

A SPIDER-MAN-SIZED FRANCHISE FAILURE



The Amazing Spider-Man franchise came about when Sony's licence to the character was going to expire and be handed back to Marvel Studios—that is, if Sony did not release another Spider-Man film before 2012. As Spider-Man is Sony's strongest property they did not want to lose it that easily, but something they did lose was their original lead role and director, leaving Sony to have to reboot the franchise completely. This time the franchise's director would be Mark Webb, someone who the studios only chose because of the irony due to his surname. This reboot was supposed to be a grittier version of Raimi's Spider-Man, taking inspiration from Batman, something that worked out terribly for the film therefore hence the dramatic colour palette change and shift in tone in its sequel. The reason I did not think this was a good move is because Spider-Man is a fun character and a teenager, not an anti-hero like Batman, it is nearly the same as having a spaceship fall from the sky in EastEnders—the two do not fit together, therefore making the character into something it is not. The Amazing Spider-Man 2 was so convoluted it made me wonder if they got all of the previous Spider-Man scripts, heaped them on the floor and then failed trying to put them back in order. Proof to this is they actually filmed an alternate ending with Peter's dad returning, as well as a ton of irrelevant subplots that were cut from the movie at the last minute. It really just felt like a giant advert for the next films in the series leading me to the question: how was this film made in the first place? One thing I cannot fault about the franchise is Garfield's portrayal of Spider-Man, and although you can clearly see he is 30 years old trying to be a teen, he makes the character something that Toby McGuire never could. Emma Stone gives us a more independent love interest that is actually a likable character. One thing though that lets the entire franchise down is the use of its villains. These hardly have any depth in the movie, making me laugh my head off when any of them tries to state anything seriously. Overall, the Amazing Spider-Man franchise gets some things right but fails at everything else, making me wonder when they are going to give the character a rest.

By Jacob Percival

A MAGICAL DAY OUT

On Thursday 6th November, 52 students from Year 7 went on the Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter trip. Everyone was so excited. We waited around 15 minutes for the coach to arrive but we finally stepped onto the long vehicle and then we were off!

An hour and ten minutes later we arrived, in shock! Nobody could believe their eyes! We were actually at the real Warner Bros. studio. After we had parked, a lady stepped onto the coach and gave us each a Harry Potter Passport. Inside it were six pages, each with a little space to collect a stamp on the way round.

A while after that, we left the bus and stuck together like glue as we entered the studio. There seemed to be thousands of people! We walked quickly into the enormous queue. After a few minutes we entered a room which featured all the Harry Potter posters in different languages. Everyone was so eager to get to the actual film sets.

Once we got inside, everyone rushed like wild animals. We saw the real Hogwarts Great Hall, with the tables and magical candles. At lunchtime we had the opportunity to buy Butterbeer at a little stall. It was splendid!

In the second part of the tour we saw lots of interesting things. One of these was the triple-decker 'Knight Bus'. That was amazing! We also saw the real house from Privet Drive, where Harry Potter lived! Did you know that it is a real house, made out of bricks? We also saw the long wonky bridge, self-moving irons and knives. We even had a go for free on a real broomstick! That was really fun. Everyone was so joyful! After a long ride of excitement, we all went home. Nobody has forgotten the day. It was too special.

By Zuzanna Fialkowska



THE RAPTOR



HARROW WAY'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

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IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...

...everywhere you go. There are decorations up, Christmas boxes about, and as of last month, the lights are officially on in the town centre. The annual Christmas card competition is done and dusted, and the cards are on the way.

As the most wonderful time of the year approaches, so does 2015, so now is a chance to cast your mind back along the last year, or perhaps a little bit further. With the Christmas fair coming up, with the usual goods UNICEF stalls, raffles, and of course the Barbeque outside, we look at last year's event.

Last Christmas, in case you don't remember, was one of the biggest Christmas fairs yet. In order to raise funds for the Ghana trip, the UNICEF team had a raffle and a stall of fair-trade goods. There was singing, to some extent, courtesy of the school choir, and as usual, the smell of cooked food drifted slowly in through the open door (sadly, it's cold outside). In the gym some of the GCSE PE class members were running a penalty shootout, with both football and basket ball. On top of that, we were down a Father Christmas, as Mr Manson had just had a baby, so we had Vicky Jones from Year 11 - who is not a man, old or bearded - instead.

This year promises to be bigger and better still. The Andover Brass band will be supplying festive music, Santa Claus is coming to town, and there will be as many stalls as possible, with about 100 students coming along to help out. There will be a raffle, 'name the reindeer', video games, a penalty and netball shoot-out, the barbeque will be back, there's going to be a new book stall and more. There will also be sweets, if the rest wasn't enough to persuade you.

So bring your wallet or purse or someone else's (as long as they know about it) and if you're not rockin' around the Christmas tree by the end, you're the kind of person that would make Scrooge proud. I hope it will be a white Christmas, don't you? Merry Christmas Everyone.

