Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: the beginning of the end

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, the seventh film in the Harry Potter franchise, covers only the first half of J. K. Rowling’s final novel in the series of the same name. Running two and a half hours, the movie is beefy and a much more literal translation of the book than previous adaptations.

While this is the worst time for those who are uninitiated to enter the saga, big fans will appreciate the completeness and assumptions of the film. Furthermore, the action and scenery please even those who would be totally lost by the story.

It is finally time that the higher-ups realize Harry Potter can no longer be succinctly condensed into one two-hour movie. Of all the books to have a two-part film adaptation, The Deathly Hallows deserves more than a single film to satisfy its fans.

As the franchise grows, and it has grown, more and more people want to see on screen what they have read, not just a visual summary. While many events were shortened, nothing is outright skipped. However, fans can fill in the blanks themselves, something they must do often but it always happens with prompts. Nearly everyone who will see this film has read the book and wants to see the events that took place in the book.

This technique of a cursory inclusion of everything should please fans the most. This gives the filmmakers the unique opportunity to slim over the explanations of every scene and get to what fans want to see. This is the first time one of the movies has been directly made for the enjoyment of the fans.

This stance is why this movie is absolutely fantastic. Finally, the filmmakers catered to the core fan base instead of just the mainstream audiences.

This refocus started in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince but solidifies here. Reading all the books or at least seeing the movie ends on a downer. The near climactic scene of everything is about to kick into a high gear of desperation, which is set up well because the movie ends on a downer. The final scene will leave everyone wanting to see the second part. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows might be the best adaptation yet. It is solely aimed at the hardcore fans, not the casual ones. With this knowledge, this film is a waste. The movie a pleasure to watch. Prepare to leave the theater without much of the action that the fans have come to love. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows promises an epic end to a saga and an era many have grown up with.

Unstoppable speeds past typical character development

FILM
Unstoppable

GENRE: Action Drama
STARRING: Chris Pine & Denzel Washington
DIRECTOR: Tony Scott
RATING: PG-13
RELEASE DATE: Nov. 12

OUR TAKE: ★★★★★

By Robert Solomon
Staff Writer

To describe Unstoppable on paper is a bit underwhelming by the plot: A train pulling a load of dangerous chemicals gets out of control, with only two lone men having the courage to try to stop it. It is the manner in which the plot is executed that matters.

Denzel Washington and Chris Pine star as a typical pair, one an old pro and another a new hire by the railroad. Pine, who started as Captain Kirk in the recent Star Trek reboot, does a fine job holding his own with Washington. Sticking to his wheelhouse role, Washington once again plays the expert do-gooder.

The real star of this movie is the train, spewing smoke and plowing through any number of obstacles as it gains speed. There is something refreshing about seeing a film in which a real machine plays such a central part, with explosions and destruction instead of computer generated effects. If nothing else, this film is grounded in reality.

This is why, in spite of the clichéd elements, Unstoppable manages to entertain. One knows every plot point, but the execution of the action makes even the most predictable elements entertaining.

When the movie stays centered on the tension of the train’s approach to a deadly curve, the film excels. There are a few attempts at deepening the conflict between the characters, but these elements are picked up and discarded as needed in the story.

The act that sets the plot in motion is alarming in its every-day nature. Every act of cutting corners, whether to save time or money for the company, results in further disaster. It is only the actions of two men who place the safety of others over a bottom line that results in success.

This is why it is disappointing to see elements that are clearly added to make the action more exciting. The near climactic sequence where the train approaches a deadly curve nearly derailed by obvious CGI enhancement.

At any rate, this is a perfectly entertaining movie for the whole family, so if you are forced into the cinema over Thanksgiving break, this will probably be your best bet.
Points provides refreshing insight

George W. Bush summarizes his own life journey as “one interesting ride.” The man was at the forefront in the decade of most Tech students’ formative years. His autobiography Decision Points provides a front-row perspective into some of the most controversial and crucial parts of his presidency. This is not a policy report. After all, as the key decider in most presidential decisions and the fate of the nation and the world at stake. Many of these decisions also focus on partnerships and gridlock as well as Bush’s occasionally adversarial relationships with the media.

