

Episode 121 - Cursed Child: The Playgoing Experience

w/ Kelly Schubert

PM = Past Mike

EM= Editing Mike

KS = Kelly Schubert

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 your sous chef. Just letting you know, to perfect this recipe, you should add a little bit of salt, a hint of pepper, and a big old dash of this podcast.

[Announcements 0:08 – 3:22]

PM

But, without further ado, let's get into Episode 121 of Potterless covering the play going experience of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, guest starring my wife, Kelly Schubert.

Intro Music

PM

Hello, internet, and welcome back to another episode of Potterless, the tale of a grown man who didn't read the Harry Potter books as a kid. He read them as an adult. He watched all the movies. And then he had to pay \$400 something to see six hours of a bad play. My name is Mike Schubert. I'm that grown man. And I'm here joined by my wife, Kelly Beckman, to discuss this theatrical event that we attended called Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I and II. Kelly. How's it going?

KS

First of all, that was a very long tagline. It just gets longer the longer you do this podcast.

PM

That's what's gonna happen.

KS

Second of all, you called me Kelly Beckman.

PM

Oh, did I say my wife, Kelly Beckman?

KS

Yeah.

PM

Well, legally --

KS

Are you taking my last name? This is great.

PM

No, I'm not. Legally. I would be correct to call you Kelly Beckman, because you haven't changed your name yet. But, in actuality, you're Kelly Schubert.

KS

I changed my Instagram.

PM

Oh, yeah, to Schubette. It's all --

KS

How much more formal can we get?

PM

Did I tell you that, in our vows, when I originally sent them to Judy for when she was officiating?

KS

[Inaudible 4:40].

PM

Just -- yeah. Her efficient speech and stuff.

KS

Yeah.

PM

But I accidentally put Michael and Kelly Beckman.

KS

Yeah. Yeah, I saw you do that. I was so excited. I wasn't gonna say anything.

PM

She sent an email. She's like, "Michael, I don't want to, you know, step on you. I know you're a very progressive couple."

KS

You're a very progressive young man.

PM

But are you really taking Kelly's last name? I was like, "I'm sorry. I'm just so used to typing Kelly Beckman.

KS

Yes. Yes, he is. When you sent that email back, I was like, "Yes. Yes, he would love to be Mike Beckman."

PM

I don't know. It doesn't have the same ring to it. Kelly Schubert is fun.

KS

So is Kelly Beckman.

PM

Yes, Kelly Beckman is very good.

KS

Yes. Thank you.

PM

But Mike Beckman is too much [Inaudible 5:15].

KS

Michael Beckman.

PM

Michael Beckman, it could work. It's still a lot of [Inaudible 5:19] in your face.

KS

It's true. I don't have any cousin or Uncle Mike's.

PM

No. Anyway, Harry Potter.

KS

Mhmm.

PM

So, Kelly and I saw Cursed Child in June of 2019.

KS

Yes.

PM

I don't know exactly who was in the cast and stuff. I'm not well enough versed in Broadway to know.

KS

Do you want me to read the playbook?

PM

No, because it's going to be a bunch of names that I'm not going to know.

KS

Yeah. Yeah.

PM

There's an entire segment of the episode I've already recorded that's going to come out later with Gordon Cox about the police impact on Broadway, where I said, "This person did this. Are they a big deal?" And I was asking about the director, and the set designer, and the music, and all this other stuff.

KS

From the – from the one that we went to or from the original cast?

PM

From the original cast.

KS

Did we see the original cast?

PM

No.

KS

I didn't think so.

PM

There were a couple people from the original cast, but it was mostly new people.

KS

Okay. Yeah.

PM

So, we saw the play. It was a two-day extravaganza.

KS

Mhmm.

PM

We went – we had the variety where we went to two back-to-back nights during the week. The other option, when you see it, is that you can see it in the morning and then the evening or I guess around lunchtime and the evening on a weekend.

KS

Yeah.

PM

We did back-to-back weeknights. So, in this episode of Potterless, we just wanted to cover the entire play going experience of Cursed Child, especially because this play, at least to me, was highly touted as, “Oh, if you read it, it sucks. But, if you see it, it's good.” And I saw it, and I still thought it sucked. How did you feel overall?

KS

Yes, yes and no. I've seen my fair share of Broadway plays.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

I've seen – I've seen a lot. And I thought it was very good. I was not the worst one I've seen. It was not the best one I've seen. There are many I would see again and have seen again. And I'm not sure I would go see this one again.

PM

Well, especially because it's --

KS

Especially because it's --

PM

-- two plays.

KS

And two tickets --

PM

Yes.

KS

-- worth of money to see it again. Yeah.

PM

Exactly. So, the entire coverage that we'll be doing for Cursed Child here is going to be six episodes. This one, four about the plot, and then one about just the Broadway impact. But I wanted to give as much of a holistic overview as we could as possible and just kind of go

through, chronologically, our entire experience of seeing it. So, let's start from the very beginning. I bought tickets. Not a great experience, I had to buy twice as many tickets. Didn't enjoy that. Not very fun. And that's all there is to really say about that. It was hard to pick seats and stuff, because the Lyric Theater where they have it here on Broadway is a very long theater. So, it's hard to get a good seat, unless you're getting one that's very close and then, thus, very expensive. We ended up getting seats in the right orchestra towards the back. I thought we were going to be in front of the mezzanine overhang, but we were right behind the mezzanine overhang, which was a little annoying. We couldn't see the entire top of the stage area.

KS

Yes. Overall, though, I think we missed maybe 5 to 10 percent of what happened.

PM

Right. It's not that much.

KS

And it wasn't – it wasn't important things happening in that part. What's more frustrating than a long theater is a wide theater. A theater where they show Frozen is so wide, and my brother and I were on the very end. We saw, like, 60 percent of what was going on. You know what that means, though? That means you didn't use view from my seat, which --

PM

I did use View From My Seat.

KS

Oh, you did.

PM

That's the problem. I tried to use the website viewfrommyseat.com and look at different pictures and stuff. But the pictures that the people had didn't have the overhang in it. So I thought we were safe.

KS

Oh, okay. I still thought it was fine. I had a great time.

PM

Yeah, it was fine. I just know that some people got screwed. I know, when Amanda and Eric saw it, they had the same kind of thing. They were about as far back as we were, but they were closer to the middle. And I think that the mezzanine sticks out a little more in the center.

KS

Oh.

PM

So, they had even more. They couldn't even see the clock.

KS
Oh.

PM
And that's not necessarily the most important thing, but that is the highest point at which something important needs to be seen.

KS
Mhmm.

PM
I remember the only thing – and spoiler alert for anything. We're going to be talking about the play and stuff. So, if you're listening to this, don't tweet me after and be like, "You ruined it." This is an episode about Cursed Child. When, at the end of part one, the dementors fly in, I couldn't see all of them flying around. I could only see parts of a few of them.

KS
Mhmm. I will say, though, the effect still shook me to my core.

PM
Oh, the dementors' effect? Yes, very cool.

KS
Yes.

PM
It was very, very good. So, ticket buying experience, not great just because I felt like it wasn't easy to determine if my seats are going to be good, but that's more of a Broadway thing than a Cursed Child thing. But we got the tickets. And then I was running late. Why did I run late?

KS
Because you're Michael Schubert.

PM
Well, true. But I was running late to being early. I wasn't actually late. I just wasn't my --

KS
I wanted us to get there 20 minutes early.

PM
Right.

KS
So, that we could – because the, the theater is always like a really – going to the show --

PM

Going to the theater is a fun experience I wanted to enjoy.

KS

Going to the – I treat going to a Broadway show as like a souped-up version of going to the movies. And I still like to go to the movies early, and like sit in my comfy seat, and get my snacks all laid out, and watch all the previews. But, like, when you go to a Broadway show, there's a whole experience of getting to the theater early. They usually have the theater themed to whatever the play is.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

I like checking that out. I always got to pee right before it starts.

