

Episode 141 - A Very Potter Senior Year Act 2 (Part 3)

w/ Kim Harris

PM = Past Mike
EM= Editing Mike
KH = Kim Harris

If there is a mistake or mis-translation in this transcript please feel free to reach out to Mike for clarification! (potterlesspodcast@gmail.com)

PM

Hey! It's me, that thing that's been on your to-do list for quite some time now. I understand that I am a bit of a daunting task, but both of us know that we'll be better off if we just get me crossed off this list. So, what could serve as the motivation to complete me? While you're completing the necessary work, why don't you listen to an episode of this podcast.

[Announcements 0:16 – 3:04]

PM

But, without further ado, let's get into Episode 141 of Potterless, the final episode covering Act 2 of A Very Potter Senior Year, guest starring, Kim Harris from Fanatical Fics and Where to Find Them.

Intro Music

PM

Hello, internet, and welcome back to another episode of Potterless, the tale of a grown man who never read the Harry Potter series as a kid. He read them as an adult. And, now, he's going above and beyond reading and doing other things. My name is Mike Schubert. I'm that grown man and I'm here joined today by the other co-host of Fanatical Fics, it's Kim. Kim, how's it going?

KH

What up, internet and Mike?

PM

It's so good to have you finally on an official episode of Potterless. It's long overdue. We've crossed collaborated and done things together, but this is the first time you're on a real, true, official, legitimate Potterless episode. Hooray!

KH

Hell yeah. I am so excited to be here. Thank you so much for having both me and Sequoia on. We're very excited to get to talk about all kinds of fun fandom stuff.

PM

I'm so excited to have you both on. You are the fan fiction experts, at least, to what I'm looking for. You're the people that I want to talk about fan fiction most. And this is basically just fancy fan fiction.

KH

Yeah.

PM

So, who better to talk to than you two?

KH

It's got a lot of fun elements of like parody fan fiction. So, I would agree. Would not – I would strongly hesitate to call myself a fan fiction expert. I've read a lot of one type of fan fiction.

PM

Look, by my standards, you're enough of an expert. And you check my boxes of you know enough and you're funny and fun to listen to. And people often forget about that second checkbox --

KH

Hmm.

PM

-- when they're talking about people to get on the podcast.

KH

Well, that's very nice compliment. Thank you. I try.

PM

So, as far as a very Potter trilogy and everything, do you have a background in it? Are you a big fan of watching these? Was this your first time? Where do you all fall?

KH

Yeah. So, I vaguely remember watching the first one in, like, 2009 - 2010 in college. And I was like, "This is funny, but, also this is very long."

PM

Mhmm.

KH

Sequoia and I lived together in college. And she went to the 2011 LeakyCon, where they screened all of A Very Potter Sequel without an intermission.

PM

Whoof.

KH

So, she came home and she was like, "This is the longest thing." And, so, I think we, maybe, watched all of it. But I remember really enjoying them thinking they were very funny, but very long. And I had never seen this one before. It is so long. But it is also very good.

PM
Yeah.

KH
I got really strong – like, I did, like, a day theater camp when I was a kid.

PM
Oh, cool.

KH
And we had a month to kind of throw together a play. And I – this had, like, very strong nostalgia for me of, like, a group of friends putting together some ridiculous stuff as fast as possible, and trying to stage it on zero budget, and just kind of the emotion of trying to get it in the final night production. And it had really strong nostalgia for me, even though I didn't do this and wasn't there, obviously. But the experience of being --

PM
No, that's awesome.

KH
-- a weird theater kid.

PM
For sure. For sure. It makes sense a lot. And you and Sequoia had a watch party, a social distanced safe watch party to watch it, right?

KH
We did. Yeah. We set up a TV in our backyard and we sat far apart. And it was really fun to watch it with her. I'd spent – it had been a while since I'd seen her. So, in person, I guess we're still recording. But it was really fun.

PM
That's so good. I'm so glad to hear it. I'm glad that my silly little goofy podcast could bring you together in these #tryingtimes.

KH
For real. It was the great excuse to hang out.

PM
Good. Good. Well, let's talk about that excuse and that is the remaining bits of Act 2 of A Very Potter Senior Year. And there is a whole heap and lot to cover. So, let's get right into it.

KH
Hell yeah.

PM

So, where we last left the story, it was Harry is now in Godric's Hollow. And, when he arrives there, the statue at Godric's Hollow is instead a giant statue of Harry Potter. And, as has always been the case with these StarKid productions, the art department is just absolutely phenomenal. It's such a good Darren Criss drawing.

KH

Yeah, that statue looked great. It kind of looked like, like a picture of his face. Maybe I was wrong.

PM

It could. I, I would not be surprised if it was a traced picture of his face and then a drawn body. But, regardless, it is high quality stuff.

KH

Looked very good.

PM

Mhmm. So, he is very appreciative of the statue. But, unfortunately, right after he says the statue is never going anywhere, there is a construction worker that says a wrecking ball is coming through. And it knocks over the statue. And it makes way for a new statue, which is of Spider-Man and not just any Spider-Man.

KH

Not just any.

PM

Specifically, the Andrew Garfield Spider-Man. Everyone's favorite.

KH

It's a costume from the first Amazing Spider-Man. I haven't seen those movies. I was a little crushed that they were redoing the original trilogy.

PM

Mhmm. I saw the first one and I fell asleep halfway through the second one when I tried watching it at my sister's place. I'm a huge Spider-Man fan. He's always been my favorite superhero --

KH

Yes, same.

PM

-- since I was just a wee lad. He's just -- I love how snarky he is.

KH

He's the best superhero.

PM

Yeah, he's got, I think, the most interesting powers. He's very snarky and he talks smack. And I really appreciate that. He's just very funny and relatable.

KH

Yeah. Oh, yeah.

PM

And I appreciated him.

KH

I love everything about Spider-Man.

PM

Yeah, 100 percent. Unfortunately, the Andrew Garfield one, it wasn't that it was the – like, some moments were really cool. I like that they had Gwen Stacy. I think that some of the villains they add were interesting. But Andrew Garfield is just too sexy to be Peter Parker.

KH

I think that was my big complaint too.

PM

He's just too hot and even – like, Tom Holland, I think has been a perfect Spider-Man.

KH

Oh, yeah.

PM

And Tom Holland – also, just like Tom Holland as Tom Holland also probably too hot. But they do a good job of, like, nerding him up --

KH

Uh, huh.

PM

-- and making him completely socially awkward.

KH

Yeah.

PM

Andrew Garfield's out here, like, fucking everyone with his eyes. And he's supposed to be awkward kid? It's just I could never believe it.

KH

No.

PM

And then they, like, made him skateboard and stuff. It was just not --

KH
What?

PM
They weren't -- they weren't very good. They weren't very good.

KH
No.

PM
But I did appreciate the jokes that came from it in that this obviously came up before Tom Holland was the Spider-Man. But it was funny to, to use it as an analogy.

KH
This is when we thought this was our new normal, Andrew Garfield Spider-Man.

PM
Ooh.

KH
A hard time for the Spider-Man stans, Spider stans.

PM
The -- oh, the Spider stans.

KH
Hmm. I don't know about that.

PM
I mean it was definitely hard because Spider-Man 3 had just come out.

KH
Oh.

PM
It was so disappointing. As I mentioned on the podcast, it was the first movie where I went to the midnight release for it.

KH
Mhmm.

PM
And it was just a terrible experience for me.

KH
Oh, yeah. That movie is bad.

PM

It's very bad. But they used this bad movie as an actually pretty apt analogy, where Harry says that he is like Sam Raimi, the director of the film, saying that everyone gave him slack for how the third movie turned out, but it wasn't necessarily his fault. It was the hand that he was dealt. The producer made the Mad Venom, which was true. He wasn't going to do Venom --

KH

Mhmm. Yeah.