One of the best sketches was “Tyler Perry’s Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol,” followed close-by “Twelve Days of Christmas” in which Bush refuses to fully pardon Libby, Cheney’s Chief of Staff. The book also shows the close-ness of his relationships with other members of his administration. Particularly noteworthy is the rivalry between the diplomats of the State Department and the officials of the Defense Department. These types of social circumstances, however silly they may seem, are often key factors in the problems and successes of the executive branch.

One will not find much criticism of White House officials in this book, though. Figures like Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleeza Rice and Colin Powell are all portrayed as honorable statesmen, and any of their potential lapses in judgment are defended or not mentioned. His admiration for the “mad-scientist” genius of Karl Rove is especially entertaining.

Bush attempts to give a balanced portrayal of the key policy decisions of his day. He does a good job at portraying himself as a moderate trying to build consensus. He casts many of his decisions as compromises between the left and the harder conservative factions of his own party.

Obviously as with any autobiography there’s no alternate side to this book, so how much truth-value one gains from this ought to be taken with slight skepticism. His major foreign-policy decisions and national security moves after 9/11 are portrayed with one simple metric: defend American lives. His most steadfast defense of all the criticisms, and his best one, is that he had to make a split-second decision.

Indeed, the focus of this book is that President makes these decisions with very little certainty and the fate of the nation and the world at stake. Many of these decisions also focus on partnerships and gridlock as well as Bush’s occasionally adversarial relationships with the media.

This book will not change your opinion on how much you love or hate the Bush administration. It will, however, give you a greater appreciation for the trials and tribulations faced by any President.

Bush encapsulates his presidency in the book with a quote: “After the nightmare of 9/11 America went seven and a half years without another successful terrorist attack on our soil. If I had to summarize my most meaningful accomplishment as president in one sentence, that would be it.”

Miracle captures spirit of Atlanta in improv

The Second City, an improv comedy troupe of six performers from Chicago, has once again put their hilarious holiday-inspired show, Miracle on 1280 Peachtree Street, at the Alliance Theatre.

The show expertly mixes both improvisational and rehearsed songs and comedy sketches based on Atlanta and the unique comedic opportunities it presents. The specific mix of hilarious comedy and timely politics packs a punch Atlantans will find particularly potent.

The structure of the show would feel familiar to anyone who has seen a sketch comedy show like SNL or Mad TV. Nothing specific weaves the disjointed sketches into a greater whole; each section of the show stands by itself as a self-contained giggle factory. The audience does not have to keep track of complicated plots and murky motivations. Anyone looking for a deep meaning or serious treatise should look elsewhere.

The show opened with a “Twelve Days of Christmas” inspired song, celebrating some of Atlanta’s shortcomings and quirks. Dressed all in black and sporting few props, the troupe executed sketch after sketch of gen-

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technique making fridays lectures more interesting
Call of Duty: Black Ops is not an innovative title by any stretch of the imagination, but there are signs of genuine playfulness here which is always a welcome presence in game design. You can see it in the little things.

The best example is in one map of the game’s Zombies mode where players can play as JFK, Richard Nixon, Robert McNamara or Fidel Castro, who spout humorously, if predictable, quotes between acts of undead-ocide.

Aside from a couple of wonky physics issues, the single player campaign was also bug-free. In a perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course. What is most relatable are the mechanics. As a CIA agent, players can use a crossbow and a sliding through a window with guns blazing to rescue a hostage.

Of course, many players will not even touch the campaign. For them, multiplayer is the main course, and they will eat heartily as gameplay has been dramatically improved over Modern Warfare 2. All the series staples are present and accounted for, from Kill Streaks to challenges to customization perks and equipment load outs. However, things have been tweaked to restore balance and sanity.

