

= Harry Potter and the Philosopher 's Stone (film) =

Harry Potter and the Philosopher 's Stone (released in some countries as Harry Potter and the Sorcerer 's Stone) is a 2001 British @-@ American fantasy film directed by Chris Columbus and distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures . It is based on the novel of the same name by J. K. Rowling . The film , the first instalment in the Harry Potter film series , was written by Steve Kloves and produced by David Heyman . The story follows Harry Potter 's first year at Hogwarts as he discovers that he is a famous wizard and begins his magical education .

The film stars Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter , with Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley , and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger . It is followed by seven sequels , beginning with Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets .

Warner Bros. bought the film rights to the book in 1999 for a reported £ 1 million . Production began in the United Kingdom in 2000 , with Columbus being chosen to create the film from a short list of directors that included Steven Spielberg and Rob Reiner . J. K. Rowling insisted that the entire cast be British or Irish . The film was shot at Leavesden Film Studios and historic buildings around the UK .

The film was released in the UK and US on 16 November 2001 . It received positive critical reception , made more than \$ 970 million at the worldwide box office , and was nominated for many awards , including the Academy Awards for Best Original Score , Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design . As of December 2015 , it is the 26th @-@ highest @-@ grossing film of all time and the second @-@ highest @-@ grossing film in the series behind the final film , Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows ? Part 2 .

= = Plot = =

Harry Potter is a seemingly ordinary boy , living with his neglectful relatives , the Dursleys , in Surrey , England . On his eleventh birthday , Harry discovers from a mysterious stranger , Rubeus Hagrid , that he is actually a wizard , famous in the Wizarding World for surviving an attack by the evil Lord Voldemort when Harry was only a baby . Voldemort killed Harry 's parents , but his attack on Harry rebounded , leaving only a lightning @-@ bolt scar on Harry 's forehead and rendering Voldemort powerless . Hagrid reveals to Harry that he has been invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry . After buying his school supplies from the hidden London street , Diagon Alley , Harry boards the train to Hogwarts via the concealed Platform 9 ¾ in King 's Cross Station .

On the train , Harry meets Ron Weasley , a boy from a large but poor pure @-@ blood wizarding family , and Hermione Granger , a witch born to non @-@ magical parents . Once they arrive , Harry and all the other first @-@ year students are sorted between four houses : Gryffindor , Hufflepuff , Ravenclaw , and Slytherin . Because Slytherin is noted for being the house of darker wizards and witches , Harry convinces the Sorting Hat not to put him in Slytherin . He ends up in Gryffindor , along with Ron and Hermione . Ron 's older brothers were all placed in Gryffindor as well : mischievous twins Fred and George , Percy , the prefect , Charlie (who researches dragons in Romania) and Bill (who works for Gringotts Bank) .

At Hogwarts , Harry begins learning wizardry and discovers more about his past and his parents . He gets recruited for Gryffindor 's Quidditch (a sport in the wizarding world where people fly on broomsticks) team as a Seeker , as his father was before him . One night , he , Ron , and Hermione discover a large three @-@ headed dog named Fluffy (owned by Hagrid) on a restricted floor in the school . They later find out Fluffy is guarding the Philosopher 's Stone , an item that can be used to grant its owner immortality . Harry concludes that his potions teacher , the unfriendly Severus Snape , is trying to obtain the stone in order to return Voldemort (who Harry encounters in the Forbidden Forest where he , Ron , Hermione and Draco Malfoy are serving detention by helping Hagrid look for an injured unicorn after being caught wandering around at night) to a human form .

After hearing from Hagrid that Fluffy will fall asleep if played music , Harry , Ron and Hermione decide to find the stone before Snape does . They face a series of tasks that are helping guard the stone , which include surviving a deadly plant known as Devil 's Snare , flying past a swarm of bird

@-@ shaped flying keys and winning a violent , dangerous , life @-@ sized chess game .

After getting past the tasks , Harry discovers that it was really Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher Professor Quirrell who was trying to steal the stone , and that Snape was protecting Harry all along . Quirrell removes his turban and reveals Voldemort to be living on the back of his head . Voldemort attempts to convince Harry to give him the stone (which Harry suddenly finds in his pocket as the result of an enchantment by the headmaster , Albus Dumbledore) , by promising to bring his parents back from the dead , but Harry refuses . Quirrell attempts to kill him but Harry 's touch prevents Quirrell from hurting Harry and causes his hand to turn to dust . Quirrell then attempts to take the stone but Harry grabs his face , causing Quirrell to turn into dust and die . When Harry gets up , Voldemort 's spirit forms and passes through Harry , knocking him unconscious , before fleeing .

