

Ron's Review



Ron Middleton Staff Writer

'Potter' is a classic

The word classic has been used too quickly to describe many recent movies and books, but I think Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Rated PG, 152 minutes, Warner Brothers) fits the bill.

I'm not just saying that because it made \$93.5 million dollars in its first three days of release, taking the top weekend opening record from Jurassic Park 2: The Lost World, which was a horrible movie.

I'm saying that it's a classic because it's just that darn good.

I've heard the movie described as "The Wizard of Oz for this generation" and I have to agree. Not since Oz has a movie captured the imaginations of both young and old alike.

I have not read the book, but I knew enough about the Harry Potter world that would make me want to see this movie. I have heard that the movie is VERY faithful to the book and that is a good thing. If you have read the book, this movie will be like visiting an old, dear friend.

The best part about this movie is that you don't really need to know anything other than the fact that Harry Potter was born to be a great wizard. It is a great starting point and although it is a little long for a children's movie, I found myself lost in this rich, magical world. The incredible computer-generated special effects do not intrude on the story. In fact, they remind me of the illustrations that grace the covers of the J.K. Rowling's books.

I was standing in line Saturday night, waiting for the late show at the University Cinema, and I observed the people coming out of the early show. What I saw was people of every age walking out of the theater with big smiles on their faces, which is a good sign for any moviegoer.

Director Christopher Columbus assembled an incredible ensemble cast from well-knowns (Richard Harris as Albus Dumbledore, Alan Rickman as Severus Snape) and Robbie Coltrane as Rubeus Hagrid) to unknowns (Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter).

This movie is basically set up to start a long-term movie franchise. Filming on the second installment starts next month, with seven films total planned, one each year.

As long as they keep Columbus at the helm, the franchise is safe from a "Schumacher." [Joel]

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Commentary

Has a joyous occasion passed unnoticed?

There is a wonderful occasion I don't think people have paid much attention to, and I believe it demands great celebration.

The Taliban has left. Before the Taliban formed, the citizens of Afghanistan were much like us. Women were doctors, lawyers, teachers. Men could choose whether they wanted to shave their faces, or grow a beard. Everyone listened to music.

Then the Taliban moved in, and suddenly, women were not allowed outside without a close male relative, much less hold a job. If you were a girl,

Elizabeth's Ad-libs



ELIZABETH LEWIS Contributing Writer

It's Your Money



Jonathan Miller State Representative

forget it — you were destined to be ignorant, because it was now illegal for you to learn. And men were forced to grow beards.

I have to admit, I feel most sorry for the women. Imagine living as we do, and then to be no longer able to work, go shopping, wear cosmetics or read a book. Imagine having to wear clothing that is basically like a blanket, everywhere you go, even in 90 degree heat. If anyone could see your wrists, maybe even a glimpse of an ankle, you would be beaten.

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