PM

-- until the fourth movie. And they made him do it in the third. And Harry compares this to him and that, all of the sudden, everybody hates him for something that's kind of out of his control. So, I thought it was actually pretty profound in what I first thought --

KH

Yeah.

PM

-- was just like, "Oh, cool. A Spider-Man joke." But it actually made, made sense.

KH

Yeah, for sure. I also kind of was left wondering. Like, did they mean to maybe draw some parallels between -- because, this third one, it's very long. It's very long, a little bloated, a little hastily thrown together. I wondered if those parallels were meant to be there or not.

PM

I wonder if they just kind of realized it because they'd made Spider-Man jokes throughout.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

There was a decent chunk of them in the Sequel. So, I'm not surprised if someone realized the parallels between the two. I think, this third one, I think it's the best of the three. No question for me. I don't think it's even close. I know it's very long. And they're reading from the script. So, it's not necessarily the most idea. And I know that there's a lot of callbacks and stuff, but I just think it's the perfect -- if you're making a trilogy and you're making a third installment of something --

KH

Mhmm.

PM

-- go for -- like, you know, your audience is people who've seen the first two.

KH

Yeah.

PM

So, just appeal to them. And that's what they've done here and it's great. And all of the callbacks, I think, actually hit. And I thought it's just a really well done play.

KH

It has so much heart.

PM

Mhmm. Mhmm.

KH

I think is what I would say. It's so sincere, especially this, this section that we're about to get into is so emotional and sincere and just so sweet. I think this one really does hold up really well in a lot of ways.

PM

Definitely. So, the construction worker starts talking to Harry. It is very clearly Dumbledore. He's got the beard over the beard thing. He's talking in the same accent.

KH

Oh, so funny.

PM

It's fantastic. He gives a speech about how things come and go. And it's just the passage of time. And it's okay. And he makes it very clear to Harry, as he's leaving, that he was Dumbledore this whole time. And Harry doesn't realize it.

KH

He does not get it.

PM

Classic Harry fashion.

KH

Oh, my goodness.

PM

He doesn't – he doesn't until the very end that it's Dumbledore and he goes, "What?" And Dumbledore is already offstage.

KH

That double take was so beautiful also. This is also super common in fan fiction. Just people not recognizing people's faces for plot reasons.

PM

Look, Clark Kent wearing glasses, I have no idea who this guy is.

KH

Pretty sure that every character in fan fiction is face blind though. So, you know.

PM

Hmm. You know, if you got to make the plot work, you got to make the plot work. So, enter Ron. He tries to convince Harry to return and it's not working. It only starts to work though when he reveals that Hermione has also been petrified.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

And that makes Harry stop for a bit, but he still doesn't want to come. And Ron is, at this point, basically pleading with him saying, "Why?"

KH

Yeah.

PM

Is it because no one thinks you're cool anymore?" And he says that being cool isn't that great and it's not what other people think. Being cool comes from inside. And he hands Harry his Gryffindor tie. And he says, "You know what this means? House of the brave. House of the good guys," which the crowd let out a little chuckle because this is a pretty sentimental speech and it continues to be sentimental.

KH

Yeah, it's so – ah, my goodness, I love Harry and Ron's friendship. And they do such a great job with it in these pretty much consistently throughout. Like, they're kind of dicks, but their friendship is such a solid core to this.

PM

Right. I like that, as the trilogy has gone on, they've done less of the two of them being jerks. And they have actually just turned them into a friendship that I think is better represented in this play than it is across the eight movies.

KH

Oh, yeah. No question.

PM

Yeah. So, I appreciate that. And then I just appreciate them slipping a tiny little joke in here. House of the good guys is so funny. And just especially for me as a Gryffindor as something I will always say when people try to argue that other houses are better or underrepresented or whatever, which it is true. It's not fair.

KH

Gryffindors are the protagonists.

PM

That's what I say. I'm always like, "You're just mad that the books aren't about you. Like, that's what it is." And I'm like, "It is unfair. I am recognizing that it is unfair. It is not fair to Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff because they barely talk about them. It is not fair to Slytherin because they make them the villain. So, we don't get to hear about any single good Slytherin. But, if you look at the facts, the books are about Gryffindors."

KH

Yeah. All that house stuff, it's so – presented as so black and white. And it's a kid series. That, that part of it, very kids series.

PM

Mhmm. So, Harry is trying to fight against this though and he says something truly heartbreaking to Ron. He says, "It must be nice to have someone to cry to when you can't do something yourself."

KH

Ooh.

PM

And Ron has a great reply says. He says, "It was nice to have a best friend to rely on. Harry Potter was my best friend, but you're not Harry Potter."

KH

Oh.

PM

Which I had to pause after this because I had to think, "What am I watching?"

KH

Yeah.

PM

When did this turn into a heartbreaker of a feel – like, I was feeling real emotions. And I have said in previous episodes that I think some of the times StarKid tries to make these goofy silly musicals serious and heartfelt. It doesn't hit.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

But this one hit pretty well.

KH

I think it helps that the audience is just so there with them and so filled with, like, nostalgia and love for the series as well. This was the perfect crowd for this particular kind of stuff, I think.

PM

Yeah, the crowd I think is a very underrated element of watching these. It's like, when you watch a stand up set live and the crowds into it, you laugh more.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

The crowd, in this one, they laugh at the right jokes. They say oh at the right moments. They're sappy when they need to be. I was really put off when I watched the first one because the crowd just laughed at everything. When things weren't even funny, they were laughing and it was frustrating for me to watch. And then the second one I felt like they didn't laugh at a lot of the better jokes and that made me upset. But, here, the crowd has been pretty on brand with their reactions. And I agree. I think it makes the sentimental moments feel more sentimental when you think Oh inside a little bit and then the crowd lets out, "Oh," I, I think it helps.

KH

The cast and the audience were definitely really feeding and synergizing well together I think throughout the whole thing. It was very sweet.

PM

Mhmm. So, Ron throws the tie and just leaves in frustration. And Harry ends up walking around a bit. He finds his lucky snitch and he opens it. And I realized that it's 1,000 percent just stay pokey ball toy that has been spray painted gold.

KH

It's just pokey balls. So good.

PM

It's really solid.

KH

It's such a great prop.

PM

So, when he opens it, it's got the resurrection stone inside. And then it's the singing musical version of the scene in the book where the ghosts come back. And, at first, I was pretty upset because, first, it's just James and Sirius and then Lupin shows up.

KH

They had to bring them in slowly for comedic effect because it starts out – this song is so sincere and so sweet. It's about endings, and your legacy, and things like that, but they bring in the comedy slowly.

PM

They do. They do. But I was frustrated. As I've noted, I think a frustrating element of the trilogy is the portrayal of women characters.

KH
Mhmm.

PM
Just either not including them or not giving them enough love. And, when they have just these three dudes, I was thinking, "Are we really not going to bring Lily into the mix?" And then, thankfully, she does come in.

KH
The payoff is so good though. I think the punch line here --

PM
So, yeah, Lily comes in. She starts to harmonize as part of the chorus. And then she actually starts talking to Harry. And he says, "Oh, you're still with dad in heaven. That's so cool." And, and Lily reveals, "No, I've actually separated from James. He's kind of immature." Crowd roars applause, which, yes, correct response.

KH
I mean rude. James does his best.

PM
Yeah, but he sucks.

KH
We see such a biased portrait of James. I think it's not fair.

PM
I would say we need to see more of the transition of how James became a nice guy. We just do never get to see it.

KH
Yes.

PM
So, from the context of what we actually know in the books, James sucks. Now, he could have become a very nice person. I'm sure he does.

KH
I guess I just read a lot of Jily fan fics. It's just me.

PM
Jily is the worst couple name ever.

KH
Mmm. There are some worse ones. I can't think of any right now, but they're out there. And they're grim.

PM

Jagrid would be pretty bad.

KH

Yeah, that's not good. I think, like, we would be remiss without mentioning though that, when Lupin comes in, he is mostly naked and covered in blood.

PM

Yes, he is underwear blood covered version of Lupin.