The worst part is the way the game will force the player to obey its orders. If spotted during the mandatory stealth sequence, every enemy in the place will be summoned to the player’s exact location and kill instantly, but when the game allows the player to start shooting twenty seconds later, everybody goes back to being deaf.

While an interesting premise, the story falls prey to a painfully predictable split-personality and brainwashing one-two punch, finishing with a weak twist ending. Worse than the story, though, is the fact that the campaigns is so relentlessly scripted that it feels like the player’s presence is almost an intrusion in the game.

Almost every firefight has a pre-rendered kill animation or explosive micro cut-scene waiting to be triggered, and every mission in the entire game has a sequence that must be played in certain way to satisfy some arbitrary criteria. If that sounds incredible, Black Ops may be right for you. To me, it was stalling and grating.

The interface is another thing that was done quite intelligently. Save for the multiplayer and pause menus, all of the set-up for the campaign was also bug-free. In a perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course, but seeing perfect world, that would simply be par for the course. What is most relatable are the mechanics. As a CIA agent, players can use a crossbow and a sliding through a window with guns blazing to rescue a hostage.

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Driving through Chamblee area Atlanta in the rain around 9 p.m., looking for an immediately delicious-as-it-is-dingy Chinese cafeteria may not sound like a prime Monday night excursion. However, we found that if the Atlanta Chinatown Square were to transplant itself to someplace like the Varsity, no Tech student would be spared from its slew of tastes and dishes, intriguing character and easily agreeable prices.

When we finally made it, we easily spotted the brightly-lit facade of the square. From the outside it almost looks like the typical highway-side strip mall, although like much of the Chamblee food scene, it is undoubtedly East Asian. The entrance to the inner courtyard is flanked by two stone lions and several stores like an herbal shop and Chinese bookstore populate the road side of the square.

Passing the lion statues, we found ourselves in a courtyard certainly not shared by most other dinky shopping centers. The main feature here is the small Chinese garden with a bridge over a pond with a few fish. The walls are covered with two elaborate murals painted by artists from China. All this was added during a major makeover in 2000; from China. All this was added with two elaborate murals.

The seating area seems to seat about 100 and is surround by the restaurants’ counters on one side and windows to the courtyard on the other. There were only a handful of people there at the time, likely because it was a weekday night. A few older men were playing Xiangqi, a Chinese chess-type board game, at a table. However, the photo galleries on their website and the popularity we have noticed among North Atlanta residents strongly suggests the opposite during high-traffic hours. The price range for all the restaurants had an average price of about $6 and a short range. We made a meal for the four of us by sharing dishes costing less than $7.50 each from three of the nine restaurants: China Kitchen, Hong Kong BBQ and Yanni Yanni. Fortunately for us, the large boards behind the counter written entirely in Chinese were accompanied by English paper menus. From China Kitchen we ordered sliced fish in hot chili oil and a plate of chicken and mushrooms from Hong Kong BBQ, we ordered barbeque pork over rice with bok choy; and from Yanni Yanni, we ordered udon. All the restaurants offer free black tea, which is happily accepted, as well as extra rice.

China Kitchen’s sliced fish in hot chili oil was a masterpiece and easily our favorite of all our dishes. It was served as a deep bowl of cabbage submerged in dark red oil and broth with bits of chilies and green onions floating under slices of fish. The spicy oil and broth even worked well with rice served with other dishes. It also won in presentation, whereas the other dishes were not too spectacular-looking. However, their plate of chicken and mushrooms fell flat, simply being a typical take-out dish. At Hong Kong BBQ, with several very barbequed birds hanging to the window, we opted for a plate of two-way barbeque pork over rice with bok choy. The thickly sliced chunks of pork were moist and a little sweet, and the shredded pork was crispier and saltier.