PM

I was gonna say this is all a very fancy way of you saying about your experiences. You just want to pee. That's all you want to do. And the women's restroom lines at these theaters are always so long.

KS

Yeah.

PM

Is it just because these theaters are old and they don't have big bathrooms? Because, every time we see a play together, your line is so freaking long.

KS

Yeah. They move really quick though.

PM

It's still – even this Harry Potter one, they were downstairs. And yours like wrap around.

KS

Yeah.

PM

First off, why don't we just have unisex bathrooms everywhere? Very annoying.

KS

Yeah.

PM

This will make everything so much easier.

KS

I mean, second of all, if you want to get into this debate, men have urinals. So, it's very easy to, like, get people through the assembly line much quicker.

PM

Right.

KS

And, second of all, women just pee more often than men a lot of times. I don't know what the ratio of men to women are at Broadway shows. I feel like it could be pretty split even.

PM

I feel like it'd be pretty even.

KS

It's not like a baseball game.

PM

No.

KS

Or – I'm trying to think what would be more heavily slanted to woman. Any other event usually has more. I don't know.

PM

A Jonas Brothers concert.

KS

The David Museum had a longer women's line than men's line. Why are women the only one that will do cultural things and men just go to baseball games? I don't get it.

PM

Baseball less so than basketball. Basketball is culture. Baseball is fine. Basketball --

KS

I just revel in being able to go to short bathroom lines at sporting events. I remember the first time that we went to --

PM

Oh, yeah. That's your – aaah.

KS

Yeah.

PM

I see.

KS

I remember the first time I went to a Dynamo game with my dad and my brother. And we all, like, went to go to the bathroom. And I got out so much quicker than them. And it was just amazing – the most amazing feeling. I was just standing there waiting for them probably for, like, two minutes, but it felt just so satisfying.

PM

Also, women's restrooms are always so much nicer than men's rooms.

KS

Yeah.

PW

At least, in the same situation. One time at Rice, I was studying in Rayzor Hall.

KS

You went into the women's restroom.

PM

Well, it was one of those things we were just – we used to go into this building. It was, like, a language and other building. But our student IDs could swipe in, because they didn't have the security system properly. So, we could do homework late at night and not have to rent a room at the library that capped you at four hours max. This is why me and my friends in college broke into this language building at Rice.

KS

Well, I used to study there late at night, too.

PM

Yeah, because they didn't change the security on the doors until a couple months were left in our senior year. It was very sad.

KS

Yeah, it's nice.

PM

But I used to do Math problem sets there. And the way that the floor is set up is there's a women's restroom just on the third floor. And then, for the men's restroom, you have to go up to the fourth floor. And this is 3:00 in the morning. We've been doing engineering work for five consecutive hours, and no one's here. I don't want to walk up a flight of stairs. So, I just walked into the women's room, because no one else is here in this building. And it was so much nicer. There were little succulent plants. There were those little aroma things, where it's the liquid and then the sticks sticking out of it. And it was actually nice. I used the men's restroom earlier in the evening, and everything was wet. There were no paper towels. The door was off the hinge in the stall.

KS

No way.

PM

Yeah, it was terrible. It was atrocious. And then the women's restroom was so nice. There was a couch on the side when you walk into the entryway.

KS

Yeah. Yeah, there was.

PM

What the fuck is that? I was so upset. Oh, I was so mad. I came back, and I was studying with my buddy, Patrick and Jacinta. And I was telling them of this discrepancy. Jacinta was like, "Wait. Your restrooms don't have couches. Really?" No. We're lucky if they soap.

KS

But --

PM

Uh huh.

KS

-- Shakespeare in the Park bathroom.

PM

Right.

KS

Women's line wraps around the building. Men's line, like, 10 people on.

PM

Did you just go into the men's room?

KS

If I went to men's room, it's very Shakespearean.

PM

So, anyway, Harry Potter. So, I was running late. I was --

KS

It was five-minute bathroom run.

PM

I was probably doing my hair honestly.

KS

Probably. You were probably doing your hair.

PM

I think I was doing something in the studio that ran long.

KS

You were late enough that I was actually worried. You got there like three minutes before show time.

PM

I got there – I got there five minutes before.

KS

I was pacing real hard. I'm sure I look – like, I don't hide my, like, nervousness very well.

PM

No, you don't. Not at all.

KS

Like, if I just – especially, like, I know that people know. I just like mess with my thumbs, pace a lot. I'm standing. I looked a wreck, because you got there with, like, no time at all. And I had to pee. And I couldn't go in without you, because you had the tickets.

PM

Oh, I did have the tickets.

KS

Yeah. And you told me you'd be there 20 minutes early.

PM

I did.

KS

So, I got there 25 minutes early.

PM

Sorry. That – well, that was a poor decision. Why would I be earlier than advertised? That's not me.

KS

I didn't want to be late for our early time. So, I accidentally got there early.

PM

Hmm.

KS

And then you were late for early our time.

PM

So, we got to the theater, and Kelly peed. And then we took photos. They have a little photo booth type deal setup where they have the four banners.

KS

We did that the second night, because we were too late to do it the first night.

PM

We did it both nights. I have the --

KS

We did during the intermission on the first night.

PM

Aah. But I do have the proof on my phone that we're literally looking at. So, the first night --

KS

Oh, look at our outfits.

PM

Mhmm. I'm wearing mint green pants, a Wizard On shirt, and a blazer with a little pin. I think I was wearing the Books Turn Muggles Into Wizards pin that Vicki Garcia got me. And you're wearing a nice little gray dress you got from Hannah.

KS

Yeah.

PM

I took a picture with the Gryffindor banner. You took the Hufflepuff. And then, the second night we were there, we did it with the Slytherin and then the Ravenclaw banners just to --

KS

Just so we have them all.

PM

Just so we could collect them all.

KS

Got to get them all.

PM

The woman who was taking photos, you just handed her her phone. She took a couple photos. And then you had them. She was great. She was very quick.

KS

She was great.

PM

She was moving people through the line. She knew exactly what poses to tell people. Basically, do a normal one, do a silly one, do something else, and then boom. And it was a very quick process. And then we're able to get to our seats right before the play started, which was very nice. And then the play began. Yay. I did not know much about the play going in. I knew that there was a time turner involved. I knew that it was a sequel. I knew that it was about Harry's kid, Albus, who got sorted into Slytherin. And I knew it was about Draco's kid Scorpius, who was also sorted into Slytherin. I didn't know why they were time traveling. I didn't know many other things. That's all I knew going in. What about you?

KS

Well, that's more than I knew.

PM

What did you know?

KS

I knew that it took place after the epilogue.

PM

Okay.

KS

That's it.

PM

Cool.

KS

I knew it was part of the Harry Potter franchise.

PM

Nice. Wow.

KS

Yeah.

PM

Very informative.

KS

Yeah, I know – oh, I knew that Hermione was played by a black woman.

PM

Which is very cool.

KS

I like the casting choice there.

KS

That's all that I knew, because that made its way through, like, the social media [Inaudible 17:13].

PM

Yeah, because straight --

KS

Because people were stepping out about it.

PM

-- straight white men were like, "Oh, my god, she was white in the books because there's that one quote where it says Hermione white in the face," which is complete bullshit, but, also, who cares? Who cares? I don't.

KS

Yes, that's all -- that's all that I knew. I literally knew nothing else.

PM

So, the play began. And, for anyone that hasn't seen it, we'll be giving just some very quick overviews of certain parts but not anything incredibly in depth, because that's the point of the episodes about Cursed Child to follow. But the beginning is pretty much a recap of the epilogue. That's fine. I was kind of bored, because I've read the epilogue. And then they kind of go through Albus' first three years or his first two years and they go into his third year very quickly. I felt anxiety --

KS

Yes.

PM

-- watching the beginning of the play.

KS

Yeah.

PM

Because it was so fast and so much.