KH

Is that how he died in, in whenever it is he died?

PM

We don't know how Lupin died because he dies in the first one which takes place --

KH

In the past.

PM

It takes place after the second one. So, we don't know. But the last we see of Lupin in the second one is him riding off on a broom in underwear bloody form.

KH

All right.

PM

So, you're right. Lily gives this great reveal. And she reveals that she has separated from James. And, now, she's with someone new. And that person enters saying that, "I'd say we found each other." And it's Cedric. And I didn't see this coming at all.

KH

No.

PM

I love this callback. It's very good.

KH

Oh, my goodness. Yes, I think we died a little bit when Cedric came on. Cedric is just such a great character.

PM

Mhmm.

KH

And, oh, my goodness. The find stuff, incredible.

PM

The finding thing, I always thought was one of their better bits even though it's just him saying find a lot. But it's just so absurd that it's hilarious.

KH

Yes, it's one of those bits that just shouldn't be funny but is every time somehow. Love that.

PM

And, somehow, it finds a way. And, also, what makes the scene so funny is Harry's reaction because he just turns into a grumpy eight-year-old boy that hates his stepdad.

KH

Yes.

PM

And it's just so wonderful, especially counterbalanced by Cedric being so happy --

KH

Mhmm.

PM

-- and so smiley and so upbeat.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

It's -- oh, gosh, perfection.

KH

Incredible. At this point, Cedric hit the words heavenly father really hard as well.

PM

Yep, he did. He said that I am married to your mother now making me your heavenly father.

KH

Which, for your listeners, I live in Utah. And Cedric comes off as very Mormon in this.

PM

Hmm.

KH

He's very smiley and friendly and just hitting the words heavenly father really I was like, "Is Cedric Mormon?"

PM

So, he says the find thing a couple more times. Harry hates him. He says, "I can't believe you're still doing this." And then enters Snape. And I was so happy because I think Snape is one of the most fun characters in his trilogy.

KH

He really is.

PM

And I was very sad to see Joe Moses playing a different role. He was Nearly Headless Nick. And it was just disappointing for him to not be Snape. So, for him, to enter as Snape, was great.

KH

Yes.

PM

He comes in and he says, "For a while I enjoying your suffering. But, now, it's kind of booming me out." Oh, sorry. I should – "For a while, I was enjoying suffering. But, now, it's kind of booming me out."

KH

Oh, seeing you do that, it's very good.

PM

You got to grit the teeth and just make your throat as wide as possible.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

So, Snape then ends up giving this motivational speech. I mean it's good and it's sincere. But, honestly, I wanted Snape to be funnier.

KH

Yeah.

PM

In this scene that is so heartfelt in a motional, I would have liked him to be more of just a jerk. I think it would have been funnier.

KH

Yeah. I don't know. We got – what he ended up talking about was mostly, like, his motivations for saving Harry. And I am kind of, honestly, never here for Snape apologism.

PM

Mhmm. Mhmm. Mhmm.

KH

So, I wasn't so sure about that. But I think it makes sense in the context of the scene because it's what Harry needed to hear. It is a little frustrating for it to be coming from Snape though. But he's doing such a great job that I kind of just love hearing that voice too.

PM

I think what you have to do in these play, specifically, is you have to remember that the character is, by this point, now that we're in the third, the characters are not the same as the book. Like, this Snape is not book Snape.

KH

No.

PM

In the second one, Snape actually shows more regret and does more cool things and nice things to Harry. So, I put them in a different perspective. It's also the way I've been okay with Voldemort being more humanized.

KH

Yeah.

PM

It's just that, over the course of the three plays, we've clearly established that Voldemort is not just wizard Hitler. He is more hell bent on just killing Harry. Even when he talks about it, I don't think he ever, at one point, mentions, like, killing all the Muggles. And, if he does, it's very offhanded.

KH

Yeah.

PM

There are significantly less wizard Hitler vibes from Voldemort in this play.

KH

You get a little bit of it in the, like, flashbacks I think.

PM

Yeah.

KH

But it's not his primary motivation, I think.

PM

Right. It's more of he wants to just like be Lord Voldemort and get Harry Potter out of the way, because he's standing in Voldemort's way. So, I think, especially with this, you're right, it doesn't feel apt as a way to approach this apology for book Snape. But I think it does work for A Very Potter Trilogy Snape.

KH

Yeah, I think it's important, when we're examining these kinds of like fan driven things, to separate it from the text because who's even heard of canon anymore.

PM

And, also, especially if – even if it's just like movie Snape versus book Snape, I think those are very different things.

KH

For sure.

PM

And I agree. I don't really have the time nor the patience to deal with Snape apologists. I can ever do it. Remember the time he joined a racist cult on purpose of his own volition --

KH

Yeah.

PM

-- when no one made him do it --

KH

Yeah.

PM

-- in the first place? And then remember that time the only reason he stood up to Voldemort was because he killed, not only Harry but also Harry's mom?

KH

Yeah.

PM

Because that was a step too far. Killing the kid was okay, but killing my high school crush, that's just way too much.

KH

Yes, please, kill James. I guess it's fine that you killed Harry, probably, preferable in the long term. But I will not be here for killing Lily. Whatever, Snape.

PM

Killing two innocent humans where one is a baby, that's fine, but I draw the line as person that I think is hot.

KH

Yup. Whatever.

PM

So, Harry then is motivated by all of these speeches and the song and he's ready to go back. He puts on his tie and puts it in the heaviest quotation marks.

KH

Oh, my gosh.

PM

Because I don't know exactly how Darren Criss managed to do this.

KH

It's so cute.

PM

But he's got the tie on around his neck. It was already tied. So, all he had to do is button up his shirt and then tighten it around the collar.

KH

Uh, huh.

PM

But it's – I think part of it is through a button. Yeah.

KH

He gets it under the button. Yeah.

PM

It just – it doesn't work.

KH

So good.

PM

And he's trying to continue the song. And he's also trying to read off his book. And he's trying to adjust the tie.

KH

He's trying to figure out what happened with the tie. And there's no way he's gonna fix it at this point. And it's so – this moment really landed for me. I was like, "Yes, this is the kind of thing that would go wrong. You have his big emotional moment. And you just cannot handle this."

PM

It's so funny. And it just makes it so charming. And, you're right, he can't fix this tie unless he puts down the book. But he can't continue the song if he puts down the book.

KH

Yeah.

PM

So, he's just stuck with it. And he tries to keep doing it one-handed and he can't. And the crowd laughs every single time. And he does a great, which had to have been improvised, bit where, right before he gets into the chorus of really emphatically singing, I'm going back to Hogwarts, he just slips into quick fuck the tie and the crowd erupts.

KH

So charming. It is so charming.

PM

It's so wonderful.

KH

Oh my goodness.

PM

It's similar to when someone breaks character on SNL, but you just keep going with it, where no one's gonna hold it against him for this happening. It's just that much funnier in the scene.

KH

Yeah. These kinds of moments happen so commonly in theater and, like, trying to work through them I think and be funny and that kind of stuff, it's always really impressive when it lands correctly, I think.

PM

Yes. And it's just the right amount of silly where nobody's gonna care. It's not like anything is severely hindered. It's just his tie is on kind of funny and he can't fix it in the middle of the song.

KH

So charming though.

PM

It's great.

KH

And Darren Criss is just incredibly charming.

PM

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. So, Ron then enters and he says, "Together, we're totally awesome," is the line where he comes in. And it's great. I also noticed, at this point, that, in the background, you can see the band. And the Gilderoy --

KH

Lockhart is there.

PM

Yeah. The Gilderoy character -- which makes sense because he's very good at piano. But he's the pianist in the band. So, it's just very funny to see this heartfelt song with all these characters and then Gilderoy is just there.

KH

Yeah. So, by this point, we've transitioned out of the, like, Everything Ends song. And this was such a great moment. The audience was so hear for it. They transition into going back to Hogwarts.

