, fireman, stunt man, prison guard or kindly old dad, will never make it. Cop is also mainlining heroin, for no better reason than to show him doing it. One fix lasts him for the rest of the film.

Cicero and Cop try to track down Driver, who seeks vengeance on those who squealed about a bank heist and killed his brother. These people have moved into other lines of work, most notably, Preacher (Buzz Belmondo), who runs revival tent meetings. We find out more about them. And we meet the fatuous Killer (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), a British addict of extreme sports, who is a professional hit man for fun. This is some guy. He informs his girlfriend Lily (Maggie Grace) that he has "beaten" yoga, having mastered the most difficult three positions, and is ready to move on.

As Driver tracks his victims, Killer tracks Driver and Cop and Cicero track them all, director [George Tillman Jr.](#) does a lean, efficient job of creating stark action scenes. Driver shows vestiges of a personality, reluctantly. Billy Bob creates a Cop who looks like it's been all downhill for him since "Bad Santa." Gugino, a good actress, gamely pretends to be in a more nuanced movie. And the hits keep coming.

*Note: Doubtless there is a photo of [Dwayne Johnson](#) with this review. Study it, and then ponder this listing in the end credits: [Dwayne Johnson's](#) hair stylist: Rachel Soloq.*

<p><b>DISH® - Official Site</b> Get HD Free For Life &amp; Save \$180 In Your <a href="http://www.DISHNetwork.com">www.DISHNetwork.com</a></p>
<p><b>Google TV</b> Television, Meet Search Engine. <a href="http://www.Google.com/TV">www.Google.com/TV</a></p>
<p><b>Visit the TiVo Superstore</b> TiVo DVRs with Expanded Hours and all <a href="http://www.weaknees.com/">http://www.weaknees.com/</a></p>

- 👍👍 [Made in Dagenham](#)
- 👍 [Megamind](#)
- 👍 [Modus Operandi](#)
- 👍👍 [Monsters](#)
- 👍👍 [Morning Glory](#)
- 👍👍 [Never Let Me Go](#)
- 👍 [The Next Three Days](#)
- 👍👍 [Nowhere Boy](#)
- 👍👍 [The Nutcracker in 3D](#)
- 👍👍 [127 Hours](#)
- 👍 [Outside the Law](#)
- 👍👍 [Paranormal Activity 2](#)
- 👍👍 [RED](#)
- 👍👍 [Scrappers](#)
- 👍👍 [Secretariat](#)
- 👍 [Seven Days in Slow Motion](#)
- 👍👍 [The Social Network](#)
- 👍 [Stone](#)
- 👍👍 [Tamara Drewe](#)
- 👍 [Today's Special](#)
- 👍 [The Town](#)
- 👍👍 [Unstoppable](#)
- 👍 [Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen](#)
- 👍👍 [Waiting for Superman](#)
- 👍 [Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps](#)
- 👍 [Welcome to the Rileys](#)
- 👍👍 [White Material](#)
- 👍 [Winnebago Man](#)
- 👍👍 [A Woman, a Gun and a Noodle Shop](#)
- 👍👍 [You Again](#)
- 👍 [You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger](#)

[more current releases >](#)

**on dvd**

**new on dvd**

- [Restrepo](#) ★★★★★ (12/7)
- [Nothing In Common](#) ★★★ (12/7)
- [Inception](#) ★★★★★ (12/7)
- [Cronos](#) ★★★ (12/7)
- [Absence of Malice](#) ★★★ (12/7)
- [The Sorcerer's Apprentice](#) ★★★ (11/30)
- [Eat Pray Love](#) ★★ (11/23)
- [The Kids are All Right](#) ★★★★★ (11/16)
- [The Extra Man](#) ★★★ (11/16)
- [Endless Summer](#) ★★★ (11/16)

[more new on dvd >](#)

**coming on dvd**

- [Despicable Me](#) ★★★ (12/14)
- [Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work](#) ★★★★★ (12/14)
- [Micmacs](#) ★★★ (12/14)
- [Mother and Child](#) ★★★★★ (12/14)
- [Mugabe and the White African](#) ★★★ (12/14)
- [Trouble in Mind](#) ★★★★★ (12/14)



**Acoustic Design & Product**  
Specialists for Music & Audio Production  
SoundControlRoom.com

Ads by Yahoo!

Log onto  
**EarthShare.org**  
and see what  
you can do.

One environment.  
One simple way  
to care for it.®



- [The Town](#) ★★★ (12/17)
- [Easy A](#) ★★★★★ (12/21)
- [Salt](#) ★★★★★ (12/21)
- [Soul Kitchen](#) ★★★ (12/21)

[more coming on dvd »](#)

**great movies on dvd**

- [Crumb](#) (8/10)
- [The Conversation](#) (8/17)
- [Blade Runner: The Final Cut](#) (9/14)
- [The Circus](#) (10/20)
- [Superman](#) (11/4)
- [Metropolis \[2010 Restoration\]](#) (11/16)
- [Red Beard](#) (11/18)

[more great movies on dvd »](#)



© copyright 2010, rogerebert.com

[Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Submission Guidelines](#)