

Potter Fever

While watching a documentary on the making of the Harry Potter movies, I felt the anticipation and excitement of the approaching climactic cinematic experience building. What is it that has made this series of first books and now motion pictures so phenomenal cannot be answered simply. There are layers and layers of brilliant creative aspects created by J.K. Rowling that you can not name one. But I do have a favorite aspect of the series. Character development is so integral to the world. Not only MUST the big three of Harry, Ron, and Hermione develop and grow but it is so amazing how even secondary characters are almost as important as the core trio. How many other series contain so many wonderful characters that even the actors profess to being surprised at their growth and the challenge that growth created.

One of my favorite characters, Neville Longbottom, has grown tremendously since his introduction. In the first 3-4 movies, poor Neville had trouble with even the most elementary of spells. Who can forget the scene in *The Chamber of Secrets* in which he is suspended from a chandelier by two cornish pixies ("Why is it always me?")? By the end of *The Order of the Phoenix*, Neville has nearly come into his own by joining Dumbledore's Army and proving his worth. Hopefully, we will see him grow even more in the final film.

The youngest red-headed Weasley child, Ginevra, has developed from the bashful 10 year old who watched Harry, Ron, and Hermione being carried away on the Hogwart's Express. During her first year at the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Ginny was possessed by the 16 year old Tom Riddle... not a good way to begin one's education. As Neville has, Miss Weasley has become more vocal, more active, even so far as to come to the defense of her hero, Harry, on the quidditch pitch.

What would a post from me on Harry be without a mention of my

favorite character, one of the most mysterious creations I have ever encountered, Professor Severus Snape. At the start of term festivities in *The Sorcerer's Stone*, the glance that Harry and the teacher share is filled with so much meaning that its implications will progress through the entire series.

The loathing seen in Snape's eyes will not fully come to light until the final film. Not only did Harry feel a burning in his scar, it made me tingle.

So... three characters... three SUPPORTING characters who are as instrumental in the World of Harry Potter as the title character himself. Just the tip of the wand in the marvelous creation of J.K. Rowling. 37 days and counting! A Potter movie fest (non ABC Family fest with commercials) will be a fun way to build up to July 15! Yes... Even *The Half-Blood Prince*.

A Potter Pot Head

I noticed two decidedly absent characters from the latest Harry Potter film. I believe there was only a passing glance or two of Draco Malfoy's partners in crime Crabbe and Goyle. Well, it seems that [Jamie Waylett](#) who plays Vincent Crabbe in the films was charged with growing 10 marijuana plants in his mother's England home. The 20 year old actor was sentenced to 120 hours of community service after pleading guilty to the charge on July 7th. The judge went easy on the malefactor after deeming the botanical exercise "small scale."

Actually, I have been noticing a limited amount of screen time for most of the supporting cast. Very little of Professors McGonagall and Snape and Hagrid was only in one major scene.

One scene in which the head of Gryffindor House appeared brought a chuckle. Once again, Harry, Hermione, and Ron were once again in the thick of trouble and Minerva ever so eloquently pointed this out:

Professor Minerva McGonagall: *[to Harry, Ron, and Hermione] Why is it that, whenever anything happens, it's always you three?*

Ron Weasley: *I've been asking myself the same question for six years, Professor*

Maggie Smith (who plays Prof. McGonagall) is definitely starting to show her age. It has been nearly 20 years since she got into the habit as the Mother Superior in *Sister Act*. Surely the supporting cast will all be front and center for the final 2 installments.

Also, the concluding two films better be made quick or the young stars who are entering their twenties will be too old. As one commented, by the time Harry Potter graduates from wizard school he will be collecting Social Security.