

Movie Memories

Harry Potter: the Icon of a Generation

Nineteen years ago, on November 16th 2001 to be exact, the landscape of cinema was changed forever with the release of a film adaptation of a children's book by JK Rowling.

Based upon the exploits of a boy wizard who is invited to join the prestigious Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was just the beginning of an eight film, ten-year adventure into a multifaceted, detailed world of wizarding wonder.

By the series' culmination, words like *quidditch*, *muggle* and *Azkaban* were seared into the collective consciousness of entire generations and the young cast became household names.

Only recently, I undertook the gargantuan task of re-watching the *Harry Potter* series, tackling one film a day for eight consecutive days. Nonstop, it is a task that takes 19 hours and 39 minutes.

At first, I'd intended to get on with other things while the films played in the background but, by the time the opening notes of John Williams' iconic score played over the Warner Bros. logo, I was hooked.

Within minutes, I had rediscovered the magic of these movies. By the time the credits rolled on the second feature, *the Chamber of Secrets*, I was reminiscing about the time we'd watched the film at primary school: I must have been in Year 4 at the time.

As the movies darken in both palette and tone over the course of the next three films, the wonder of the Wizarding World does not abate. To the contrary, it becomes richer and more vivid with each instalment.

Long before the opening scenes of *the Deathly Hallows*, you are fully invested in the adventures of Harry, Ron, Hermione and the ever-extending cast of characters. With moments of pure joy and utmost sadness, the final nail-biting instalment is the perfect culmination of a generation-defining series. The *Harry Potter* series is, quite frankly, the quintessential movie experience.