Harry wakes up in the school 's hospital wing , with Professor Dumbledore at his side . Dumbledore explains that the stone has been destroyed , and that , despite Ron nearly being killed in the chess match , both Hermione and Ron are fine . The reason Quirrell burned at Harry 's touch was because when Harry 's mother died to save him , her death gave Harry a magical , love @-@ based protection against Voldemort . Harry , Ron and Hermione are rewarded with house points for their heroic performances , and Neville Longbottom is rewarded for bravely standing up to them , winning Gryffindor the House Cup . Before Harry and the rest of the students leave for the summer , Harry realises that while all other students are going home , Hogwarts is truly his home .

= = Cast = =

Rowling insisted that the cast be kept British . Susie Figgis was appointed as casting director , working with both Columbus and Rowling in auditioning the lead roles of Harry , Ron and Hermione . Open casting calls were held for the main three roles , with only British children being considered . The principal auditions took place in three parts , with those auditioning having to read a page from the novel , then to improvise a scene of the students ' arrival at Hogwarts , and finally to read several pages from the script in front of Columbus . Scenes from Columbus ' script for the 1985 film Young Sherlock Holmes were also used in auditions . On 11 July 2000 , Figgis left the production , complaining that Columbus did not consider any of the thousands of children they had auditioned " worthy " . On 8 August 2000 , the virtually unknown Daniel Radcliffe and newcomers Rupert Grint and Emma Watson were selected to play Harry Potter , Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger , respectively .

Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter , an 11 @-@ year @-@ old British orphan raised by his unwelcoming aunt and uncle , who learns of his own fame as a wizard known to have survived his parents ' murder at the hands of the psychopathic dark wizard Lord Voldemort as an infant when he is accepted to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry . Columbus had wanted Radcliffe for the role since he saw him in the BBC 's production of David Copperfield , before the open casting sessions had taken place , but had been told by Figgis that Radcliffe 's protective parents would not allow their son to take the part . Columbus explained that his persistence in giving Radcliffe the role was responsible for Figgis ' resignation . Radcliffe was asked to audition in 2000 , when Heyman and Kloves met him and his parents at a production of Stones in His Pockets in London . Heyman and Columbus successfully managed to convince Radcliffe 's parents that their son would be protected from media intrusion , and they agreed to let him play Harry . Rowling approved of Radcliffe 's casting , stating that " having seen [his] screen test I don 't think Chris Columbus could have found a better Harry . " Radcliffe was reportedly paid £ 1 million for the film , although he felt the fee was not " that important " . William Moseley , who was later cast as Peter Pevensie in The Chronicles of Narnia series , also auditioned for the role .

Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley , Harry 's best friend at Hogwarts . He decided he would be perfect for the part " because [he has got] ginger hair , " and was a fan of the series . Having seen a Newsround report about the open casting he sent in a video of himself rapping about how he wished to receive the part . His attempt was successful as the casting team asked for a meeting with him .

Emma Watson as Hermione Granger , Harry 's other best friend and the trio 's brains . Watson 's

Oxford theatre teacher passed her name on to the casting agents and she had to do over five interviews before she got the part . Watson took her audition seriously , but " never really thought [she] had any chance of getting the role . " The producers were impressed by Watson 's self @-@ confidence and she outperformed the thousands of other girls who had applied .

John Cleese as Nearly Headless Nick , the ghost of Hogwarts ' Gryffindor House .

Robbie Coltrane as Rubeus Hagrid , a half @-@ giant and Hogwarts ' Groundskeeper . Coltrane was Rowling 's first choice for the part . Coltrane , who was already a fan of the books , prepared for the role by talking with Rowling about Hagrid 's past and future . Robin Williams was considered for the role .

Warwick Davis as Filius Flitwick , the Charms Master and head of Hogwarts ' Ravenclaw House .

Richard Griffiths as Vernon Dursley , Harry 's Muggle (non @-@ magical) uncle .

Richard Harris as Albus Dumbledore , Hogwarts ' Headmaster and one of the most famous and powerful wizards of all time . Harris initially rejected the role of Dumbledore , only to reverse his decision after his granddaughter stated she would never speak to him again if he did not take it .

