**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**

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[Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/harry_potter_and_the_prisoner_of_azkaban)

* PG , 2h 21m
* Kids & Family,Fantasy,Adventure
* Directed By: [Alfonso Cuarón](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/celebrity/alfonso_cuaron)
* In Theaters: May 31, 2004
* Streaming: Jan 1, 2009
* 1492 Pictures, Heyday Films, Warner Brothers

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[Martin Carr](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/martin-carr)[CBR](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/1741)

Fresh score.

With a change in director and the replacement of an integral character actor, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban still manages to be one, if not the most impressive entry in this franchise.

[Full Review](https://www.cbr.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban-review/) | Original Score: 8/10 | Jul 5, 2024

[Sebastian Zavala Kahn](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/sebastian-zavala-kahn)[Me gusta el cine](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2840)

Fresh score.

Yes, the first two Columbus films were a success and introduced us to this universe in a fun way. But Cuarón gave it texture, verisimilitude and thematic depth, establishing a tone that was maintained until the eighth instalment. Full review in Spanish.

[Full Review](https://megustaelcine.com/critica-harry-potter-y-el-prisionero-de-azkaban-la-mejor-y-mas-creativa-entrega-de-la-saga/) | Original Score: 4.5/5 | Jun 5, 2024

[Kevin Maher](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/kevin-maher)[Times (UK)](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/823)

TOP CRITIC

Fresh score.

[Alfonso Cuarón] attacked the Potter material with the instincts of an auteur. Everything darkened. Literally.

[Full Review](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban-2004-review-the-best-one-30kq57ldr) | Original Score: 4/5 | May 31, 2024



[Dave Giannini](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/dave-giannini)[InSession Film](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/3137)

Fresh score.

This is the only Harry Potter movie that stands on its own as a good film, the best Harry Potter movie, and it’s not even close.

[Full Review](https://insessionfilm.com/best-of-2004-david-giannini/) | Feb 20, 2024

[Sean Axmaker](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/sean-axmaker)[Stream on Demand](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2836)

Fresh score.

Director Alfonso Cuaron breaks away from the literal translation to bring create a more intimate and stylistically complex movie...

[Full Review](https://streamondemandathome.com/harry-potter-complete-vod-dvd-blu-ray/) | Jan 6, 2024

[David Nusair](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/david-nusair)[Reel Film Reviews](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/1140)

Fresh score.

...a marked departure for the watchable yet thoroughly bland series...

[Full Review](https://reelfilm.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/) | Original Score: 3/4 | Dec 8, 2021

[Mike Massie](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/mike-massie)[Gone With The Twins](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/3719)

Fresh score.

Definitely not foolproof, like almost every time travel explanation, but this film nevertheless presents a new, creative angle.

[Full Review](http://gonewiththetwins.com/new/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban-2004/) | Original Score: 7/10 | Sep 29, 2020

[Debbie Lynn Elias](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/debbie-lynn-elias1)[Behind The Lens](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/3211)

Fresh score.

Hogwarts is back in session! And not a moment too soon. And although I've said it before, I've got to say it again, a technical and visual masterpiece.

[Full Review](http://behindthelensonline.net/site/reviews/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/) | Nov 13, 2019

[Guillem Martinez Oya](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/guillem-martinez-oya)[Cinematismo](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/3182)

Fresh score.

Good film directed for a teenage audience in which not only is magic taught but also how stereotypes affect it while the film itself recreates some British stereotypes. [Review in Spanish]

[Full Review](https://cinematismo.net/2019/07/10/harry-potter-o-como-definir-lo-britanico-en-la-contemporaneidad/) | Original Score: 4/5 | Jul 11, 2019

[Rachel Wagner](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/rachel-wagner)[rachelsreviews.net](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/3346)

Fresh score.

It is without a doubt the best made film of the series.

[Full Review](https://rachelsreviews.net/2016/10/26/month-of-previously-released-in-theater/) | Original Score: A | Apr 4, 2019



[Jeremy Jahns](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/jeremy-jahns)[JeremyJahns.com](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2955)

Fresh score.

Prisoner of Azkaban baffled me and completely floored me...it shows that Harry Potter ages with people.

[Full Review](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_K-Q6CwU5pY) | Jan 26, 2018



[Antonia Quirke](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/antonia-quirke)[London Evening Standard](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/446)

TOP CRITIC

Fresh score.

This Potter is terse, swift, sad -- and welcome.

[Full Review](https://www.standard.co.uk/go/london/film/just-wild-about-harry-7380988.html) | Dec 14, 2017

[Kevin Carr](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/kevin-carr)[Fat Guys at the Movies](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2722)

Fresh score.

demonstrates how wishy-washy Columbus was in many of his decisions

[Full Review](http://www.fatguysatthemovies.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban-movie-review/) | Original Score: 4.5/5 | Jan 17, 2016

[Christopher Orr](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/christopher-orr)[The Atlantic](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/24)

TOP CRITIC

Fresh score.

Cuarón brought to the Potter franchise a quality curiously missing from the two previous films: magic.

[Full Review](http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2004/11/the-movie-review-harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/69507/) | Nov 16, 2014



[Mark Kermode](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/mark-kermode)[New Statesman](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2433)

TOP CRITIC

Fresh score.

OK, so the narrative may be a tad shaky, but what lends Azkaban its edge is the unabashedly creepy tone that Cuaron conjures.

[Full Review](http://www.newstatesman.com/node/148153) | Nov 16, 2014



[Matt Soergel](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/matt-soergel)[Florida Times-Union](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2266)

Fresh score.

Turning 13 suits our intrepid Hogwarts students just fine in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

[Full Review](http://jacksonville.com/entertainment/matt-soergel/2004-06-04/story/movie-review-third-time-out-charm-young-wizards-harry) | Original Score: 3.5/4 | Nov 16, 2014



[Christopher Borrelli](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/christopher-borrelli)[Toledo Blade](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2478)

Fresh score.

It's the most moving and inventive live action children's film in years (and therefore, just as magical for adults, if not more).

[Full Review](http://www.toledoblade.com/Movies/2004/06/04/Movie-review-Harry-Potter-and-the-Prisoner-of-Azkaban.html) | Original Score: 4/5 | Nov 16, 2014



[Dan Webster](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/dan-webster)[Spokesman-Review (Washington)](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/1064)

Fresh score.

You could call this one Harry Potter Grows Up. At the very least, the transition from Chris Columbus to Alfonso Cuaron has helped propel J.K. Rowling's hero from childhood into the difficult teen years.

[Full Review](http://www.spokesmanreview.com/sections/entertai/movies/movie.asp?ID=cap3775) | Original Score: 3.5/4 | Nov 16, 2014

[Tim Brayton](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/tim-brayton)[Antagony & Ecstasy](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/1900)

Fresh score.

It's arguably the most fun Harry Potter film to watch: inventive, quick-moving, playful, beautiful.

[Full Review](http://antagonie.blogspot.com/2013/09/alfonso-cuaron-harry-potter-and.html) | Original Score: 7/10 | Sep 28, 2013



[David Walker](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/david-walker)[Willamette Week](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/source/2423)

Fresh score.

What makes Prisoner of Azkaban so successful is that, like the earlier films in the franchise, it actually adapts the book from which it takes its name.

[Full Review](http://www.wweek.com/portland/article-3268-the_passion_of_the_potter.html) | Aug 3, 2013

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