PM

Yeah. But it's like a reprise where the words are different. Mhmm.

KH

So good. And the audience is just so incredibly hyped. The second the music transitions into it, the audience is so there for it. And I was so excited.

PM

Yeah, I think this is truly where the audience comes in to be one of the best elements of the play from this point on.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

It's that they are just so invested in it.

KH

Yes.

PM

And that makes you, watching it at home on YouTube, also, very invested.

KH

Yeah, the cast is like really going hard on the nostalgia. And it's just really coming together well. And, yeah, the moment where Ron comes back is really good, too because it's, like, right at the moment where you're like, "Oh, no, they're not friends anymore. Is this gonna be okay?" And Ron burst in through the door exactly like he does in the first play and it's so cute.

PM

I think, also, what helps is that, from this point forward, most of if not all of the songs are either songs they've already done before in previous plays or reprise somewhat changed lyric versions. So, what helps is that Darren Criss who did the music for the first two, he knows all of the songs better. So, he's able to give more to the singing and not have to focus as much on reading the book and trying to nail everything. And I think he gives a more convincing performance.

KH

Yes, he sings his fucking heart out here. It is so amazing. He's just going so hard. And this whole part just had such amazing energy.

PM

Yeah, just a lot of combining factors to make it really solid. So, they hop in the flying car and they head back to Hogwarts. And there's a new line, which I don't think was in previous songs unless I missed it. They say where everything is magic cool instead of magical. I don't know if that was a previous lyric. I might have just missed it. But that was the first time I really remembered it sticking out. And I think it was such a funny little note.

KH

I think it was there. I'm not sure, but it is very good.

PM

At least this time, they very heavily emphasize it and do a wavy hand motion too.

KH

Yeah.

PM

So, it made it very clear that they were making this joke in case I have missed it before.

KH

Yes. Ron actually mentions, when he comes back in, that Dumbledore was the one he ran into who sent him back, which I thought was a really good book seven parallel.

PM

Yeah. Yeah, with the put-outer not the other name.

KH

Oh, no. Oh, no.

PM

A hundred people just turned off the Podcast. Not again. I hate when he brings up the put-outer and the deluminator. How dare he.

KH

Oh, no. That was my fault. Apologies, Potterless listeners.

PM

So, at this point, the crowd starts clapping along with the beat of the song. And I will go on record that this is the only time that has ever been good in the history of the universe. The crowd clapping along to anything is always bad. People always find a way to be off the beat. And, from someone that has been on stage for performances of a musical variety where people try to clap along, it never works. And you're usually going to mess up the performers. I guess it helps that they have a full fledge band here and stuff.

KH

Yeah.

PM

But I think this one actually worked. And it is so rare that that is something good for an audience to do.

KH

Yeah, I think it helps it everyone – these are the songs that the audience knows by heart.

PM

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So, the kids are then in the middle of the wizard cop evacuation plan. But, once they see the flying car going to the school, they all decide that they want to go help Harry. So, they run back into the school despite Kingsley Shacklebolt warning them that they shouldn't do so.

KH

And Kingsley and the wizard cops do some really good spinning here. Like, “Oh, no. Oh, no. What’s happening?”

PM

Yeah. So, when they get back into the school McGonagall is there. She welcomes Ron and Harry back with this obnoxiously vibrato heavy song. I don't know if that's the right technical singing term. But it's a lot of like, “Haaaaa!”

KH

Uh, huh.

PM

Like, a lot of the waving vibrato-eyness in the vocal cords. And, oh, my god, it was just – it was just so funny.

KH

Yes.

PM

And I know that the actor who plays McGonagall kind of does this a lot when he sings. When he was Lucius in the Sequel, a lot of his singing was like that but in a way that sounds good. It's nice to see him ham it up a little extra. It gave me vibes of in Hamilton when King George was singing with the most obnoxious British accent.

KH

Yeah.

PM

It's like, “Oh, this person is good at singing.” And it's funny to see them go a little bit above and beyond to where, sure, it makes the singing sound slightly worse, but the comedic effect outweighs the, “Oh, this doesn't sound as pretty.”

KH

It was such a fun big McGonagall moment because she's not been like a huge part of the play up till now.

PM
Nah.

KH
She's not been like doing anything incredibly funny. So, this was a really fun turnaround. And she really came out swinging here.

PM
Yeah, it was really solid. So, then Malfoy enters and he says that he's found the chamber. And, after the song that they were singing finishes, all of the kids head into the chamber.

KH
McGonagall mentions that she's gonna go defend the school with her flying machine at this point, also, right?

PM
I, I don't know what that meant.

KH
What does that mean?

PM
I had no idea. I had no idea. I didn't even write it as a note, because I thought. "This is clearly a joke that's gone over my head and I'm only going to look silly. So, I'm not gonna --

KH
Well, I will look silly here. What does that mean?

PM
I am also silly here. What does it mean? If you are listening to this, the day after it came out or later, do not tell me. Someone will have told me.

KH
Sure. Tweet corrections at me.

PM
Yeah. There should – that should just be like a general for all podcasts. If you are listening to this more than one day after it came out, the host of the show has been made aware of every correction humanly possible.

KH
Yeah.

PM
So, Voldemort, of course, enters once they get into the chamber. And, because of the rule that they've established where you can't see him unless you touch the diary, Harry asks, "Whoa! Was that a floating diary?"

KH

Darren breaks here a little bit, I think, and it was very funny. The way that Joe Walker was kind of like waving the book around at him, very funny.

PM

Yeah, he breaks a couple times towards the end and it's just wonderful to see.

KH

Oh, I do love that everyone is going to fight the big bad together.

PM

Yeah, it's really fun.

KH

I think that something that was really sweet. And it's just totally missing from the books, I think. You don't get this triumphant moment of everyone going together to fight the big bad.

PM

Yeah, the only thing that's close is when everybody fights together in the Battle of Hogwarts. But, even at that, there's a lot of other people they're fighting against. And it kind of breaks apart into multiple small fights.

KH

Yeah.

PM

Very rarely do you get all of the kids trying to take down one big monster and I think it's satisfying to see.

KH

Together. So good.

PM

Yeah.

KH

Everyone's there even the hat and the scarf.

PM

Everyone's ready to go. So, Voldemort flies the book over to Harry. And, rather than just have Harry touch it, he punches Harry in the face with it, which is very fun.

KH

Yes.

PM

Voldemort says that he's after the stone. And Harry says, "Oh, the stone? It doesn't even work. All it does is bring back ghosts to people. It's basically a piece of shit." Voldemort says, "That's not true. You're a piece of shit. Dumbledore just didn't know how to use it. In order for it to give a life, you have to take it from somebody else." So, he brings in possessed Ginny and he says that he is going to use hers. And then he uses Ginny to punch Harry in the face, which is very good.

KH

Ginny is just so funny in this entire thing. Everything she's doing with her face and her voice, it's just so funny.

PM

It's very solid physical comedy work and I'm frankly impressed that I think her – the actress' name is Jaime Lyn Beatty. The fact that she is able to walk around in such a stumbling, spinning --

KH

Mhmm.

PM

-- eyes-bugged out manner, but then also not run into anybody.

KH

Yeah.

PM

It was the most impressive stumbling. It was like a Buzz Lightyear falling with style. She just finds a way to be so chaotic, but also so calculated.

KH

Yeah.

PM

It was really impressive.

KH

And her face is just amazing the entire time.

PM

Mhmm. It genuinely looks like she doesn't know where she's going to go, but she continues to find her perfect step and hit all of her marks and not bump into anyone. It was wonderful.

KH

Yes.

PM

So, Voldemort then calls on his giant snake. Of course, the kids run away, but Seamus says, "Bloody hell, that snakes almost as big as this snake."

KH

Oh, my goodness gracious.

PM

And puts his wand over his dick and then he gets petrified in that pose, which is just – what more could you ask for.

KH

The Wiener joke was so bad.

PM

Mhmm.

