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Just How Fantastic? An Analysis of Reviews of Wes Anderson's “Fantastic Mr. Fox”

## Positive Review

Reviewer: *Roger Ebert*

Journal/Site: *Chicago Sun-Times*

URL: [*http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/fantastic-mr-fox-2009*](http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/fantastic-mr-fox-2009)

The first true criterion that Mr. Ebert uses in is his praise of “Fantastic Mr. Fox” is Wes Anderson's use of visual imagery. He praises the dimensionality of the work as well as the textures, scenery, and character models. Ebert also enjoys the depth of the animal's emotion and lives.

## Negative Review

Reviewer: *Matthew Sorrento*

Journal/Site: *filmthreat.com*

URL: [*www.filmthreat.com/reviews/12004/*](http://www.filmthreat.com/reviews/12004/)

Sorrento firstly criticizes Anderson's storytelling ability, stating that his overuse of style is in place of substance of plot. Sorrento continues to say that Anderson's humor in the film is “dry” and that only Anderson himself could appreciate it. Lastly, he states his dissatisfaction in the film's speed of progression.

## Contrast

Both critics would agree that Anderson's visual environment in the film is stunning. Sorrento believes that it is not appropriate for film, whereas, Ebert approves of the manifestation. Ebert sees the plot and progression of the film as being enjoyable and light; Sorrento sees them as being one-sided and bland.

## My Review

I agree with both critics when they praise the visually stunning world that Anderson created for “Fantastic Mr. Fox” and, like Ebert, I consider it appropriate within the context of this film. I found the plot of the film to be intriguing and entertaining. Sure – it extrapolates greatly from Dahl's book but, for length's sake, it has to. Anderson's use of color and music in the film engenders a nostalgic feeling of old-fashioned country warmth. Frankly, I, unlike Sorrento, found the humor (especially the dry humor) to be hilarious and a primary component of what makes this a great movie.