By Alex Morling

IMPORTANT DATES

- 15/12/14—Yr 9 and 10 Big Fat Media Quiz
- 16/12/14 and 17/12/14—Performing Arts Showcase (7pm)
- 19/12/14—End of term - school ends at 1.20pm
- 12/01/15—Yr 11 parents' evening

HOUSE POINTS

- BUZZARDS - 1340**
- KESTRELS - 850**
- HAWKS - 790**

THE ATTENDANCE CUP

- HAWKS - 94.06%**
- KESTRELS - 94%**
- BUZZARDS - 92.98%**

THIS ISSUE

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HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 1

The Hunger Games tries so hard to be an entertaining blockbuster but fails on the first rule of creating a film: a plot. Literally, this had no plot to it, I could have read the first sentence of the 'plot' synopsis on Wikipedia and I would have learned every single detail of what happened in Mockingjay, and there really was no excuse as the book had plot lines which were absent from the film. The director (Francis Lawrence) did a good job with what he was given, but he could not have it more obvious with the allegory of what the media can do. Honestly, it was like being hit in the face with a barge pole.

One of the strongest aspects of this film is Jennifer Lawrence's portrayal of Katniss Everdeen, as she keeps getting better throughout each instalment, plus the creative team have done a great job of actually making the world feel real and authentic. Another thing that was great was showing the other districts, something that lacked in previous films as this makes the audience actually care for what is going on instead of having heavy exposition where it is not needed.

This really suffered from the split, something that was bound to happen when its source material is made out of less than 300 pages. When you actually look at it there is really nothing special here; I would rather volunteer for the Hunger Games every year than watch this diabolical mess again. Overall, this is a great example of how not to split a book into two parts and I would only recommend it if you would like to see how bad it is for yourself. There is still hope though as this looks like its heading towards an epic conclusion in part 2 (arriving in 2015).

By Jacob Percival



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Blood, sweat and tears of toil were put into this month's issue of the Raptor, please consider this before you turn it into a paper aeroplane and/or rip it up.

AN INTERSTELLAR REVIEW

Christopher Nolan (The Dark Knight Trilogy/Inception) really has stepped up his game, creating a masterpiece which has an epic and vast feel to it. Interstellar manages to tell a complex movie about space and time relativity as well as time loops and how time can impact lives, but surprisingly the main story isn't even about this premise, it's really about the characters' relationships with each other. Is it as good as 'Inception'? Well....no, but it's very close to it, and that's an achievement considering Inception is considered to be the best film in the past decade. Nolan manages to accomplish things that no other director would even go near; therefore I respect him and the studio for creating an original concept.

Mathew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway give unbelievable performances as the explorers; however the cinematography is where this movie really shines as it's so breathtaking it makes for something that can only be fully appreciated on the big screen.

My one criticism is the soundtrack: it just felt like the composer (Hans Zimmer) has rolled his head back and forth on a pipe organ making it extremely hard to hear the dialogue, but this could also be a good thing as it was so loud the cinema seat was vibrating a little, making you feel immersed in the action.

I've got to admit reviewing a movie like this is difficult as it has a plot twist every minute, making it something that can only be experienced if you don't know what you are going into, something Nolan pulls off so well that it makes you wonder how he's going to top this.

'Interstellar' is in cinemas now and is certainly a contender for one of the best films of the year.

By Jacob Percival

INTERSTELLAR

BUZZARDS BLURB

For this issue I went undercover, mingling with Buzzards' recently recruited House Leaders and uncovering the answers to a series of buzzing questions about their new positions:

- 1) Why did you choose to run to be a House Leader?
- 2) What qualities do you have that make you good for the position?
- 3) What do you think pushed you ahead of the other candidates in the voting?
- 4) What kind of activities have you done with your house since being appointed House Leader and what do you hope to do with your house in the future?

Mica Harris - 10KP

- 1) I chose to become a House Leader because I thought it would be a good opportunity to put my skills to the test.
- 2) The qualities that make me good at the position I would say are confidence, focus when set tasks and flexibility. In addition, I am a very responsible individual.
- 3) I make sure to discuss the ideas brought forward to me in meetings with Miss Pittman.
- 4) I have gone around and informed other Buzzard house tutors about upcoming events and recently we were judges at the teachers' cupcake competition.

Joshua Ingram - 10JCM

1) I ran for House Leader because I have always been interested in helping those around me; in particular, I have always liked aiding the school in improving itself and pursuing new heights of

BLACK FRIDAY

Black Friday officially arrived in the UK in November and just as expected thousands of people were ready for the sales. These crazy sales were advertised for weeks before the event took place and many high street stores such as Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury's took part. I had the chance to go to Tesco at midnight on the 28th of November and witness the pre-Christmas sales first hand. As this was the first time ever that such an event took place I didn't expect many people to show up to the store so late in the night. However I couldn't have been more wrong, the queue stretched all the way from the entrance of the supermarket and past the petrol station. At exactly one minute past midnight the shop doors opened and people flooded inside. It was quite mad to see people fighting over TVs and other appliances. Some people were so eager to get a TV that they even pushed each other out of the way and proceeded to scramble on the floor to try and grab the box! Let's hope that next year people will be more civilised.

By Martyna Krawczynska

achievement for its students—being a house leader is, for me, a means to that end.

- 2) In three words... Probably confident, alert and willing
- 3) I was probably the most passionate of the candidates: those who strive to achieve do.
- 4) Oh goodness... Well my long list of sacrifices includes cross-country, public speaking, various sporting competitions and... Well there is just too much for me to recount and, I can assure you, the list will grow.

By Harry Smallbones