

BOXOFFICE: How does "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" distinguish itself from its predecessors?

David Heyman, producer: One of the big distinctions in "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" is that the kids are all a year older, more confident and maybe a little less respectful of rules and regulations. "Azkaban" opens with Harry taking his aunt and uncle on and running away from his Muggle home on Privet Drive into the unknown. The world is darker, and, for the first time in a Harry Potter tale, the bogeyman is not realized in the form of YOU KNOW WHO,

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

on Harry's secret fears and anxieties, called the Dementors. Moreover, in becoming a teenager Harry is also coming to terms with the fact that the demons he faces are not just monsters without but monsters within. Harry is coming to terms with his own identity.

Having established some of the trademark interiors of Hogwarts Castle—the Great Hall, the House Common Rooms, the classes, the moving staircase—we are also expanding the world of Hogwarts both inside and out. Not only are all the paintings on the walls filled with worlds of their own, but we have had much more of an opportunity to open out into the surrounding Scottish landscapes around the castle and are debuting Hogsmeade, the magical village for third years and above.

We also have a plethora of new creatures: Buckbeak, a half-horse/half-eagle "Hippogriff," and a werewolf, dog and rat that transform back and forth from their

animal and human forms.

BOXOFFICE: What are the films' same basic strengths?

Heyman: We have the same central beloved characters—Harry, Ron, Hermione, Hagrid—lots of magic, adventure and Hogwarts, every kid's wish-fulfillment school of Wizardry and Witchcraft.

BOXOFFICE: What makes "Harry Potter" special and thus demand a follow-up film?

Heyman: Uniquely for a franchise, the Harry Potter books give the audience a chance to grow up with their heroes, sharing each new year in their lives with them. One of the great things about the third Harry Potter film is that the kids are now 13 and experiencing all the trials and tribulations of becoming a teenager.

BOXOFFICE: Having also produced the first and second "Harry Potters," how do you as a filmmaker keep the material fresh, interesting and challenging?

Heyman: The books get richer and richer, and there are therefore always new challenges that seem to keep the material fresh. Not only are there new characters and locations to cast and bring to life, but there is also the opportunity for us as filmmakers to learn technically from the experiences of previous films, improving where possible on past successes and expanding the universe as the technology and our own expertise increases.

From a producer's point of view, one of the exciting things about bringing new directors into the mix is that it allows me to pass on the benefit of what we have learned on previous films, whilst being open to inspiration from fresh eyes coming into the universe for the first time.



but in the shape of Sirius Black, an escaped convict on the loose, seemingly dead set on a revenge mission against Harry Potter, and terrifying new creatures that haunt the film, feeding



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