KS

I felt like I was missing pieces. I felt like, "Oh, crap. I should have read this before I came, because I feel like I'm missing out on something."

PM

There are so many scenes. And there are so many scene changes. I did the reading for this, because I recorded some of the episodes already in Act One. So, the first half of the first night. There are I think 20 scenes.

KS

Oh, my god.

PM

20 scenes. Now, I am not a play enthusiast. I enjoy going to plays, but I don't read them for fun and stuff. But I had to read a couple in high school. And my understanding, usually, an act has, like, five scenes in it, seven scenes in it, never more than 10. I could be completely speaking out of my ass here, but 20 feels like a lot. Twenty feels like so many scenes.

KS

I mean it really is a lot, but I was also completely thrown off by the fact that it was a play. I don't go to very many plays. I go to a lot of musicals.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

There was a play. And then, all of a sudden, they start this music dance number that's bringing them through this, like, 20 scenes. It's, like, the saga of his first three years.

PM

Right.

KS

They tell it through, like, dance. And there's no singing, but it's this very loud, loud music that was louder than --

PM

Imogen Heap, baby.

KS

It was, like, louder than the dialogue.

PM

Yeah.

KS

And it was very jarring. And the -- I will say the dancing was super cool.

PM

The dancing was very cool.

KS

And the way they pulled it was very cool. But I was just, like, so jarred out of everything that I – like you, I felt like a little bit of anxiety watching the beginning. How, how is this gonna take two nights? We're going so fast. Isn't this play gonna be over in 10 minutes?

PM

See, on the flipside, anytime they did something that wasn't plot, I knew, "Oh, that's how this is two nights," because there are so many transitions. And all of these transitions are just people doing cool robe flipping tricks, and wand stuff, and all of those unnecessary stuff. And I was already mad about buying two tickets. But, every time they did something that wasn't any sort of dialogue or plot and it was just filler stuff, I was like, "You could have cut this out. And we could have been here for just one night." But I don't know if it was where we were sitting or if it's just the way the theater was set up, but I agree with you. I think the music was way loud.

KS

So loud.

PM

It felt very loud. And it definitely felt hard to hear all of the dialogue at certain points when there was music or sound effects and talking at the same time.

KS

Yeah.

PM

The only time though that that wasn't hard was when it was just hard to understand what people are saying, because I felt like every line was screamed. I felt like no one talked in this play. I felt like everybody screamed in this play.

KS

I didn't get that.

PM

Scorpius Malfoy screamed every line.

KS

Oh, I think he was an angsty kid and that's why he screamed every line.

PM

Oh, well, he's an anxious nervous kid. But it was like, "Okay. I get it. Not every line needs to be yelled." And, for me, a lot of the delivery of that felt very stereotypical theatrical. Like, a theater kid vibe, which I don't enjoy.

KS

I didn't get that. I got these are nervous, anxious boys, and that's why they were yelling.

PM

Right. But then --

KS

But the adults didn't yell.

PM

Oh, I thought the adults yelled. Draco was very, like, grumpy. He was like, "My son, there's rumors about him. They're saying he's the son of Voldemort and not my seed." Like, I felt like everything was yelled. And then Harry was just like, "Dumbledore!" Like, I don't know. I felt like everything was at an 11.

KS

Well, you know what? They were --

PM

And there was no range of volume.

KS

They were anxious boys too. So, they just grew in the anxious home.

PM

It's true. It is Harry Potter and Draco. I don't know. I felt like everything was screamed. I felt like there wasn't enough range of volume in the delivery of stuff, which is not the case when we see a good play. When we saw Lifespan of a Fact, I thought that was great.

KS

Oh, man. That was amazing.

PM

That play was good. Daniel Radcliffe was in it. And it was very good with some lines are just spoken. Some are said more quietly and softly. Others are yelled when they need to be. I thought that was a much better delivery of lines. And it was kind of hard for me to discern between emotions just because everything was at 11.

KS

Also, 90 minutes, no intermission.

PM

That was great. Really good. Big fan of that not four night.

KS

But then I --

PM

Two nights, four parts.

KS

But then I did wait two hours outside in the 10 degree cold to see --

PM

Mhmm.

KS

-- Dan Radcliffe, who then had to be rushed off in a car because people started a fight over something that he autographed. And the cops were called. And, so, he got --

PM

Those Harry Potter fans, man.

KS

I was just so --

PM

They're just rabid.

KS

-- mad. I literally couldn't walk home. My toes were so cold. I had to stop in a Duane Reade until they thought so I could keep walking.

PM

And I did not stay with Kelly because --

KS

Oh, because you were editing.

PM

-- I had to edit an episode of my podcast, because we were seeing this play on a Sunday night. And I needed to get it out. So, this is not my fault. This is your fault, listener at home. Feel bad for Kelly's toes. It was my fault for not getting the edit done earlier, but I did get --

KS

Also, my fault for buying tickets for a Sunday.

PM

Well – and, also --

KS

I asked you though, didn't I?

PM

No, we did it because it was the last night of the showing.

KS

Oh, it was the last night.

PM

And it was the only night that they had tickets left.

KS

Yeah.

PM

But also your fault for wearing open toed shoes.

KS

No, they were close.

PM

No, they were heels.

KS

They were boots. They were booted – heel boots.

PM

Oh, then why were your feet so cold?

KS

Well, because I was then wearing stockings and not socks.

PM

There it is. But I did get you – I did get you Poke to eat when you got back --

KS

Yeah.

PM

-- which I think was pretty nice of me.

KS

You met me at the door with a blanket and fuzzy socks. It was very --

PM

I did. Yeah. You knocked on the door. I handed – I wrapped you. I immediately wrapped you in a blanket and sat you down and put fuzzy socks on you, and then gave you a bowl of Poke.

KS

It was such a weird night. It was such a weird night.

PM

The play, phenomenal.

KS

The play was amazing. Watching Daniel Radcliffe get whisked into a car that then went the wrong way down a one-way street because cops are coming from both directions to break up this fight, I was like, "I need to get out of here. These are grown men fighting over an autographed, like, Harry Potter doll and things might get serious, but I can't run. My toes are frozen." It was so weird.

PM

Anyway, so, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. Yeah. The beginning felt very frantic. And things slowed down a little bit when year three begins, because that's where the actual story starts.

KS

Mhmm.

PM

But, unfortunately, after two scenes of what seems like normalcy, you have the scene with the trolley witch. The trolley witch who turns one of her candies --

KS

Nope.

PM

-- into a grenade -- and this is how the narrator in the book version describes it.

KS

Nope.

PM

That it is thrown and explodes like a grenade. And she --

KS

Her fingers are so weird.

PM

Yes. Basically, she chases Albus and Scorpius, who are trying to escape off the top of the train. They – she chases them on top of the train. And then her hands extend into really long spiky fingers, very Edward Scissorhands-esque. The problem is that this effect was kind of cool, but not that great. And it took a really long time.

KS

This is the first time where I had that thought of, “You could have cut this out.”

PM

Mhmm.

KS

It was like a five-minute scene of her hands growing.

PM

And I don't know if it was an issue with the props or if it was just poorly created. But it did feel like the two boys were frozen on the train. And she was making her hands look like they were gonna be scary. And they were just kind of like, “Ah, ah, ah.” Waiting until they finally get all the way out. And then they were like, “We should jump off the train.” You guys could have done this while she was extending her fingers.

KS

It was so weird.

PM

But it wasn't a cool effect. A lot of the other effects that were done were really cool though throughout the play.

KS

All of the magic was so cool.

PM

All of the magic was really cool. They had parts when they would shoot a spell like Incendio and you could see a flame go from the wand all the way across. And I assume they had some sort of very thin wire you couldn't see where they lit something all the way down. All of the wands have little lights on the end of it. So, there's a lot of times where they'll do Lumos or something and just the wand will have a little light and you can't see. It's really sweet. The first time, when there's a really cool series of effects, they do the polyjuice thing, which was impressive but not super cool. Because what they basically do is have a way of the actor who plays the person that they are polyjuicing into comes up from either behind something or through the floor and goes into their robe. And then they go out and stuff. Like, they, they're wearing, like, intentionally kind of bigger robes.

