



**Rita Kempley**  
Washington Post  
★ TOP CRITIC



You can't expect perfection from muggles.

[Full Review](#) | Nov 24, 2001



**Marc Savlov**  
Austin Chronicle  
★ TOP CRITIC



It's the smaller touches, transposed in whole from the book, that make the film as good as it is.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/5 | Nov 18, 2001



**Andrew O'Hehir**  
Salon.com  
★ TOP CRITIC



Professional entertainment with just enough human moments to squeak by.

[Full Review](#) | Nov 18, 2001



**Peter Howell**  
Toronto Star  
★ TOP CRITIC



I doubt that most Harry Potter fans will mind a film that attends to their wishes so splendidly.

[Full Review](#) | Nov 16, 2001



**Claudia Puig**  
USA Today  
★ TOP CRITIC



Though the film will undoubtedly please the young viewers who flock to it, ultimately many of the book's readers may wish for a more magical incarnation.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/4 | Nov 16, 2001



**David Edelstein**  
Slate  
★ TOP CRITIC



As a movie, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone has no inner life -- no pulse -- of its own: It's secondhand.

[Full Review](#) | Nov 16, 2001



**Bob Graham**  
San Francisco Chronicle  
★ TOP CRITIC



The magic mostly works.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/4 | Nov 16, 2001



**Jonathan Foreman**  
New York Post  
★ TOP CRITIC



Remarkably faithful, consistently entertaining if overlong adaptation.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/4 | Nov 16, 2001



**John Anderson**  
Newsday  
★ TOP CRITIC



As it is, Harry's gotten a ride. But at a much lower altitude than his fans might have wished.

[Full Review](#) | Nov 16, 2001



**Rick Groen**  
Globe and Mail  
★ TOP CRITIC



Despite the movie's pedestrian direction, our cranky old critic finds he can't deny kids the right to be enthralled.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/4 | Nov 16, 2001



**Steven Rosen**  
Denver Post  
★ TOP CRITIC



The movie needs to be stronger dramatically, with a much more appealing central performance, to be the great family-oriented screen fantasy so many wanted.

[Full Review](#) | Nov 16, 2001



**Kevin Maher**  
The Times (UK)  
★ TOP CRITIC



An exceptional big-screen half-term treat.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 4/5 | Oct 29, 2021



**Jami Bernard**  
New York Daily News  
★ TOP CRITIC



Harry Potter's first venture onto the screen is a solid blockbuster.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3.5/4 | Nov 13, 2015



**Anthony Lane**  
The New Yorker  
★ TOP CRITIC



Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone is, despite its trickery, that plainest and least surprising of artifacts: the work of art that is exactly the sum of its parts, neither more nor less.

[Full Review](#) | Nov 27, 2013



**Nell Minow**  
Common Sense Media  
★ TOP CRITIC



First Potter movie is a magical ride but also intense.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 5/5 | Dec 24, 2010



**Todd McCarthy**  
Variety  
★ TOP CRITIC



A near-perfect commercial and cultural commodity.

[Full Review](#) | Mar 5, 2008



**Jonathan Rosenbaum**  
Chicago Reader  
★ TOP CRITIC



I hear the J.K. Rowling books are great, and on the basis of this 2001 movie I'm ready to believe it.

[Full Review](#) | Mar 5, 2008



**Peter Bradshaw**  
Guardian  
★ TOP CRITIC



The quickest, zappiest two and a half hours of entertainment you'll ever see.

[Full Review](#) | Jul 8, 2007



**Alan Morrison**  
Empire Magazine  
★ TOP CRITIC



Even though a few of the book's scenes have been cut, fans probably couldn't hope for a better adaptation. It bodes well for the rest of the series, when strong stories start taking precedence over set-up.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 4/5 | Dec 30, 2006



**Time Out**  
★ TOP CRITIC



What a feast for children! Long, and engrossing. Kids will love it! Wizard!

[Full Review](#) | Feb 9, 2006



**Steven D. Greydanus**  
Decent Films  
★ TOP CRITIC



So reverentially faithful to the first book that however you feel about the book is a pretty reliable indicator of how you'll feel about the movie.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: B | May 9, 2002



**Peter Rainer**  
New York Magazine/Vulture  
★ TOP CRITIC



The filmmakers want to show us a magical world that is, at the same time, wholly believable. They want to create matter-of-fact miracles, but what they end up with is mostly just plain matter-of-fact.

[Full Review](#) | Jan 22, 2002



**Richard Roeper**  
Ebert & Roeper  
★ TOP CRITIC



[A] complete triumph...

[Full Review](#) | Nov 27, 2001