**Film Review**

**Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone**

Audiences are welcomed to the wonderful wizarding world of JK Rowling’s Harry Potter, with the first of what will surely be a successful series of films.

Growing up as an ordinary boy mistreated by his unloving aunt and uncle, Harry Potter is soon thrust into a magical world when he receives an invitation to join Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. As his first year progresses, it become clear that Harry isn’t ordinary, even by wizarding standards and, with the help of new-found friends must confront a terrifying dark lord intent on regaining his full power.

A film unlike any other, *the Philosopher’s Stone* thrives on the strength of its riveting story, expertly adapted by Steve Kloves, and on the confidence and skill shown by the young cast. They are expertly supported by a smorgasbord of Great British talent, including Maggie Smith, Richard Harris and Robbie Coltrane.

Boasting state-of-the art special effects, and a soon-to-be iconic score by the legendary John Williams, the action of the film races along at breakneck speed, catapulting us wholeheartedly into the adventures of Harry, Ron and Hermione.

The third act in particular is masterfully realised, ensuring that each of the leads gets their moment to shine while giving the titular character his first encounter with He Who Must Not Be Named.

With this just the first of an ever-growing series of books by a top-quality author, this series clearly has ample room to grow. It is evident that Harry Potter will be with us for quite some time.