KS

Mhmm.

PM

And it took a long time. It was kind of cool, but you could tell what they were doing. What I thought was really sweet, though was when Harry and Draco get into a duel inside of their house. And they do a bunch of really fun spells. There's one where Draco ends up being levitated. And he rotates 90 degrees. So, he's parallel to the floor.

KS

Mhmm.

PM

And then he goes back. And then somehow a chair gets thrown and flipped upside down or something.

KS

Yeah. Yeah.

PM

And then it breaks. That was the first time when they did effects that I was like, "This is really cool."

KS

Yeah.

PM

I hope there's more duels. And, unfortunately, there aren't that many more, but that was really fun. All of the effects there were really cool.

KS

I thought that the polyjuice one was kind of cool. I, I take it back. I knew two things about this play.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

I knew it was after the epilogue and somebody had told me they do polyjuice on stage.

PM

Uh huh.

KS

So, I was waiting for that. I was like, "Polyjuice? What does that have to do with anything with the story?" But I was like, "I don't care. I was gonna go and see it onstage."

PM

Similar to the effects, something that I did think was really, really cool is the set. The design is really nice, because it's very simplistic but also complex at the same time.

KS

Mhmm.

PM

There is not a lot of backdrops. There's not a lot of big props. But, mainly, what they have are these big, wheeled rectangles that turned into a lot of different things. They put them together to make the train. And then they have them separate and tilted to be the staircases at Hogwarts.

KS

Mhmm. Mhmm.

PM

They put them together to be bookcases at times. It's really cool how they use all these different things. They're on wheels and they spin and move really easily. So, they are constantly being moved all across the stage and turned to different things. And the stairs were put in different orientations to where people can walk up one side and down one side. When they're at the Ministry, they put them side to side. So, it's one really big wide staircase.

KS

Yeah.

PM

They do a lot of really cool things with the set. And they do a really good job of making you feel like you are in a lot of different locations when really they aren't changing that much, which helps when you have a play with 50 freakin scenes in it. But they were able to change things really quickly and smoothly and seamlessly. And I really appreciated it.

KS

Well, they also did that through a lot of the lighting effects.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

They would use the same background. But the way lighting changed made it a very different set --

PM

Yeah.

KS

-- which was cool.

PM

Yeah, I thought it was really fun. I think the set is probably the best thing it has going for it with the magical effects I would say are the second best. I just thought the set was really impressive.

KS

Hmm. I thought the magic was really cool. I like – I would say they're even in my mind.

PM

Yeah, they're both really solid.

KS

One thing that would be really interesting, the Lyric Theater doesn't have any box seats. So, like, seats that are up high and close to the stage.

PM

You know, the fancy ones that Statler and Waldorf sit in in the Muppets.

KS

Right. But they're actually, in the Broadway world, a lot of times not that fancy and the cheaper seats. So, I would sit in box seats. A fair amount of the times, I've seen four different plays from box seats.

PM

Do you bring your tiny binoculars attached to a stick?

KS

Oh, I would love to. Oh, I would love to. I made sure I sat in a box seat when I went to see Anastasia --

PM

Oh, yeah.

KS

-- because of the scene where they sit in box seats at the opera. Anyway.

PM

You're -- you're looking at me like I know the plot of Anastasia.

KS

I was looking -- yeah. You decided to not go to that one with me. I offered for you to. And you're like, "Do you want -- do you -- do you really want me there?" And I'm like, "Do you \$70 want to be?"

PM

It was \$84. And my brain initially said, "That's how much it costs to be in the lower bowl of a Knicks game. Can't do it."

KS

I cried. That play was so good.

PM

And I cried at the Knicks game, because they're so bad.

KS

Anyway, I sat in a box seat for Aladdin. And Aladdin is another play that does a lot of magic, obviously.

PM

Yes.

KS

And – but it was really cool, because you were higher up and over the stage a little bit. So, you could see them setting up the tricks. And you could see them, like, wheeling in different sets and different tricks. It was really cool to see the behind the scenes of how it works. I think it'd be so interesting to do this. And maybe that's why they don't have boxes --

PM

Yeah.

KS

-- because they want to keep it magical.

PM

Probably.

KS

Well, I mean the ones at Aladdin were the lottery seats wherein the --

PM

Yeah.

KS

They literally shot the confetti cannon from behind my head.

PM

Heck yeah, dude.

KS

And I screamed so loud.

PM

With it being Aladdin, I'm imagining this happened during Prince Ali. And I'm imagining it's like, "Blah, blah, blah." And then, instead of the blah, blah, they shoot a cannon and you go, "Ha, ha," on [Inaudible 30:48].

KS

It was so loud, but nobody heard me. It's fine. But it would be like somebody would magically appear somewhere, right? And you'd be like, "Wow. How'd that happen?" But, from up top, you'd see that person had been crouching before something for the last, like, 10 minutes, which was really cool.

PM

That's very fun. I would love to get some sort of behind-the-scenes access tour and just see how they do all of the effects.

KS

Yeah.

PM

Like, maybe go to a dress rehearsal or something.

KS

I'd love to see the dress rehearsal with the lights on.

PM

I should start shooting off some more emails and touting that I'm the most popular Harry Potter podcast. I'd be like, "Hello. I did release six episodes of the podcast saying your play sucks ass, but could I --

KS

Well --

PM

-- just get a behind-the-scenes tour?"

KS

You know, right now, Broadway is closed.

PM

That is very true.

KS

So, when they start back up again, they'll have to be doing dress rehearsals to an empty theater.

PM

Hmm. Just me, the one boy.

KS

Right. Well, we can definitely say six feet apart from people in an empty theater.

PM

Yeah. And then, from across the theater, we'd be like, "This play sucks."

KS

No, you can't do that.

PM

I'll text you, "This play sucks."

KS

I wouldn't use that exactly.

PM

What would you say?

KS

It's not my favorite play or scene.

PM

Would you say it was \$250 worth spending?

KS

No.

PM

Exactly. That's why my bar --

KS

But I'd rather have seen another play like from an incredible seat. Yes.

PM

Would you have rather eaten \$250 – hold on.

KS

What?

PM

Hold on. Let me do the math.

KS

Is there honey butter chicken biscuits?

PM

Would you rather have eaten \$72.89 honey butter chicken biscuits from Whataburger? I --

KS

No.

PM

-- much rather.

KS

No. Over my old lifetime maybe. That is so much. I wonder if Whataburger does delivery.

PM

They do.

KS

To our apartment?

PM

No, because we live in New York. The closest Whataburger is in Florida.

KS

I wonder if I can get -- I used to because my family lives in Texas. I did an internship year here and a lot of my classmates were also in New York, but had been in Texas for a long time. So, we're missing honey butter chicken -- honey butter chicken biscuits. And I used to, whenever I would go home to visit my family, bring honey butter chicken biscuits back for whoever's birthday was next. And it was -- it was a true sacrifice to be hungry on a plane --

PM

Mhmm.

KS

-- with a really good smelling biscuit.

PM

Listener at home, if you ever find yourself in the Southern United States, go to a Whataburger between the hours of 11:00 PM and 11:00 AM. You can get a honey butter chicken biscuit and add a fried egg. It will cost about 80 cents, but it is well, well worth it. Anyway, back to Harry Potter.

KS

I like mine more without the fried egg, did you?

PM

Sure, to each their own. The play, after this scene, is fine. It wasn't my favorite. There are some cool effects throughout the bookcase thing in Hermione's office. It's fun.

KS

I thought that was really cool how they disappeared into it.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

That was pretty neat.

PM

The Time Travel was actually really cool, because --

KS

Yeah.