Ian Hart as Quirinus Quirrell , the slightly nervous Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher at Hogwarts , and also Lord Voldemort 's voice . David Thewlis auditioned for the part ; he would later be cast as Remus Lupin in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban .

John Hurt as Mr. Ollivander , the owner of Ollivanders , the finest wand producers in the wizarding world since 382 B.C.

Alan Rickman as Severus Snape , the Potions Master and head of Hogwarts ' Slytherin House . Tim Roth was the original choice for the role , but he turned it down for Planet of the Apes .

Fiona Shaw as Petunia Dursley , Harry 's Muggle aunt .

Maggie Smith as Minerva McGonagall , the Deputy Headmistress , head of Gryffindor and transfiguration teacher at Hogwarts . Smith was Rowling 's personal choice for the part .

Julie Walters as Molly Weasley , Ron 's caring mother . She shows Harry how to get to Platform 9 3 ? 4 . Before Walters was cast , American actress Rosie O 'Donnell held talks with Columbus about playing Mrs. Weasley .

Rik Mayall was cast in the role of Peeves , a poltergeist who likes to prank students in the novel . Mayall had to shout his lines off camera during takes , but the scene ended up being cut from the film .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In 1997 , producer David Heyman searched for a children 's book that could be adapted into a well @-@ received film . He had planned to produce Diana Wynne Jones ' novel The Ogre Downstairs , but his plans fell through . His staff at Heyday Films then suggested Harry Potter and the Philosopher 's Stone , which his assistant believed was " a cool idea . " Heyman pitched the idea to Warner Bros. and in 1999 , Rowling sold the company the rights to the first four Harry Potter books for a reported £ 1 million (US \$ 1 @,@ 982 @,@ 900) . A demand Rowling made was that the principal cast be kept strictly British , nonetheless allowing for the inclusion of Irish actors such as Richard Harris as Dumbledore , and for casting of French and Eastern European actors in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire where characters from the book are specified as such . Rowling was hesitant to sell the rights because she " didn 't want to give them control over the rest of the story " by selling the rights to the characters , which would have enabled Warner Bros. to make non @-@ author @-@ written sequels .

Although Steven Spielberg initially negotiated to direct the film , he declined the offer . Spielberg reportedly wanted the adaptation to be an animated film , with American actor Haley Joel Osment to provide Harry Potter 's voice , or a film that incorporated elements from subsequent books as well . Spielberg contended that , in his opinion , it was like " shooting ducks in a barrel . It 's just a slam dunk . It 's just like withdrawing a billion dollars and putting it into your personal bank accounts .

There 's no challenge . " Rowling maintains that she had no role in choosing directors for the films and that " [a] nyone who thinks I could (or would) have ' veto @-@ ed ' [sic] him [Spielberg] needs their Quick @-@ Quotes Quill serviced . " Heyman recalled that Spielberg decided to direct A.I. Artificial Intelligence instead .

After Spielberg left , talks began with other directors , including : Chris Columbus , Terry Gilliam , Jonathan Demme , Mike Newell , Alan Parker , Wolfgang Petersen , Rob Reiner , Ivan Reitman , Tim Robbins , Brad Silberling , M. Night Shyamalan and Peter Weir . Petersen and Reiner both pulled out of the running in March 2000 , and the choice was narrowed down to Silberling , Columbus , Parker and Gilliam . Rowling 's first choice director was Terry Gilliam , but Warner Bros. chose Columbus , citing his work on other family films such as Home Alone and Mrs. Doubtfire as influences for their decision . Columbus pitched his vision of the film for two hours , stating that he wanted the Muggle scenes " to be bleak and dreary " but those set in the wizarding world " to be steeped in color , mood , and detail . " He took inspiration from David Lean 's adaptations of Great Expectations (1946) and Oliver Twist (1948) , wishing to use " that sort of darkness , that sort of edge , that quality to the cinematography , " taking the colour designs from Oliver ! and The Godfather .

Steve Kloves was selected to write the screenplay . He described adapting the book as " tough " , as it did not " lend itself to adaptation as well as the next two books . " Kloves often received synopses of books proposed as film adaptations from Warner Bros. , which he " almost never read " , but Harry Potter jumped out at him . He went out and bought the book , and became an instant fan of the series . When speaking to Warner Bros. , he stated that the film had to be British , and had to be true to the characters . Kloves was nervous when he first met Rowling as he did not want her to think he was going to " [destroy] her baby . " Rowling admitted that she " was really ready to hate this Steve Kloves , " but recalled her initial meeting with him : " The first time I met him , he said to me , ' You know who my favourite character is ? ' And I thought , You 're gonna say Ron . I know you 're gonna say Ron . But he said ' Hermione . ' And I just kind of melted . " Rowling received a large amount of creative control , an arrangement that Columbus did not mind .