KH

And it was so immediately redeemed by him getting frozen in that position.

PM

Yeah, the only correct punishment for such a terrible joke.

KH

Yes, you have to stand like that forever.

PM

Yeah, it's the bad joke version of, if you keep making that face, it'll get frozen that way.

KH

Yes.

EM

Oh, Past Mike, you just keep talking. So, I've left you frozen that way, paused, so that we can take a break to do a little segment that we like to call WINGARDIUM AD-READ-OSA!

[34:25]

WINGARDIUM AD-READ-OSA!

[37:43]

PM

So, the kids are then wondering how to defeat the snake and the hat, Sorty, says that the truest Gryffindor can pull the sword from within it. So, Ron asks how that's possible. Scorpius says that they may have had something to do with it, which very, very good. Love it.

KH

I, I'm onboard. I ship it. Why not?

PM

Neville is trying to get them to give the hat to him. And I thought this was gonna turn into a bit of Neville trying to get the sorting – the hat and then just no one letting him do it until he finally does it.

KH

Yeah, this joke didn't really go anywhere. I guess it wasn't really a joke. It just happened.

PM

Yeah, it was just I guess a way for Harry to not be ready. I thought it was gonna be a Neville joke, but it ended up not being so. Neville tries, it doesn't work. Harry tries, it doesn't work. And Scarfy tells Harry that he's still afraid and he's unsure of himself. So, I guess that's all this was a setup for.

KH

I don't know.

PM

So, Scarfy then goes on to blind the snake by floating over and covering its eyes. And Harry then stands up and goes, "Yeah, everyone shoot magic at it." So, of course, everyone just goes, "Magic, magic, magic, magic, magic."

KH

That was so funny.

PM

It's always good. So, the magic that they are doing is not strong enough to defeat the snake, but he still can't see them. So, they already decide to stay quiet, but the snake goes, "Marco." And Draco immediately, without missing a step, just goes, "Polo." And the snake screams. "Gotcha sucker!" And then chases after them.

KH

Oh, Draco. You try so hard.

PM

Of course, it would be Draco, the most childlike of the children to fall for the children's game. And just – it's a very funny joke and just the delivery of how instant from Marco to Polo was.

KH

Yes.

PM

Oh, gosh.

KH

Very good.

PM

So, Scarfy then tries to talk down Voldemort, but Voldemort uses the killing curse on Scarfy, which, “Oh, no.” I mean I guess it is book seven stuff, where you just have to kill all the side characters now. But I wasn't expecting the Scarf to die.

KH

Yeah, this was a very emotional – the Scarf is doing a really solid job of trying to talk Voldemort down and convince him that love is what matters. And it was a very long, big moment for the Scarf.

PM

Yeah, it feels like a more sincere version of when Harry and Voldemort in the book are circling each other and Harry's like, “Come on, Tom, have some remorse,” which, in the book, was confusing to me. I just thought, “Harry, this will never work. Why are you doing this? Just killing him.”

KH

Yeah.

PM

But Scarfy here seemed genuinely concerned for him. So, it's pretty devastating when he died.

KH

And this Voldemort, you know, maybe almost listened too.

PM

Yeah. Yeah. So, Voldemort then sends the snake after Harry, which just involves the puppet handler who is the actor that plays Lupin holding the snake in place and then just kicking Harry on the ground with his leg.

KH

Yes.

PM

It's a perfect fourth wall break. It's very solid.

KH

Yes, that one really worked and I thought it was very funny.

PM

The crowd similarly enjoyed it. So, Voldemort begins to taunt him in classic Voldemort fashion. And he says, “Harry, you don't even know who you are anymore.” And Harry says, “Oh, yeah?” and slowly starts to get up and says, “I'm Harry freakin Potter,” and then pulls out the Sword of Gryffindor from the hat, which is just a perfect moment for it to go.

KH

Yes.

PM

And I could tell this was going to happen just because, while he was on the ground and while Voldemort was taunting, I heard the crowd laugh a little bit. And this wasn't shown in the YouTube video, but I can only assume it was Darren Criss struggling to grab and hide the sword properly without anyone noticing. And I will live with this head canon until the day I die if it's not the case.

KH

That's definitely it.

PM

So, he stabs the snake, which seems like this is the end of the snake. But the snake kind of gets back up and bites Harry in the shoulder and they both fall to the ground. The narrator reveals that the Basilisk is dead, but Harry is dying.

KH

I don't know why I didn't see this coming, honestly. This is directly from the book, but I was very surprised when the snake bit Harry. I was like, "Oh, no, Harry."

PM

I went through the exact same line of emotions. At first, I went, "Oh, cool. The snake is dead. Wait, the snake is back. No way. But how is the snake – oh, yeah, this happened in Book Two."

KH

Yeah. I was like, "Oh, yeah. Now, I feel silly. Oh, well."

PM

And then I was concerned, because I thought, "Wait. But Harry didn't get the Basilisk fang. How's he gonna kill the diary?" But don't worry, dear listener. Here's what happens. Voldemort grabs the stone out of Harry's pocket. Again, starts to taunt him in classic Voldemort fashion. But Harry gets up and shanks the diary with the Sword of Gryffindor. And we get the most dramatic Voldemort death scene. I don't know if this was intentionally trying to make fun of how over the top the movies depiction of the death was.

KH

It's got to be.

PM

But the combination of Joe Walker's over-the-top acting with the narrator just describing all of these things that are so detailed and so gruesome and also just don't make sense.

KH

Yeah.

PM

Because there's things of like all of his skin flies off his body. And then he talks about his skin melting. And then he's a screaming skull. And then he dissolves into a pile of gore and bones.

KH

Amazing.

PM

And, like, it's – it's just so many. He turns into goo.

KH

Joe Walker does such a great job here too. He's just like escalating really well until he is running around the stage screaming and flapping his cape.

PM

Mhmm.

KH

And it is just so funny.

PM

It's very funny. It lasts a very long time.

KH

Yeah.

PM

And the final note of it is the narrator says quite loudly, "Joe Walker dies," and then he just falls to the ground.

KH

Oh, so silly.

PM

Ah, I'm just so happy that the fourth wall jokes they do in this play all land.

KH

Yeah.

PM

Whereas, I think, in the Sequel, they did way too many of them. I can't remember if it's the first of the second. There was one of the plays they do way too many fourth wall jokes, all in rapid succession of each other and it's just not funny. These were just very well done and creative. And it was less about, "Oh, look at us we're doing a play" and more just things that get that same sentiment across without saying out loud, "Look at us we're doing a play."

KH

Yeah, I think those are kind of hard to have restraint for when you're in kind of that theater kid mindset.

PM

Oh, for sure.

KH

All fourth wall breaks are funny. Scribble, scribble, scribble.

PM

I don't blame them for the jokes they made when they were college kids.

KH

Yeah.

PM

I am just happy at the growth and the evolution now that they have had some time in between --

KH

For sure.

PM

-- and time to work on the script a bit. So, the kids then run up and surround Harry. And he is giving his goodbyes because he just thinks, "This is it. I'm gonna die." But then enter Hagrid. Hagrid comes in. He pulls out Fawkes. And he says that he just needs Fawkes to cry in his wounds. And the way that he does this is by shaking the bird like it's that stick of holy water if you ever go to a Catholic mass. And he's just shaking it right at Harry. And it's wonderful prop work.

KH

Yes, very funny. Just cry. Cry bird. Cry.

PM

Of course, the tears work. Harry Potter is saved. And, unfortunately, Scarfy is a goner.

KH

Tears don't work on clothing.

PM

I guess not. But Sorty, the Hat says, "He died as he lived, throwing caution to the wind. And he wouldn't want you kids to be sad for one moment. He would want you to be gay."

KH

Which -- fine.

PM

Yeah, this one, I would --

KH
It's a fine pun.

PM
Right.

KH
Do that.

PM
Yeah, it felt like, "Good joke. I'm not gonna think got it too much."