PM

-- they do the thing -- I don't know what to call it except for what we saw. What's the centennial -- what did they call it when they did the light thing?

KS

Projected light?

PM

Yeah. But what was the name of it? It was called like --

KS

It's called The Spectacular.

PM

The Spectacular. Yeah.

KS

It was.

EM

Oh, close, but no cigar, Past Mike and Past Kelly. It was actually called The Spectacle. It was done by Thorsten Bauer of Urbanscreen. And you can watch the video yourself if you YouTube search for Spectacle Rice University. It was very cool. I highly recommend it. I was fortunate enough to have been a student at the school while they did this thing. Anyway, back to the podcast.

PM

But, basically, if you ever seen one of those things where they do light projection on buildings but then change it in a way where it looks like the building is moving, they kind of did this with the stage. Whenever they actually activate the time turner, the lights are affected in a way where it looks like the walls are waving in and out.

KS

Mhmm.

PM

And the clock is moving in and out. So, it actually feels like you are moving in and out. And that's a really effective use of the theater, and the sound, and all of the effects to make it really feel like you're in it. I thought that was really fun every time they did a time travel.

KS

Yeah. Every time they time traveled, the light and the sound was just – it was very cool.

PM

Mhmm. And then the clock spins --

KS

Yeah. Yeah.

PM

-- to show that you're going back or forward in time. It was really sweet.

KS

They turned it into a forest, the Forbidden Forest, at some point.

PM

Yes, they do.

KS

And I thought that was a really cool use of lighting at set.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

And then seeing the water in the first --

PM

Yes. In the --

KS

-- in the first part --

PM

Yeah, first part.

KS

-- that was cool.

PM

The last time he comes back from time traveling Scorpius is in the lake. And he's just in water. And I don't know how they have a pool in the middle of the stage, but they make it happen.

KS

They have a pool in the middle of the stage.

PM

It's really cool. And something that soon happens after that, which is really sweet – spoiler alert. One of the times they time travelled, they mess it up so badly that Voldemort has taken over. And Death Eaters are king. And everything is super evil. And the way that they end the first night is dementors flying in and everything is black. And they have this big Voldemort logo with the Death Eater in a V. And they play this intense music.

KS

Very dissonant foreboding music. It shook me to my core. It was very good.

PM

It was really chilling. The dementor effect, the way that they do it is the dementors are actually white and everything else is black. And they shoot them with white light. So, they look really creepy. And they come from the ceiling. And they are really, really long. And they have incredibly flowy gowns of sorts.

KS

It did not look like a puppet flying around, which is why --

PM

I think it's a real person in there.

KS

You think so?

PM

I think it's a person suspended.

KS

That would make sense.

PM

I think it's Cirque de Soleil. I don't think it's just --

KS

I was worried that, like, flying dementors would look like puppets swinging through the air.

PM

No.

KS

But it looks like --

PM

I think they're real people.

KS

It was really creepy.

PM

But then, when you actually leave, that's the end of Part I, all of the theater has changed. And I think that's one of the coolest things about the plays. It's that I've seen some plays on Broadway where the theater isn't themed after the play. You just go in. And it's just a theater.

KS

Yeah.

PM

And then you take a seat. And then Dear Evan Hansen begins. But, when we went to this play, everything is Harry Potter looking. The bathroom is Harry Potter looking. The carpet, the walls, everything looks Harry Potter-esque to a tee.

KS

Yeah.

PM

And then, when you leave on that first night, everything has become dark and Voldemorty.

KS

And all the staff too --

PM

Mhmm.

KS

-- is dressed and speaking. And, like, the things they say, the way they tell you to be quiet and stuff is all very within the Harry Potter world.

PM

When you go in on night one, they're very nice and whimsical. When you leave on day one, they are --

KS

Get out. of Voldemort's like --

PM

-- deep and brooding. Live. Yeah. And a very nice touch is that, when you walk in, they've a little merchandise booth where you can buy all the different shirts with the crests. They've made modernized crests for the four houses with just letters turned into the different animals. When you leave, you can only buy Voldemort merch --

KS

I don't know. I didn't see that.

PM

-- on the first night. I noticed that all the shirts and stuff were all just the black Voldemort death theater logo thing.

KS

That's cool.

PM

So, that's the first night. Hey, Kelly, this is a perfect time to take a little bit of a break for something that we like to call WINGARDIUM-AD-READ-OSA!

KS

Buy some things.

[37:28]

WINGARDIUM-AD-READ-OSA

[39:56]

PM

Thanks Editing Mike for those sick deals. So, night two, I enjoyed Part II much more than Part I.

KS

Yes.

PM

I was also more on time.

KS

Yes. You were more on time. Not at the time we agreed on, but still more on time.

PM

Was I late the second time?

KS

For like two minutes. You were fine.

PM

Why do you still remember?

KS

I did go to the bathroom before it started.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

We had enough time to take pictures before rather than during intermission.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

We got to look at the theater a little bit more, which was cool.

PM

Mhmm. I thought night two was better for a couple reasons. First, I think that the play was better paced. It didn't feel as rapid. They had some longer scenes. The whole scene where they time travelled back and actually fight with Voldemort, that was more consistent without jumping from place to place. I thought that contributed.

KS

Also, with some really cool magic.

PM

There were some very cool magic during that whole thing. But, also, I think that my brain had kind of numbed to disliking it and being upset and I went in – not necessarily with lower expectations, but with an understanding of what I was going to get. I, basically, went into night to saying, “Okay. The plot of this play is very bad, but everything else is very cool. So, I'm just going to appreciate the very cool aspects of this play.”

KS

The plot also is a little bit better on the second half.

PM

I agree. Yes.

KS

I feel like, for the first half, I went in with medium expectations. You went in with low expectations. I went in with medium expectations. And I feel like they plummeted really fast. And then that last scene with the dementors really shook me and made me want to come back and actually find out what happens. It was the first time that I was intrigued by the plot and to be like, "Wait, how did they get out of this? What happens now?"

PM

It was a very good cliffhanger.

KS

Yeah, it was a very good cliffhanger. I'm a sucker for those.

PM

Oh, me too. And JK does it every ending of a chapter in the later books. It's, "Huh?" So, I can see why the play is like that too. But I definitely enjoyed the second night more. I think they did some really cool magic with Delphi when she's the Augurey or whatever, the bird thing.

KS

Yeah.

PM

Her flying is really cool. And then they do the one effect. I forget when it happens, but there is a reveal. I think, when they reveal that she's the bad guy, they do this really cool Black Lightning effect where she's written stuff all over her house.

KS

All over her house. She's, like, written on all the walls her evil plans and stuff.

PM

So, they do a black light. And it's just all over the theater. Everywhere.

KS

It's the ceiling. Because we were under the mezzanine, so, it was a ceiling above us, the walls around us.

PM

The posts, the support beams in front of you.

KS

So, her writing was all -- like, all over the scenery that we, at this point, had seen for, like, four --

PM
Four.

KS
-- or five hours and had not noticed any of this, like, writing on it.

PM
And even, when the lights back on, I was trying to look for it. And I couldn't see it.

KS
Yeah. It was very [Inaudible 42:47].

PM
So, it's a really good effect. I was very surprised by it. So, that was really cool. That was one of the few times that being behind the pillars and under the mezzanine was actually cooler because we got to see more --

KS
Ha, ha, ha.

PM
-- of the writing more.

KS
We were more immersed.

PM
So, that was a really cool effect that they did. I, I really think that all of the good elements were more out to play in the second night, which was cool because there was less plot stuff going on. I think Part I just gets so muddled down in the plot, because they're trying to describe so much. And there's so many characters, and a bunch of them you don't really need. And there's time travel and things keep changing. And then they're back to normal. And, oh, now, Snape's here. And, oh, now, Snape's gone. And there's just so much that it felt so hectic. And the second night didn't have that same problem.

