

Catch a fire

Director: Phillip Noyce
2006 (101')



Set in apartheid South Africa in the 1980's, Catch A Fire is based on the true story of Patrick Chamusso, an apolitical oil refinery worker who turns activist against the brutal regime. Why does a seemingly happily married father of two children with a good job turn into a "terrorist" against the state? And what role does the state play in creating him and others like him?

Vocabulary and expressions:

Baas: Boss

Foreman: Person in charge of a group of workers

Bugger (somebody) up: Put sb. in a difficult situation or cause harm to sb. They've really bugged you up

African National Congress (ANC): The anti-apartheid opposition movement in South Africa. After the Sharpeville Massacre when 69 innocent people were killed and many more injured by the police, the ANC and other opposition organisations were banned in South Africa. It was later classified as a terrorist organisation by the South African government and by most other Western governments. In 1992, it was recognised as a legal opposition group and after the General Election in 1994, which for the first time included black South Africans, it swept to power. The ANC has been in power since.

Umkhonto, we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation): The military wing of the ANC which was formed in 1961 and whose first leader was Nelson Mandela.

Boer: Name used to denote descendants of Dutch-speaking settlers in South Africa

Kaffir: Highly offensive term used to refer to black people in South Africa
He's a cheeky kaffir

Underdog: Used to describe the person least likely to win in a competition or situation

Pissed Off: Angry; annoyed

He's pissed off now

Township: Urban residential areas for "non-whites" on the outskirts of towns and cities in South Africa. During apartheid, black people were evicted from homes that were in areas designated as "white only" and forced to move into townships.

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