KH
Yep.

PM
Let's move on.

KH
Continue.

PM
So, Kingsley then comes in and he is acting very upset at first. But it's all a ruse. It's a twist and, at the end, he says that he wants to give all of the kids medals.

KH
Specifically, magical medals.

PM
Magical metals, yes, of course. Of course. Of course.

KH
Love that. Always funny.

PM
The kids all scream yay when they learned that the air strike is being called off. Pomfrey then enters. She says that everyone who was petrified has come back to life except for Colin Creevey. He died. There's a pause and then, starting with Ron and Harry, everyone then goes, "Yay."

KH
The audience was like, "Aww." Very funny.

PM
It's good stuff. Hermione then enters and she says that she can't believe the chamber was in the girl's bathroom. And then she gives a very ooh, but a good --

KH
Yep.

PM
-- yikes joke of, "I guess the rumors are true. Salazar Slytherin built this so he could watch little girls pee," which I'm all for adding more insult on top of a known racist. So, I'm here for it.

KH
Yeah. I don't know. This is that kind of like edgy humor that I'm not super funny of, but this one's not so bad.

PM
Right. I'm not a fan of this brand of humor, either. I think that's why I like this play so much more than the first two. It's that it doesn't have a lot of that.

KH
Yes.

PM
It does seem like they kind of back-ended all of the edgy humor into this last little scene, which gets --

KH
Yeah, we get a few over right here at the end.

PM
Yeah, this one I didn't think was that bad. I thought it was kind of funny just because Salazar Slytherin is that bad of a dude. And it is questionable that he made the entrance to the girl's bathroom, which is something I've never really criticized before. Why did it have to be the girl's bathroom?

KH
Oh, my god. I don't even want to talk about this. This has been reckoned on Pottermore alongside the Wizard shitting on the floor thing.

PM
Oh, really?

KH
Yes.

PM
I didn't know this.

KH
Yes. Hogwarts didn't have bathrooms in the beginning because Wizard shit on the floor. And, so, one of the descendants of Slytherin moved the entrance into the bathroom when they

were installing plumbing. I don't know. Thinking about that, does ruin my life a little bit every time I think about it.

PM

So, J.K.'s way of, instead of apologizing – which is always the correct answer.

KH

Yes.

PM

Instead of apologizing for grown men making thing in girl's bathroom --

KH

Yes.

PM

-- her way around it was, "They shit their pants."

KH

Yes.

PM

Cool J.K. How did we not see any of these coming? The writing was on the wall in poop.

KH

To be fair, there are parts of the fandom that saw this coming.

PM

Yeah, I mean, I, I – ah – I --

KH

Yep.

PM

I mean – ugh. For J.K. Rowling, someone who's so obsessed with trans people going into bathrooms, her whole story was about a dude going into girl's bathrooms.

KH

Aaaah! How did Voldemort fucking find it?

PM

Come on, J.K.

KH

Also, no, never mind. I can't.

PM

Damn it. So, anyway, Harry Potter. So, she says that she could hear and see everything while she was petrified. And then this is easily the most uncomfortable joke of the whole thing.

KH

I think of the whole show. Yes, this is – this is it.

EM

Hey, this is Editing Mike just jumping in with a content warning. As we just alluded to, the next joke is a bit touchy. And we will be discussing it a little bit and discussing why we weren't big fans of the joke. But, if you don't want to hear any sort of discussion about rape, sexual assault, anything like that, I would just skip ahead one minute and 42 seconds. Anyway, back to the podcast.

PM

The play had a great run of no joke that truly made me cringe. I don't think I really cringed at anything genuinely. In terms of, "Oh, bad joke." the only time I cringe was when I thought they were going to make a Gilderoy getting with Hermione situation, which they didn't and they turn that into a joke which is great. Here, Hermione says, "I've already told the Wizard cops what Filch did to me while I was petrified, which, "Ugh, I get that Filch just kind of creepy."

KH

The joke is Filch is creepy and shouldn't be allowed near children. Probably, he's creepy, but rape jokes are never funny. Never. Not even once.

PM

I never find them funny. I think that you could have done the same kind of joke in a way that doesn't imply – because they ever actually say it, but it's heavily implied. And you're going to think the worst. There's a way we're Filch could have done something weird while she was petrified without us thinking it's rape.

KH

I mean just like there are any number of other ridiculous jokes they could have made here instead of this, but --

PM

Yeah.

KH

-- here it is.

PM

They could have just done something, where they didn't make us think he went to the fullest extent.

KH

Nah, I don't know.

PM

Maybe it's just something that is strange but not sexual, where Filch braided her hair or something. You know, like, just something where we still get the joke of Filch is creepy, but we don't have to bring it to the next level of Filch assaulted Hermione.

KH

Yep. That's just uncomfortable. I jumped out of my skin a little bit.

PM

Yeah.

KH

Oh, dear.

PM

I had – I had a good run. But I guess, if you make a 38-hour play and your StarKid, you're gonna make a joke that seems a bit yikes.

KH

Whoops. Here we go. Rape's funny. Oh, no.

PM

Ooh.

KH

Please don't.

PM

So, Hermione then reveals that she knew it was Ron who fought to bring Harry back. And the crowd is very into this. It's a great moment. Ron goes over to where Scarfy and Sorty are. And Sorty tells him that he can pull a ring out of Scarfy because it's something that Scarfy had much like the sword.

KH

It's true love.

PM

Whoever is truly in love can pull a ring out of Scarfy's face. So, Ron gets this ring. And then he proposes to Hermione. When he gets down on one knee to propose, he says, "Will you marry me," at the end of a little lead up speech to it. And, right after he asks the question, Draco slides in and says, "And me?" And Hermione says, "Yes. Yes, Wizard god. Yes."

KH

Ooh.

PM

Of course, Draco was very excited about this. Ron --

KH

Draco's amazing. I love that it's specifically, "And me."

PM

Mhmm.

KH

Marry Ron and me, Draco.

PM

It goes back to Draco – even when he says that, if we save the day, you know, Hermione has to date both of us. It's just Draco not fathoming the concept of stealing Hermione, but, instead, he wants to share Hermione.

KH

He wants to be in probably one of the weirdest throuples you could come up. Throuple? Throuples that you could come up with out of the main characters.

PM

Yep. Yep. Yep. Yep.

KH

I'm into it. I want to read about it. Send me some links. But it's a weird throuple.

PM

So, Ron, of course is very upset about this thing. No, Hermione said yes to me not to you. And Draco fights back against this and then Hermione takes a step forward towards the crowd and says, "Oh, my two boys want my kisses. Now, I know how Katniss feels."

KH

Fucking Katniss.

PM

So, Ron is then talking to Harry. He says, "Voldemort is gone forever. Unless, there's a piece of his soul still floating around there." And Harry very quickly dismisses it and says, "I doubt it," which is pretty solid since we've never revealed whether or not, in this iteration of Harry Potter, horcrux Harry is a thing. But who's to say? So, Harry then says to all of the kids, "Hey, now, the Voldemort's gone, butterbeer's on me." And McGonagall comes in and she's saying, "No, no, no. How could I do this? How can I allow this as a headmistress. Butterbeer's on me," which is a wonderful McGonagall moment.

KH

Very cute. Yeah. Very funny.

PM

So, then Harry starts saying his goodbyes to all the kids. Kind of giving them one by one sendoffs.

KH

Oh, my goodness. This is the sweetest song, I think, maybe. The whole cast is so excited and a little tearful. And it seems like just a really big goodbye moment for all of them. It's like – it feels kind of like – I don't know. Maybe this is me projecting. But it feels like they're saying goodbye to the Harry Potter fandom and to Darren at the same time. And it's so sweet.

PM

That's 100 percent what I felt. I think, intentionally, for the purposes of the play, it was meant as a way to say goodbye to Harry the character and then also Harry Potter the franchise because that's kind of what this whole play is about. It's letting it go and being okay with it.