Both would have been nice on a snack platter, rather than a main dish, and it was a rather boring dish overall. Yanni Yanni offered the only Japanese cuisine in the food court, and we decided on the udon. The noodles were cooked perfectly and soaked up the broth’s nice mild flavor well. This also nicely complimented China Kitchen’s sliced fish.

Overall, we have never encountered such a place before, and it is certainly more than meets the eye. Comparing it to a mall food court would be disgraceful, but no single restaurant carries the whole place. This food court is one of many singularities Atlanta has to offer, and it is perhaps one of the best places to hang out and eat on a shoestring budget. Just be sure to bring cash, or be prepared to use the ATM outside.

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THEME CROSSWORD: THE WRITE STUFF

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS
1. Big bad --
5. Hit from years past
10. Clog
15. Latticework piece
19. Jai --
20. Kind of offering
21. Eat at
22. About: 2 wds.
23. Bulletin
25. Undeliverable item: 2 wds.
27. Of barbering
28. Bulb units
30. Lendl or Denisovich
31. Winged
32. Partner
33. Twin crystal
34. Ouzo flavoring
35. Lumen
36. Of a wood
37. Business communication: 2 wds.
38. Stakes
39. More secure
40. Non-italic character: 2 wds.
41. The cream
42. Falk or Fonda
44. Franklin stove
45. Weasel cousin
46. Musical instrument
49. Cootie
50. City in New Jersey
51. Inside: prefix
52. Sch. in Cambridge
53. Lemon or lime
citrus
54. Horse opera
55. Ear
56. Fill
57. Detours
59. Luminary
60. "Drag" or "bummer"
62. Pointer light
63. Builder
65. Fresco, e.g.
66. Midshipman's coat
68. Name in opera
69. Alopecia
72. Scraps of food
73. Mountain range in Asia
74. Tiny amount
75. Greek letter
76. Gangster's gun
77. Postman: 2 wds.
78. Beige
79. Name in opera
80. Calendar abbr.
81. Summer near
the Seine
82. Theopian
83. Chair part
84. Shapped
85. Maltreats
87. Sententious
89. Flower arrangement
90. Genus of plants
91. Support in northern Italy
92. Joke
94. "-- of Two Cities"
97. Gazed intently
99. Ancient mock sea battle
100. Junk mail: 2 wds.
102. Golf club
104. Junk mail: 2 wds.
105. Decline
106. The latest thing

DOWN
1. Poverty
2. Spread for bread
3. Landscape's concern
4. Able to split, said of rocks
5. Musical work
6. Include: 2 wds.
7. Statistics
8. Reykjavik native
9. Always, poetically
10. Solene
11. Mountain ridge
12. Dory
13. Cousin to a bookie
14. -- Aviv
15. Metric measures
16. Wall pier
17. Card with three spots
18. A pronoun
19. Something sometimes interrequited
20. Size
21. Existed
22. Perjuring one
23. Fish sauce
24. Something
25. Grinder
26. Stomach
27. -- Miss
28. XXXV + XIX
30. Sch. in Cambridge
31. Lemon or lime
citrus
32. Some (of)
33. Partner
34. Twine crystal
35. Ouzo flavoring
36. Of a wood
37. Business communication: 2 wds.
38. Stakes
39. More secure
40. Non-italic character: 2 wds.
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GALA VILLAOZ
STEPHEN WEBBER
Piled Higher & Deeper by Jorge Cham

Mike, I know I don’t say this enough, but...
I really appreciate the work that you do.
You do?
On absolutely.
I just wish you’d do more of it.

COMICS

Non Sequitur by Wiley

Yes, I know I’m the one who said you need to confront and challenge your issues... but...