Warner Bros. had initially planned to release the film over the 4 July 2001 weekend , making for such a short production window that several proposed directors pulled themselves out of the running . Due to time constraints , the date was put back to 16 November 2001 .

= = = Filming = = =

Two British film industry officials requested that the film be shot in the United Kingdom , offering their assistance in securing filming locations , the use of Leavesden Film Studios , as well as changing the UK 's child labour laws (adding a small number of working hours per week and making the timing of on @-@ set classes more flexible) . Warner Bros. accepted their proposal . Filming began in September 2000 at Leavesden Film Studios and concluded on March 23 , 2001 , with final work being done in July . Principal photography took place on 2 October 2000 at North Yorkshire 's Goathland railway station . Canterbury Cathedral and Scotland 's Inverlort Castle were both touted as possible locations for Hogwarts ; Canterbury rejected Warner Bros. proposal due to concerns about the film 's " pagan " theme . Alnwick Castle and Gloucester Cathedral were eventually selected as the principal locations for Hogwarts , with some scenes also being filmed at Harrow School . Other Hogwarts scenes were filmed in Durham Cathedral over a two @-@ week period ; these included shots of the corridors and some classroom scenes . Oxford University 's Divinity School served as the Hogwarts Hospital Wing , and Duke Humfrey 's Library , part of the Bodleian , was used as the Hogwarts Library . Filming for Privet Drive took place on Picket Post Close in Bracknell , Berkshire . Filming in the street took two days instead of the planned single day , so payments to the street 's residents were correspondingly increased . For all the subsequent film 's scenes set in Privet Drive , filming took place on a constructed set in Leavesden Film Studios , which proved to have been cheaper than filming on location . London 's Australia House was selected as the location for Gringotts Wizarding Bank , while Christ Church , Oxford was the location for the Hogwarts trophy room . London Zoo was used as the location for the scene in which Harry

accidentally sets a snake on Dudley , with King 's Cross Station also being used as the book specifies .

Because the American title was different , all scenes that mention the philosopher 's stone by name had to be re @-@ shot , once with the actors saying " philosopher 's " and once with " sorcerer 's " . The children filmed for four hours and then did three hours of schoolwork . They developed a liking for fake facial injuries from the makeup staff . Radcliffe was initially meant to wear green contact lenses as his eyes are blue , and not green like Harry 's , but the lenses gave Radcliffe extreme irritation . Upon consultation with Rowling , it was agreed that Harry could have blue eyes .

= = = Design and special effects = = =

Judianna Makovsky designed the costumes . She re @-@ designed the Quidditch robes , having initially planned to use those shown on the cover of the American book , but deemed them " a mess . " Instead , she dressed the Quidditch players in " preppie sweaters , 19th century fencing breeches and arm guards . " Production designer Stuart Craig built the sets at Leavesden Studios , including Hogwarts Great Hall , basing it on many English cathedrals . Although originally asked to use an existing old street to film the Diagon Alley scenes , Craig decided to build his own set , comprising Tudor , Georgian and Queen Anne architecture .

Columbus originally planned to use both animatronics and CGI animation to create the magical creatures , including Fluffy . Nick Dudman , who worked on Star Wars : Episode I ? The Phantom Menace , was given the task of creating the needed prosthetics , with Jim Henson 's Creature Shop providing creature effects . John Coppinger stated that the magical creatures that needed to be created had to be designed multiple times . The film features nearly 600 special effects shots , involving numerous companies . Industrial Light & Magic created Lord Voldemort 's face on the back of Quirrell , Rhythm & Hues animated Norbert ; and Sony Pictures Imageworks produced the film 's Quidditch scenes .

= = = Music = = =

John Williams was selected to compose the score . Williams composed the score at his homes in Los Angeles and Tanglewood before recording it in London in August 2001 . One of the main themes is entitled " Hedwig 's Theme " ; Williams retained it for his finished score as " everyone seemed to like it " .

= = Differences from the book = =

Columbus repeatedly checked with Rowling to make sure he was getting minor details correct . Kloves described the film as being " really faithful " to the book . He added dialogue , of which Rowling approved . One of the lines originally included had to be removed after Rowling told him that it would directly contradict an event in the then @-@ unreleased Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix novel .