KH

StarKids saying goodbye.

PM

Yes. And StartKid's saying goodbye to them making Harry Potter productions even though they love Harry Potter a whole lot. Now, I do think that there's an extra element. And this probably could be why they did it one by one is it does seem like the actors are genuinely saying goodbye to Darren Criss because a lot of them realized, "This guy is on Glee now. I'm not gonna hang out with him very much anymore."

KH

Yeah.

PM

So, he says goodbye to all of the side characters at least.

KH

They form like a hug line. And they all give a hug. And it's so sweet.

PM

It was emotional for sure.

KH

It was really touching.

PM

So, then at the very end of the hug line is Draco. And Draco, you know, tries to just give like, "Oh, I guess this is it" kind of muted less Draco goodbye. But then Harry ends it on a sentimental note saying that they actually are friends. And I'm not exaggerating. I teared up when Harry admitted that he is friends with Draco.

KH

Yeah, they both also get a little, like, teary eyed here. And, oh, my heart melted. It was so sweet and so, so heartfelt. Oh, my goodness.

PM

So, all of the kids leave. Harry's the last one on stage. He says goodbye to Hogwarts alone. The crowd is just a mess. They're a puddle of tears at this point.

KH

Yes. He says that it's been totally awesome. And that, that actually felt like Darren was saying that. I don't know.

PM

Right. Right. Oh, I agree.

KH

More projection from me, but --

PM

No. No. No. I agree with all of these projections.

KH

Oh, my goodness. Yeah. I think everyone in the room was sobbing probably.

PM

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Tissues abundant.

KH

Oh.

PM

The tears flowed like wine, et cetera.

KH

Oh, my goodness.

PM

So, he walks off stage, fade to black, but then, of course, it comes back on and it's the epilogue, which – agh.

KH

That was like the perfect spot to end this play on and then we do like a Return of the King thing, where we get three more endings after this.

PM

You know, it wouldn't be Harry Potter if they didn't add an extra thing at the end that we didn't need.

KH

Aww.

PM

You come in and it's Harry and Albus. But they do reveal – and I thought they were going to do this because, at first, he doesn't say his name.

KH
Mhmm

PM
So, I was thinking they had to have changed this name.

KH
Yep, this is gonna be a joke. Here we go.

PM
And he says – he say the line of I've named you after the two bravest people I know, Albus Scarfy Potter, which I'm here for.

KH
Yeah.

PM
I think this name – middle name thing is the most absurd decision in the entire series.

KH
Oh, jeez.

PM
So, I appreciate them doing this.

KH
Yes.

PM
So, Harry then sings a song to him. And the way Darren sings this – I don't know if it's because it's a little higher in pitch or if he's just putting extra emotion into it. I'm sure there is some musical term for why this one hit me extra hard, but he sings a very sentimental, “Now, you get to go to Hogwarts” song. And it is very sweet. And I was feeling very emotional. And my favorite line from the whole song is because they alluded to previously Hogwarts having a secret swimming pool, he says, “I hope you find that swimming pool.”

KH
So good.

PM
So, then, as you mentioned, we have multiple endings. So, you have Quirrell coming back in. And, before Quirrell comes in, the actress that plays Lavender, who is an Asian woman, comes in. And she does an accent that, at first, I thought sounded like stereotypical Asian accent. Not great. But then, as it kept going, it sounded Scottish. So, I have no idea. If --

KH

Yeah. I don't know what they were going for here. It did make me full body cringe. I'm Asian-American. And I was like, "Oh, my goodness. What is this? Why is this happening?" So, that didn't feel great and I wish it hadn't been there.

PM

Yeah. I also didn't know who she was. I don't know. Before we recorded, you said that she was maybe Quirrell's daughter and that was something I didn't even process.

KH

Yeah. She was saying, "Dad, keep up. We're going to be late."

PM

Oh, right. Right. Right. Right.

KH

Which is cute, but there was like this weird accent thing happening. And I don't know what the joke was supposed to be here. But it did not work for me.

PM

Unfortunately, the only joke I can think of is that she would be a stereotypical adopted Asian child.

KH

And that's also not super great. So, maybe don't.

PM

No. Not, not good at all. Not a fun joke. So, I was very confused by it. It felt very unnecessary. The crowd did not laugh, which may be proud of the crowd. But, yeah, it was just – it's kind of like they stumbled across the finish line in this play here.

KH

A little bit. Yeah. A couple things needed to maybe just cut them.

PM

Mhmm. So, Quirrell walks up towards Harry. Harry says, "Do I know you?" And Quirrell, very nervously, says no. And Harry goes, "Huh, how funny. My scar kind of tingles. Well, see ya." And then you, you a lot that even adult Harry Potter is still an idiot. It's perfect.

KH

Yep, still a face blind idiot.

PM

So, Voldemort is attached to the back of him. He takes off the little cloak so you can see his head. And we get a nice little sentimental moment from Voldemort --

KH

Yeah.

PM

-- where he actually gives an apt sendoff to the play and to the trilogy, where it only works because they've established over these three plays the Voldemort is more human and redeemable and not just wizard Hitler's as we've talked about earlier in this episode.

KH

Yeah. And it's clear that he's been in a relationship with Quirrell for a long time, I think.

PM

Yes. Yeah. It's clear that he's become a different person. Like, he is back. And, ever since he has come back, he is not hell bent on killing Harry Potter. He's just back and happy to be with Quirrell.

KH

Yeah, it's really sweet. This goodbye was really touching. Honestly, talking about, like, the things that we all I think found in the series and in the fandom. A lot of us in the fandom, we found a family here and we've learned a lot.

PM

Yeah, it's a very well written sendoff because it says goodbye in the context of the play. And then it also was saying goodbye to the trilogy that they've done. And then bigger picture it kind of is just talking about, like you mentioned, the lessons that they've learned over the course of reading Harry Potter and then saying goodbye to the Harry Potter franchise as a whole.

KH

Yeah, this was such a weird time for the fandom, I think. I was pretty solidly out of it, at this point. I was not a big fan of the movies. And, so, I -- after the books came out, I kind of trailed off in my fan-ishness. And then, obviously, I met Sequoia and she ruined my life. Just kidding. She dragged me back in. And, oh, my goodness, it's been so much fun coming back though. Honestly, joining the fandom now is so fun. We're in a little bit of a weird place right now, but I love the Harry Potter fandom.

PM

Yeah, I do too. And I, obviously, have never had a coming back experiences. So, I never went through this stuff for the first time. But I feel a little bit of kinship in that, now, I'm at least in a different phase of Potterless where I'm done with the main stuff and I'm doing all these side things. And it's very different. So, I feel a little bit of that. But, you're right, we're in a weird time here right now. But I think that this little monologue, when I was watching it, appealed to me in that it reminds me and all of us, like, why we like Harry Potter in the first place. And it's nice and it's good. And it's reassuring to hear that the reason we like the fandom is not because of the author.

KH

No.

PM

The reason why we like the fandom is what we learned and who we've met and the memories we've made because of it.

KH
Yeah.

PM
So, even though it was a different context of why they were saying this, I think it still fits for us in this strange time of August 2020, where we don't like J.K. Rowling anymore.

KH
Yeah. And we're trying to figure out where we want to go as a fandom. I think the fans are gonna come together and it's – we'll be okay.

PM
I – yeah. We already have. And you look at all the great things that are happening from fundraisers to people just standing up, to people making great content on podcasts, and social media, and YouTube explaining why and what J.K. is doing is wrong and how we can get together and donating to great causes. There's already been a lot of connection and collaboration and people banding together. And I think that the fandom is only going to get stronger because we have a common enemy --

KH
Mhmm.

PM
-- to fight against now and, unfortunately, the call is coming from within the house.

KH
Oh, no.

PM
And we got to do what we got to do.

KH
Yeah, I think a lot of queer kids, myself included, learn a lot of things from Harry Potter and found a lot of things to love about the community. And I think it's nice to have people standing up and speaking out in the community still.