Bob’s fear of pickpockets takes an ugly turn

CROSSWORD SOLUTION FROM PAGE 17

WOLF OLDIE SABOT LATH
ALAI PEACE ERODE INRE
NEWSLETTER DEAD LETTER
TENSORIAL WATTS XRAYS
IVAN ALATE MATE
MACLE ANISE SALES REP
OBOE HONDA OAKEN OLE
LIVE LETTER PERFECT MIT
ADE OATER ANGER SATE
FERROUS STAR DOWNER
LASER MASON MURAL
REEF AIDA BALDNESS
ORTS ALTAL OUNCE TAU
GAT LETTER CARRIER TUE
TEOTE ACTOR SPLAT SENT
TOURS PITHY SPRAY
ARUM GENOA JAPE
ATALE PORED NAUMACHIA
FORM LETTER FAN LETTERS
ATTU BETTE AGAIN EROS
REED BROAD DETAT RENT

LIFE IS A PRECIOUS THING, BUT SIMPLY BREATHING AND EXISTING ISN’T LIVING...

THE END IS INEVITABLE FOR EVERYTHING... WE NEED TO FACE IT AND ACCEPT IT AS A PART OF LIFE IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS AND THEN MOVE ON.

I’m afraid that time has gone for you, dear. I have to pull the plug...

But the game just went into overtime! Go to the light socket... in the dining room, dinner on the table

Hey, don’t just want to give you a head-up? On what, Kate?

Well, Draue heard about Mark Twain’s bibliography being published 100 years after his death, and it gave her an idea to take it a step further.

Okay, mom? She says it’ll be the first ever precent autobiography.
**Dilbert® by Scott Adams**

**Non Sequitur by Wiley**

---

**Technique**

November 19, 2010

19

COMICS

dilBerT ® by SCott adamS

NoN sequiTur by Wiley

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**Dilbert® by Scott Adams**

We launched our revamped website today.

All of the technology we used is already obsolete and every vendor we hired is out of business.

... and it just crashed.

I miss the days when we had brief windows of success.

Once again, you have failed to motivate me.

You said we shouldn't be motivated by money, so I'm waiting for the new thing to kick in.

I'm not good at reading faces, but I think there's something happening over in this region.

**Non Sequitur by Wiley**

Ooh, what a factual account of what you haven't done?

What would ever lead you to believe people are gullible enough to swallow that?

Election results, mostly.

Oh, I know all these things will come true.

Umm, do you know all these things will come true?

Wally, do you have a minute?

Nope. I'm far too busy.

I'm blocking the only exit. You have no choice but to answer my question.

I blocked the air vent too.

Well played.

The request we got for a quote is vague, and the deadline for our response is tomorrow.

If I ask for clarity, we'll miss the deadline. If I don't, our bid will either be below our cost or too high to win.

Which path of certain failure do you prefer?

I like the one that makes you work the hardest.

---

**Technique**

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**Dilbert® by Scott Adams**

How are you going to get a publisher for an autobiography that's all about stuff that hasn't happened yet?

Iffy.

Yes, you kidding?

My president's autobiography is a publishing orgasm.

Man, I'm getting a bad feeling about this...

Huh?

It's beginning to make sense to me.

True genius often takes time to sink in.

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Hello, this is the Dogbert Market Research Company. May I ask you some totally harmless questions?

What is your social security number, bank pin number and mother's maiden name?

What exactly are you researching?

Poverty rates. I'm shooting for 100%.

Bob, Director of Purchasing

I requested an Ethernet switch and you sent me a box of pencils.

Sometimes I tweak the non-standard orders so I can use our approved vendors.

You can't tell the difference between a switch and your problems and mine.

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**Dilbert® by Scott Adams**

An autobiography? But you're only nine years old!

I solved that little problem by inventing the President's autobiography.

What would ever lead you to believe people are gullible enough to swallow that?

Elections results, mostly.

Let me get this straight...you're writing an autobiography on what you're going to do?

Umm, do you know all these things will come true?

You'll be published in a book, though! Is it hard to be true?

That fine line between can-do and lunacy. Just got a lot thinner that's not what you'll say at my inaugural ball.

Well, I'm just trying to make sense to me.

True genius often takes time to sink in.

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