Several minor characters have been removed from the film version , most prominent among them the spectral History of Magic teacher , Professor Binns , and Peeves the poltergeist . The book 's first chapter is from the viewpoint of Vernon and Petunia Dursley the day before they are given Harry to look after , highlighting how non @-@ magical people react to magic . The film removes this , beginning with Professor Dumbledore , Professor McGonagall and Hagrid leaving Harry with the Dursleys (although McGonagall tells Dumbledore how she had been watching the Dursleys all day) . Harry 's less than pleasant times at Mrs. Figg 's are cut from the film while the boa constrictor from Brazil in the zoo becomes a Burmese Python in the film . Some conflicts , such as Harry and Draco 's encounter with each other in Madam Malkin 's robe shop and midnight duel , are not in the film . Some of Nicolas Flamel 's role is changed or cut altogether . Norbert is mentioned to have been taken away by Dumbledore in the film ; whilst the book sees Harry and Hermione have to take him by hand to Charlie Weasley 's friends . Rowling described the scene as " the one part of the

book that she felt [could easily] be changed " . As such , the reason for the detention in the Forbidden Forest was changed : In the novel , Harry and Hermione are put in detention for being caught by Filch when leaving the Astronomy Tower after hours , Neville and Malfoy are given detention when caught in the corridor by Professor McGonagall . In the film , Harry , Hermione and Ron receive detention after Malfoy catches them in Hagrid 's hut after hours (Malfoy however , is given detention for being out of bed after hours) . Firenze the centaur , who is described in the book as being palomino with light blonde hair , is shown to be dark in the film . The Quidditch pitch is altered from a traditional stadium to an open field circled by spectator towers .

= = Distribution = =

= = = Marketing = = =

The first teaser poster was released in December 2000 . The first teaser trailer was released via satellite on 2 March 2001 and debuted in cinemas with the release of *See Spot Run* . The soundtrack was released on 30 October 2001 in a CD format . A video game based on the film was released on 15 November 2001 by Electronic Arts for several consoles . Another video game , for the GameCube , PlayStation 2 , and Xbox was released in 2003 . Mattel won the rights to produce toys based on the film , to be sold exclusively through Warner Brothers ' stores . Hasbro also produced products , including confectionery items based on those from the series . Warner Bros. signed a deal worth US \$ 150 million with Coca @-@ Cola to promote the film , and Lego produced a series of sets based on buildings and scenes from the film , as well as a Lego Creator video game .

= = = Home media = = =

Warner Bros. first released the film on VHS and DVD on 11 February 2002 in the E3 UK 11 May 2002 in the UK and 28 May 2002 in the US An Ultimate Edition was later released exclusively in the US that included a Blu @-@ ray and DVD . The release contains an extended version of the film , with many of the deleted scenes edited back in ; additionally , the set includes the existing special features disc , Radcliffe 's , Grint 's , and Watson 's first screen tests , a feature @-@ length special *Creating the World of Harry Potter Part 1 : The Magic Begins* , and a 48 @-@ page hardcover booklet . The extended version has a running time of about 159 minutes , which has previously been shown during certain television airings .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

The film had its world premiere on 4 November 2001 , in London 's Leicester Square , with the cinema arranged to resemble Hogwarts School . The film was greatly received at the box office . In the United States , it made \$ 32 @. @ 3 million on its opening day , breaking the single day record previously held by *Star Wars : Episode I ? The Phantom Menace* - but not when adjusted for inflation . On the second day of release , the film 's gross increased to \$ 33 @. @ 5 million , breaking the record for biggest single day again . In total , it made \$ 90 @. @ 3 million during its first weekend , breaking the record for highest @-@ opening weekend of all time that was previously held by *The Lost World : Jurassic Park* . It held the record until the following May when *Spider @-@ Man* made \$ 114 @. @ 8 million in its opening weekend . The film held onto the No. 1 spot at the box @-@ office for three consecutive weekends . The film also had the highest grossing 5 @-@ day (Wednesday @-@ Sunday) Thanksgiving weekend record of \$ 82 @. @ 4 million , holding the title for twelve years until both *The Hunger Games : Catching Fire* and *Frozen* surpassed it with \$ 110 @. @ 1

million and \$ 94 million respectively . Similar results were achieved across the world . In the United Kingdom , Harry Potter and the Philosopher 's Stone broke the record for the highest @-@ opening weekend ever , both including and excluding previews , making £ 16 @. @ 3 million with and £ 9 @. @ 8 million without previews . The film went on to make £ 66 @. @ 1 million in the UK alone , making it the country 's second highest @-@ grossing film of all @-@ time (after Titanic) , until it was surpassed by Mamma Mia ! .