KS
Yeah, it's like the first night was a very long-winded way to set up this issue. And then the second part was solving this issue, which was a much more intriguing thing to watch than them setting up the issue for three hours.

PM
I agree. I honestly feel like the first night, instead of doing all of these quick scenes to try to set the scene, they should have just had a Shakespeare-esque person when they do the monologue sonnet at the beginning to tell you who everybody is. They should have --

KS

This is the tale of --

PM

This is the tale of Albus Potter, who is very grumpy that his dad is famous. He got sorted into Slytherin. And he's not like Harry at all. There is tension between Harry and Albus, because Albus is not like his father. But he does not want to be like his father though. He is convinced his father wishes he was more like his other son, James, who is a piece of shit. I would have loved a whole little monologue just to save us time.

KS

Yeah.

PM

So, much of the play was either stuff we'd already seen at epilogue or setup that Part I just really sucked. And I enjoyed Part II a lot more.

KS

Yeah, if you had to buy just one ticket --

PM

Which you cannot do, unfortunately.

KS

You can't?

PM

No, you have to buy them in pairs --

KS

Oh.

PM

-- which was annoying when we were trying to find it, because you have to buy them and then pick the two nights. You can't just like pick one. And you can't do a thing where you're like, "Oh, I'm going to see Part I this week. And let me see Part II next week on this day. You can't do that."

KS

I guess it makes sense, because they don't want half empty theaters.

PM

And they also wouldn't want you to buy a ticket for Wednesday. And then they say, "Oh, Thursday's sold out." So, yeah. So --

KS

Oh, yeah. That's – yeah. That's [Inaudible 45:08].

PM

I get it. It is just frustrating.

KS

Yeah.

PM

But I enjoyed Part II. I thought it was fun. I still didn't think it was a great play. It wasn't anything I was gonna write home about in a positive light. But, but I think it was more enjoyable. I guess because there was more action and less dialogue. And I think that the dialogue really falls flat. I don't think that the dialogue is as fun as the Harry Potter book. So, they weren't being very sassy. Everyone's just really angry.

KS

Yeah.

PM

Everyone's angry at each other. Albus is mad at Harry. Harry's mad at Draco. Draco is mad at Harry. Ginny is just there. Like, there's so much whimsy and fun in the books that does not translate over to the dialogue of the play. I felt like that it was really lost. The only funny character is Ron, and he's barely in it. They just turned Ron into Fred and George.

KS

Yeah. Also, Ron loses all of his character development from the seven books and just becomes the comedic relief.

PM

Everybody loses all their development. Ron just becomes Fred. And Ginny just becomes movie Ginny. Draco goes back to being a bully.

KS

Yeah, that was really disappointing.

PM

Everyone just goes back to being --

KS

They revert back to their 11-year-old selves, which is really unbecoming in, like, 30-year-old men.

PM

Right. Harry, weirdly, starts off as a nice good father. Then, after the first time travel, becomes a huge asshole. But then the question is, "Did the time travel do that? Or is it just really poorly written?" But he becomes a jerk very abruptly. Then he goes back to being a

nice father after a couple of scenes. But so many people just regressed, and it makes me really sad that that development is sort of lost. Hermione is the Minister of Magic. She had said in the books that she didn't want to work in government at all. Then, in one of the time travels, she becomes the Defense Against the Dark Arts professor, her worst subject. So, that doesn't make any sense at all. So, there's just so many things that made me really sad. And, and this is why I think it's not a good call to do a sequel that features all of your most beloved characters written by not you.

KS

Yeah.

PM

JK approved of the story. I know. I'm sure she had tweaks, and input, and all of that. But, if you're going to develop these characters that we love, and we grow attached to, and we know enough about to form in our brain, "This is something Ron would do. This is something Hermione you would do. This is something Harry would do." And then you make a story when they act differently. It makes us very frustrated.

KS

Yeah, I totally agree. It's really, really disappointing that all of that character development is lost, because the Harry Potter books have a great amount of plot, and magic, and fun, and whimsy. But I think one of the greatest things is watching – it's a book about growing up.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

And you watch them grow up and become people that you really love and respect. And then they lose all of that. And you don't love and respect them anymore. Very similar to, in *Gilmore Girls* --

PM

Oh, my gosh.

KS

I've been looking for a platform to rant about this for years, Michael.

PM

Let it go for all the Gilly heads out there.

KS

All the Gil heads. They do seven seasons. And, yes, the seventh season was written by somebody else. But that's now canon. It's real. It happened. And then you make this after. This year that takes place – I forget what it is – 10 years after the fact. And you lose all of the character development that you spent seven years making. And you go back to the problems that these characters had in the first season. Lorelei hates her mom. Her mom is a

jerk to her. Rory doesn't know what she wants to do with her life. Like, she's living back at home with her mom and can't decide if she has what it takes to be a journalist. I'm like, okay. I saw all of this before. And I saw – I like hated them at different parts when they were going through this. And they came out on the other side a character that I really liked. And, now, you've reverted them back. This is not who Rory would be in 10 years. Maybe this is who she would be a year later. But 10 years of being a successful journalist, she wouldn't now be living at home with no job prospects and wondering if she could be a journalist. She wouldn't be dating a guy that she had no respect for while sleeping with a man who's engaged on the side. And then, when they actually want to be together, say no. It just – it, it makes – it's – I – ugh. It's the same thing. You just, like, chop out all the character development and start new with these people that should be beyond this by now.

PM

Especially because I think that the seventh book does a really good job of people ending on a good note. Percy, at the very end, becomes not the worst. Harry becomes really mature in those final chapters where he accepts his fate, and knows what he has to do, and accepts death. Ron becomes a lot more mature. Hermione is a badass throughout. I don't know that she really changes that much. But --

KS

She becomes more respectful with her knowledge.

PM

Yes. Draco has the interesting thing of not giving up Harry and not being okay with the evil that's around them. So, maybe he becomes good. And then, in this place, he's just a bully. And he hates Harry. And he says mean things.

KS

No.

PM

And it sucks.

KS

But, in the epilogue, where he and Harry make eye contact through the mist and they have that nice moment, it's like, okay. We've gotten past these petty arguments of your childhood. Perhaps, Draco's – I like to think he served some time.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

And he's on the other side of it now. You know, a rehabilitated human, who's like a nice person, has seen the error of his ways or whatever. And then it just goes back to the same, you know, book two dueling Harry and Draco.

PM

Mhmm. That's about it. So, let's end this on a happier note.

KS

I really loved the last scene where they're sitting in the station, Harry and Albus. And they have like an actual sentimental conversation.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

And the set itself was really beautiful.

PM

That is very good. The one thing I wanted to say that I will defend this play, and I have, and I will continue to do so is I think Scorpius Malfoy is a very good character.

KS

Yeah.

PM

I think it's a very interesting character to have someone that is the son of Draco that is so different than him. It is someone that just wants to be nice. He finally is the good Slytherin that we get to learn about that we never got too. And Albus is good too.

KS

Well, both of them are. Yeah.

PM

Yeah. Albus is kind of a piece of shit. I mean, you know, he's Harry's kid. But Scorpius is just so nice and so wholesome and so genuine. And he wants the best for Albus, and Rose, and his father, and his family, and everyone else. And I love him. I really enjoyed him as a character. I really enjoyed the performance even though he was a bit [Inaudible 51:26] and stuff. Oh, one other thing though that Johnny pointed out that I think is very true is that everyone sprints offstage. Every scene, everybody's fucking sprinting to the side. It is constant running. Everybody runs for every scene transition. Everyone is running --

KS

That is --

PM

-- all the time.

KS

It contributed to feeling --

PM

It can even be not – it could just be like, “Oh, I’ll see you later. Have a good day at work. Have a good day at work, honey.”

KS

Waaaa!

PM

Waaaa! Just runs.

KS

Scorpius was a great character. The actor who played him was really good. And the character himself was really interesting character to see.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

And I wished we could have seen that in an entirely different plot setting.