PM
Mhmm. I've been very happy to see everyone's response. And it makes me happy to be a part of this and proud to continue doing it. If anything, J.K. is providing extra fuel to the fire. And, now, I get the fuel about trashing her. So, it's great.

KH
Yeah.

PM

Tune in next episode when I do Quidditch Throughout the Ages and I just dunk on J.K. for 12 episodes, I think.

KH
Oh, no.

PM
I'm gonna tear that book to fucking shreds.

KH
Oh, no.

PM
Look, I'm trying to be a good ally here. And that's the only thing I can do. If you like Quidditch, you're transphobic.

KH
Jesus. Fuck. I do not condone this.

PM
I'm kidding. I'm kidding, but I am gonna tear that book to fucking shreds.

KH
Good talk.

PM
Anyway, there's a little bit of this still left to go. So, let's round it out.

KH
All right.

PM
Voldemort what he says, in response to Quirrell – Quirrell says, “Oh, that's Harry Potter. Do you want to go after him?” And Voldemort says, “No, I've learned a few things from Harry Potter. I've learned to let things go. I've learned to open my heart up and I've learned how to love.” And, after saying he's learned how to love he says, “I guess that's kind of what Harry Potter is all about.” And that is such a great moment. The crowd loves it. And then he ends the whole play on saying that there even comes a time where we have to let Harry Potter go and that's okay.

KH
Yeah.

PM
It was pretty nice. And I think it's really what people needed to hear in 2012 if they wanted to let it go. I also think, on the flip side, it's okay to not let Harry Potter go and still like it and make new things like we're doing. But, also, if you want to take this and take out Harry Potter and put in J.K. Rowling, it's okay to let J.K. Rowling go because we still have Harry Potter.

KH

It's more than okay. It is encouraged.

PM

It is probably the correct thing to do is, at this point, to just let her go.

KH

Yeah.

PM

Until she gets to the point where she seems like she wants to listen to anyone that doesn't agree with her, but it doesn't seem like the case.

KH

Who knows? 2020 has been such a garbage year. Maybe 2021 will be better.

PM

We'll have to just see, but that is the end of A Very Potter Senior Year. And that is the end of our coverage of StarKids of A Very Potter Trilogy. Kim, how do you feel? How do you feel about this play as a whole, this particular part that we talked about, everything?

KH

So, the play was a little bloated.

PM

Mhmm. Mhmm.

KH

But this – especially this section that we covered, it was so heartfelt and so sincere and just had kind of like a really big end of the school year maybe. Like friends saying goodbye. You know, maybe not end of the school year. Like, this is their senior year in the play.

PM

Yeah, graduation vibes.

KH

So, big graduation vibes. And I thought it was really good.

PM

I thought it was really solid. I do agree that it's very long. And there are probably some elements that could be cut, but I don't think it dragged at any point. It's very long, but there was never a part where I felt the need to fast forward. None of the songs I really skipped my way through.

KH

The songs in this were incredible. Honestly, they were all so good.

PM

Yeah. When I watched the first two, I will admit there are some parts that I kind of fast forwarded through and some songs that I was like, "All right. I get it. You're just saying same thing."

KH

No, for sure.

PM

Let me skip ahead a little bit.

KH

I'm not sure that I've finished the Sequel.

PM

Yeah.

KH

I don't know.

PM

So, this one may be the longest and it may not be the highest production quality in that, like, Darren Criss' mic wasn't working and the reading off scripts. But, honestly, I forgot that they were doing book reading. They give such good performances of the lines.

KH

Even Darren, who seems like he had zero prep time, does an incredible job --

PM

Mhmm.

KH

-- on book. And it's just so impressive.

PM

He really is. And I just don't think that this play has any moment that really drags. I think that it goes really smoothly. And it's very funny. I think that the brand of humor is more in line with at least what I like.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

I would say better, but I know some people might not like the brand as much.

KH

The Lockhart monologue is such a high point. What was that? It was beautiful.

PM

I just think they have the perfect blend of absurd jokes like that Lockhart the Mouse Prince thing --

KH

Yes.

PM

-- along with jokes that make fun of Harry Potter, you know, whether it's the way the books are written or characters or whatever. And then you have the right amount of callbacks, the right amount of fourth wall breaks. It just seems like StarKid took all of the types of jokes that they make. And then they actually divided it up evenly where there was a nice spread of distribution. And it didn't feel like they were doing too much of one versus the other. Thankfully, there weren't as many gross jokes. We talked about these ones at the end. But I just think this one is really good. I think, if I was to rewatch any of them, I don't know that I will. I would rewatch the third one. I just found it the most enjoyable viewing experience and --

KH

I think maybe the highlight's reel.

PM

Yeah. Yeah, of course, a condensed version.

KH

They did have that one really long gross section that I think I could stand to maybe have never watched.

PM

Which one?

KH

When the grandpa pooped his pants.

PM

Oh, yeah. Yeah. It wasn't capital key problematic. It goes more of just I don't like poop jokes.

KH

Oh, no. It's just like this is really long and gross.

PM

Yeah.

KH

What is happening?

PM

Okay. I stand corrected. Cut that scene and everything's great. And everything I've said about it not being dragged still stands. But, yes, that is the one part where I was like, "All right. All right."

KH

Yeah, for sure. I'll admit. I cried of laughter at the physical humor part where Harry's like stumbling around the Death Day party. I was crying.

PM

That's really good. It's really good stuff.

KH

The high points in this were so high and so amazing.

PM

I think, with any trilogy – this happened, I think, with the Toy Story series. It's that it's hard to pick a favorite Toy Story because the only reason two is good is because it builds off of one.

KH

Mhmm.

PM

And the only reason three is good is because it builds off of one and two. So, it's very hard to kind of separate them. Same thing with the John Wick movies. It's hard to say, but I do realize that a lot of what made three funny is the callbacks that they do for one and two. But I still just think three is the best. And it's my favorite. And I don't get why more people didn't like it. It's like controversial. I like the third one that most and I find that to be very confusing.

KH

I would guess it's probably the production issues.

PM

Or the fact that people just have such a sentimental viewing of the first one that they saw.

KH

Yeah.

PM

And I could see that's why so many people like the first one or just the third one is very, very long. And it probably came out later in people's lives. So, maybe people are already done with Harry Potter by the time it came out.

KH

2012, I was deep in the undergraduate paint.

PM

Mhmm. Yep. Yep. That also.

KH
Yeah.

PM
I mean that could be the thing for a lot of people. You don't have the time to watch it.

KH
Very far in a study hole. Not leaving the engineering building.

PM
That was me.

KH
It's very sad.

PM
That was me. Junior year. If I got four and a half hours of sleep at night I said, "Wow, I got four and a half hours of sleep. That was a good night."

KH
Yes. Ooh.

PM
That was my junior year of college.

KH
Living in the computer lab. Getting really stinky.

PM
Mhmm. Mhmm.

KH
What? What are we talking about?

PM
Harry Potter. So, Kim, thank you so much for joining on. This was a wonderful time. If people want to find you doing stuff on the internet, podcast wise, et cetera, where can they do so?

KH
Thank you so much for having me on. This has been an absolute blast. You can find me and my wonderful co-host, Sequoia, on Fanatical Fics and Where to Find Them. It is a Harry Potter fan fiction Podcast, where we read fan fictions that came out before the end of the seventh book and cry of laughter at them and with them.

PM
I've been on a couple episodes. I'm very biased. I think those are the best one. Right. Yeah. That was a lot of good quality episode.

KH

We got such a great time. Oh, my goodness. We're doing ridiculous stuff over there. So, we are Fanatical Fics on any social media. So, check us out on your podcast app or on social media.

PM

Do it .Do it. Well, Kim, thank you so much for joining. Listeners, thank you so much for listening. And, as they say in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter before they get down on one knee and proposed with a ring that they got from a scarf, Wizard On!

KH

Wizard On!

[1:07:57]

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