In total , the film earned \$ 974 @. @ 8 million at the worldwide box office , \$ 317 @. @ 6 million of that in the US and \$ 657 @. @ 2 million elsewhere , which made it the second highest @-@ grossing film in history at the time , as well as the year 's highest @-@ grossing film . As of 2015 , it is the unadjusted twenty @-@ sixth highest @-@ grossing film of all @-@ time and the second highest @-@ grossing Harry Potter film to date after Deathly Hallows - Part 2 , which grossed more than \$ 1 billion worldwide . Box Office Mojo estimates that the film sold over 55 @. @ 9 million tickets in the US .

= = = Critical response = = =

The film received positive reviews from critics , who praised its visuals and acting performances , but criticised its pace and for being too faithful to the book . The film garnered an 80 % " Fresh " rating on Rotten Tomatoes . Its consensus reads , " Being so faithful to the book is both the movie 's strength and weakness . The movie unfolds exactly as written in the book , so there is little room for surprises or discoveries . For Potter fans , what more can you ask for ? " . It has a score of 64 out of 100 at Metacritic representing " generally favourable reviews " . Roger Ebert called Philosopher 's Stone " a classic , " giving the film four out of four stars , and particularly praising the Quidditch scenes ' visual effects . Praise was echoed by both The Telegraph and Empire reviewers , with Alan Morrison of the latter naming it the film 's " stand @-@ out sequence " . Brian Linder of IGN.com also gave the film a positive review , but concluded that it " isn 't perfect , but for me it 's a nice supplement to a book series that I love " . Although criticising the final half @-@ hour , Jeanne Aufmuth of Palo Alto Online stated that the film would " enchant even the most cynical of moviegoers . " USA Today reviewer Claudia Puig gave the film three out of four stars , especially praising the set design and Robbie Coltrane 's portrayal of Hagrid , but criticised John Williams ' score and concluded " ultimately many of the book 's readers may wish for a more magical incarnation . " The sets , design , cinematography , effects and principal cast were all given praise from Kirk Honeycutt of The Hollywood Reporter , although he deemed John Williams ' score " a great clanging , banging music box that simply will not shut up . " Todd McCarthy of Variety compared the film positively with Gone with the Wind and put " The script is faithful , the actors are just right , the sets , costumes , makeup and effects match and sometimes exceed anything one could imagine . " Jonathan Foreman of the New York Post recalled that the film was " remarkably faithful , " to its literary counterpart as well as a " consistently entertaining if overlong adaptation . "

Richard Corliss of Time magazine , considered the film a " by the numbers adaptation , " criticising the pace and the " charisma @-@ free " lead actors . CNN 's Paul Tatara found that Columbus and Klove " are so careful to avoid offending anyone by excising a passage from the book , the so @-@ called narrative is more like a jamboree inside Rowling 's head . " Nathaniel Rogers of The Film Experience gave the film a negative review and wrote : " Harry Potter and the Sorcerer 's Stone is as bland as movies can get . " Ed Gonzalez of Slant Magazine wished that the film had been directed by Tim Burton , finding the cinematography " bland and muggy , " and the majority of the film a " solidly dull celebration of dribbling goo . " Elvis Mitchell of The New York Times was highly negative about the film , saying " [the film] is like a theme park that 's a few years past its prime ; the rides clatter and groan with metal fatigue every time they take a curve . " He also said it suffered from " a lack of imagination " and wooden characters , adding , " The Sorting Hat has more personality than anything else in the movie . "

= = = Accolades = = =

The film received three Academy Award nominations : Best Art Direction , Best Costume Design , and Best Original Score for John Williams . The film was also nominated for seven BAFTA Awards . These were Best British Film , Best Supporting Actor for Robbie Coltrane , as well as the awards for Best Costume Design , Production Design , Makeup and Hair , Sound and Visual Effects . The film won a Saturn Award for its costumes , and was nominated for eight more awards . It won other awards from the Casting Society of America and the Costume Designers Guild . It was nominated for the AFI Film Award for its special effects , and the Art Directors Guild Award for its production design . It received the Broadcast Film Critics Award for Best Live Action Family Film and was nominated for Best Child Performance (for Daniel Radcliffe) and Best Composer (John Williams) .