PM

Well, what would have just been nice if this play was just about him and not Albus.

KS

That will not be interesting --

PM

Because --

KS

-- if Albus hadn't been part of it at all and it just been him.

PM

Or a minor character.

KS

Yeah.

PM

He's there.

KS

He's there.

PM

But we already had seven books about Harry Potter. We don't need another story about Harry Potter.

KS
Right.

PM
Because, basically, what kind of happens in the play is that your three most important people are Albus, Scorpius, and Harry. But give me a play where it's Scorpius and then featuring Albus.

KS
That Lady Delphi – what was her name?

PM
Delphi.

KS
Delphi.

PM
She's – she's Voldemort's kid.

KS
I think she's third most important, not Harry.

PM
I don't know. She's just a villain. But I mean Harry's in it a lot.

KS
Anyway.

PM
Okay. Scorpius is great. I think he's a very good character. I think that his friendship with Albus is really nice. I really enjoyed that dynamic throughout the play. I was upset that they didn't kiss at the end. I was definitely feeling romantic vibes between Scorpius and Albus. And I was very sad that that wasn't fulfilled or just that there wasn't any gay person in the entire play. No one was gay. I guess Dumbledore was there as a painting.

KS
There were no romance stories though in this.

PM
I don't get why you can't just have a scene where Seamus and Dean walk in hand in hand.

KS

Oh, I'm down for that.

PM

Married as they should be.

KS

Oh, I love that.

PM

Just have them walk across the stage and have them work at the Ministry.

KS

The one thing I will say though is that, with Scorpius and Albus' relationship, while I think that it gave off vibes that they were into each other more than friends, at the same time, I kind of appreciated that we got to see a male-male friendship that was very intimate and deep and loving. And Harry and Ron's friendship --

PM

Is just classic.

KS

Well, Harry and Ron's friendship, I felt like they were both, like, very afraid and in the movies too of, like, losing their masculinity by showing too much emotion and by showing too much emotion to each other.

PM

Right. Right.

KS

So, I thought it was really beautiful to have this friendship, where they were showing so much emotion for each other and not feeling emasculated by it. I thought that was a really beautiful friendship to see. You know, did I think there were romantic vibes? Potentially, there were romantic vibes there. But I really liked that there was a male-male friendship that acted that way.

PM

And I guess it could make sense because they are teenagers and stuff. They are young, who's to say where their hormones are at and what their preferences are and stuff. Maybe it's something where Scorpius is interested in boys, but Albus is not interested in boys. So, it wouldn't work, or they don't know, or who cares, because they're still going through puberty. So, maybe it doesn't all fit there. I'm very sad. I already recorded the episode with Gordon Cox about the impact on Broadway. And Gordon is gay. And, after recording, I'd already stopped the recording. We were talking about this aspect of the play. And I didn't get the audio of it, unfortunately. But he mentioned something about there being like queerbaiting in the play. And I wasn't well versed.

KS

Yeah.

PM

I, I was not well versed enough to know what he was getting at.

EM

Hey, it's me Editing Mike, who has had more time to understand what queerbaiting is. According to the internet, it's a marketing technique for fiction and entertainment in which creators hint at but then do not actually depict same sex romance or other forms of LGBTQ+ representation. So, I looked into the response specifically for Cursed Child. Basically, people didn't enjoy that there were romantic hints of Albus and Scorpius getting together, but, ultimately, no sort of proof that anything was there. And, also, that there was just no LGBTQ+ representation anywhere else in the play at all. Anyway, back to the podcast.

PM

I asked, "Oh, is it because it seemed like Albus and Scorpius were going to get together, but they didn't? He goes, "No, no, no." But then he went on to say, "I had many friendships where I was interested in the boy growing up, and the boys are not interested in me. So, I felt like it was a pretty accurate friendship." And, so, it could be something like that. But I think it would have been nice if there was some sort of gay relationship in the play just because JK had talked to this big game of having all this --

KS

Oh, yeah.

PM

-- so called diversity that she promised to have known the whole time, but she didn't include and stuff.

KS

Right. This was her place to, you know, do that.

PM

This is your change. This play was written in 2016. Or, at least, it was released in 2016. Like, you had the chance.

KS

I didn't think it had to be Albus and Scorpius, because I really liked having a deep friendship in that way.

PM

Right.

KS

It could have been somebody else.

PM

They could have written something where two people kiss, and they are not a boy and a girl.

KS

Can James have a boyfriend? That would have been so interesting. James, the popular one, the golden child, has a boyfriend. And everybody's cool with it.

PM

That'd be tight.

KS

That'd be great. I think that would have been the one. Or Rose, because she's, like, supposed to be hot stuff too.

PM

Sure.

KS

So, like, make one of your other characters – make it a romance story. Like, go in or don't.

PM

I appreciated the friendship between Scorpius and Albus. I didn't feel like it had to be romantic. I had felt some romantic vibes, but it was disappointing that it didn't happen just because I thought it would have been really cool. But it wasn't necessary. I wasn't so downtrodden by the lack of romance between them that I threw everything away upset. It was just something I was hoping would happen, but didn't. But still I really do appreciate, like you said, their friendship for being an emotional one, one where they're not afraid to be themselves and be honest and open with each other, because Ron and Harry's was not like that. So, I appreciate it Albus and Scorpius as being very vulnerable to each other of a friendship, because they're both going through a lot individually in different ways for different reasons. And that's what brings them together. It makes them strong. And then they go through not only their individual problems that they sorted out, but also this big time turner situation that they have to deal with together. And I think that their friendship, along with Scorpius being a great character, are the most redeeming elements of the Cursed Child.

KS

Right. Like, for Ron and Harry's friendship, it became like a punch line almost for them to, like, shy away from talking about emotion.

PM

I mean, yeah, it was – they were written in peak when boys my age would say something nice about a friend and be like, "Oh, no, homo." Like, that was the era --

KS

Oh, I forgot about that. Ooh.

PM

Yeah, that's the era those books came out in.

KS

Oh, my god.

PM

It was when you would say stuff like that.

KS

I forgot that was the thing that people did.

PM

Yeah. And, now, it's 2020. And Johnny and I text each other and we'd say I love you all the time. Dude – I love the dude.

KS

I know. How many times on our honeymoon did you say, "Yo, Johnny, we're here. Johnny, we'd be playing chess on the beach right now." I'm like, "I'm sorry." Do you --

PM

I just want to go --

KS

-- want Johnny here on our honeymoon?

PM

No, but I would like to go on a bro honeymoon with Johnny.

KS

You can't call it a bro honeymoon. You get one honeymoon.

PM

What do I call it? What do I get to call it then?

KS

Bro, bro road trip.

PM

A bro trip.

KS

A trip to the beach with Johnny

PM

Okay. I want to go on a trip to the beach with Johnny. We've been playing a lot of chess in these quarantine times. I've kicked his ass three times. We're in the middle of our fourth game. So, anyway, that is our recap of our play going experience to Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. Overall, I would say it is still a positive experience. If you are a big Harry Potter fan, and you find yourself in New York, and you want to see it, I would say go see it if you don't mind committing the time and the dollar. Ticket prices are going down. Who knows what's gonna happen with all of the COVID stuff?

KS

When it's over, again, who knows?

PM

Ticket prices were going down, because the play wasn't doing very well. And you could see it for maybe not that much. I would say don't plan a giant trip if you live in a different country and you're thinking, I'm gonna fly to New York, and get hotels, and go to – it's not that good. But, if you find yourself in New York and you want to do a Harry Potter thing, go see it. It's fine. It's fun. Go into it knowing the bad plot stuff. And then you will enjoy the other elements more, because all the other stuff that isn't the plot is really cool; the sets, the magic, the costumes, the music, the building itself. Just accept that you're not going to like the plot. And I think you'll enjoy the experience.

KS

Yeah.

PM

Do you have any other final thoughts, Kelly?

KS

I still liked it.

PM

Yeah.

KS

I know that it wasn't great.

PM

Mhmm.

KS

But I still liked it. I wouldn't have calling it a lot of names throughout this that I would not call it.

PM

This – I'll cover this in some of the plot episodes. But, to me, it's a bit of the Pixar standard type deal, where, when a Pixar movie is just fine, I think it's more disappointing. I have not seen Brave or The Good Dinosaur, but the general vibe that I get --

KS

I like The Good Dinosaur.

PM

-- is that those are fine. But, because it's Pixar, you're sad that it wasn't Finding Nemo, or Toy Story, or something truly incredible like The Incredibles. But, when did the last book come out? Like, 2008 or something?

KS

I have no idea.

PM

You should know. You read the books when they came out.

KS

Yeah, I did.

PM

Siri, when did the last Harry Potter book release?

Siri

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was published the 21st of July 2007.

PM

2007. So, this play comes out in 2016. You've nine years to produce a sequel. And this is what you make?

KS

Yeah.

PM

You've nine years in between.

KS

A lot of time.

PM

I get that you're making the movies and doing those other stuff.

KS

A lot of time in your hands.

PM

And you're writing the Robert Galbraith books or whatever, but nine years before things are added on to the canon. And this is what we get. I think that's the disappointing thing. I think all of my over the top negative emotions are not just because the play isn't that good. Because you're right, it wasn't atrocious. I still enjoyed it. But the fact that it's two plays, the fact that you had to pay double the amount, and the fact that you have all these expectations of the sequel to Harry freaking Potter is this. And it's just unfortunate that it is using time turners, which is already a broken mechanic. And the main crux of the plot, aside from the Scorpius-Albus stuff is let's save Cedric – I don't know – it just feels like too overdone. I think that we've already covered this. Why are we bringing it back?

KS

And the other crux of the plot is who did Voldemort have sex with?

PM

Yeah. Yeah, that's the other thing. The whole time I got to be thinking about Voldemort's dick. The whole play?

KS

Yeah, he's like, I don't --

PM

The whole play I'm thinking about his dick.

KS

I don't want to know who he was sleeping with. Like, I never – I viewed Voldemort as an asexual being.

PM

I viewed him like a Ken doll. He's just nothing. He's a snake. There's nothing down there

KS

I – you know what? When he – when he split his soul in seven pieces, the first thing to go was his penis.

PM

That is where the soul lives. In the dick?

KS

For men, sometimes.

PM

But, yeah, that's the other thing. It's the whole time you got to be thinking about. It starts as a rumor that Scorpius is the son of Voldemort. So, you're thinking this is so ridiculous that it can't be true. And then the play goes on and then it's revealed, "Oh, it is true."

KS

It's true.

PM

Voldemort fucked Bellatrix.

KS

Which my thought was, like, he was way more turned on by power than he was by people.

PM

And Voldemort isn't the type of thing person that would want to have a seed. He wouldn't want to have anyone challenge the throne.

KS

Oh, yeah. He planned on living forever.

PM

We just watched Black Panther. He's Killmonger burning up all of the Black Panther plants so that no one else can become black panther.

KS

Right.

PM

Voldemort wouldn't want an heir to the throne.

KS

No.

PM

There's no way. It doesn't make any sense.

KS

Also, I'm pretty sure he'd be sterile from that, like, process that happened of burning him in the potion in the Goblet of Fire. I'm pretty sure he came out sterile from that.

PM

I – yeah. Also, he --

KS

Either that. Either that.

PM

Or?

KS

Is – I can't say this. Mom, turn it off.

PM

Your mom's not listening.

KS

Mom, turn it off.

PM

Kathy Beckman knows how to work the podcast app. She – you think Kathy Beckman's got Spotify in her phone?

KS

Or, when he was rebirth – given his new body, his penis came back as a snake.

PM

Not good for sex. But Voldemort is so busy trying to take over the world. You think him and Bellatrix are gonna take time aside to be like, "Okay. We have to make love."

KS

Artificial insemination.

PM

Maybe.

KS

There's a spell for it.

PM

But what, what – here's the deal. I have seen many a sitcom. And I know people in real life where they are trying to conceive, and it takes them many times. Sometimes, days, and weeks, and months to make it happen. Do you think Voldemort ran into the situation? Do you think he's – do you think Bellatrix is charting her internal temperature, and her periods, and when she's most fertile?

KS

There's a spell for that.

PM

Like, do you think she's got all this stuff going on and be like --

KS

There's a spell for that.

PM

Voldemort, like --

KS

Tonight's the night, Voldemort. Set the candles up.

PM

Do you think he's doing all of that while he's out trying to make horcruxes, and kill Harry Potter, and all that? He's like, "Sorry, Death Eaters. I need to go home and make love to Bellatrix so I can have a seed." No way. So unbelievable. So, yeah.

KS

Clearly, unbelievable.

PM

I didn't enjoy that part of my brain the entire time is thinking about Voldemort sex. And then, also, Bellatrix doing all of the stuff. She's pregnant while she's doing all this stuff?

KS

I think the idea was that she was pregnant after – Oh, nevermind.

PM

She dies in book seven.

KS

This is like --

PM

She gave birth before book seven.

KS

She disappears. He, like, confines her to the Malfoy manor, remember that?

PM

Maybe that's when she gives birth.

KS

My guess is that's when she's in, like, her last trimester.

PM

I don't know. It's so stupid.

KS

It's --

PM

It took us an hour for me to remember that. Now, I'm angry that we did.

KS

Not only.

PM

I – we didn't mention the Voldemort fucking once. It sucks.

KS

Oh, yeah, we didn't.

PM

It's so bad.

KS

Yeah. So, the three things that it hinges on is just like --

PM

Bad. It's so bad. I don't want to be thinking about Voldemort's junk for two plays, for six hours

--

KS

And really sad that --

PM

-- and a whole day in between.

KS

-- is Draco, this whole time, has to be defending the fact that he can have kids.

PM

I can – guys, I could totally fuck. I'm not shooting blanks, guys. I – my penis works so good.

KS

Oh, man.

PM

Yeah.

KS

It's so bad.

PM

It's bad.

KS

It's bad.

PM

So, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is a play. You can see it if you want. Listeners, thank you for listening. Kelly, thank you so much for joining and huddling next to me as we share a microphone in our apartment that we have not left for anything that isn't groceries in quite some time. Kelly, if people want to find you on the internet, where can they do so?

KS

I am on Twitter as one of my --

PM

At?

KS

[@VoteformeKellyB](https://twitter.com/VoteformeKellyB).

PM

Mhmm.

KS

Yep, that's me.

PM

You can -- you can see Kelly tweet.

KS

Oh, I'm not Kelly B anymore. Oh, my gosh, it doesn't rhyme.

PM

It's fine. You're --

KS

Waaa!

PM

No. It's --

KS

I'm keeping it.

PM

VoteyesforKellyS.

KS

I'll make a second secret Twitter account.

PM

Oh, yeah.

KS

Where I only post cat pictures.

PM

Okay.

KS

That's it. First, we need a cat.

PM

You're gonna have to make it. Otherwise, someone's gonna make this Twitter account.

KS

Oh, gosh, I'll go make it. When does this come out? I have like --

PM

On Monday

KS

-- four days to make it.

PM

So, go --

KS

VoteyesforKellyS.

PM

So, go follow VoteformeKellyB on Twitter if you want to see Kelly tweet about BTS and, sometimes, other things maybe after she has me proofread all her tweets. Is this funny?

KS

You're a social media consultant. And they're always funny.

PM

So, Kelly, thanks --

KS

And only 50 percent BTS.

PM

Kelly, thank you for joining. Listeners, thanks for listening. And, until next time, as they say in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter before they use a time turner that they were told doesn't exist anymore, but, "Oh, no, we have another one," Wizard On!

[1:07:50]

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