

Harry Potter Week Arrives!

By Nee-Sa Lossing

Harry Potter fans rejoice as the seventh, and final, installment of the popular children's series is released this month, accompanied by the fifth movie. The set release date for the book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, falls on July 21, while the movie, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, premieres ten days earlier, on the 11th.

"Harry Potter Week," as fans have lovingly nicknamed the ten day stretch between releases, holds many fun events embracing the series, besides the official releases.

Local movie theaters will have special showings of the movie, directed by David Yates, including a 12:01am showing at the Rheem heater the morning of the 11th.

"I plan on seeing the movie the day it comes out," says Harry Potter fan Maria Sarmiento. "I've re-read the fifth book to prepare myself for the movie."

Although fans of the book series already know the plotline of this movie, seeing their mental images of the story come to life is a joy.

Orinda Theater will be showing the film from Wednesday, July 11th to Sunday, July 15th at noon, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, and 9:45pm daily. Monday, July 16th through Thursday, July 19th, the theater will be showing the film at 7:00pm and 9:45pm nightly.

Around the corner from Orinda Theater, fans can pre-order Deathly Hallows, written by J.K. Rowling, from Sweet Dreams for 20% off the cover price, \$27.99.

The highly-anticipated release has been long-awaited by Potter fans, and will be a bittersweet moment for all. The last book will answer questions that readers have had in their minds since the beginning, but it will also mean the end of the series. Whether excited or sad, all fans would agree that the release of this book can't come fast enough.

Orinda Books is currently taking pre-orders, as well, and is hosting a party from 11:00pm to 12:01am, the night before the release, July 20th. All fans are invited, and are encouraged to dress in costume for a night of videos, trivia games, and readings. Books may be pre-ordered online, by phone, or in-store for 20% off the cover price.

The Storyteller, in Lafayette, will be having a Harry Potter Party the morning of the 21st, exclusive to customers who pre-order the book with them.

Lafayette Book Store will be having a members-only party the night of the 20th, but pre-orders may still be picked up at midnight by non-members.

No matter where fans purchase their book, it is clear that the release will be a monumental event for every fan.

"I'm excited for the release of Deathly Hallows," said Sarmiento. "I'm anxious to see what will happen to Harry and his friends."

Rheem Theater:

showtimes: (925) 988-3411 questions: (925) 376-0885

Orinda Theater:

showtimes: (925) 254-9060 questions: (925) 254-9065

Sweet Dreams in Orinda: (925)937-7025

Orinda Books:

(925) 254-7606 website: www.orindabooks.com

The Storyteller in Lafayette: (925) 284-3480

Lafayette Book Store:

(925) 284-1233

Did You Know?

-Three different owls were used to play Harry's pet, Hedwig, in the first movie.

-The Hogwarts motto, "Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus" means "never tickle a sleeping dragon" in Latin.

-The fourth movie, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, was originally planned to be two movies, released a few months apart, but the director, Mike Newell, decided against it, and cut out some of the book's sub-plots to create a plot suitable for one movie.

-Goblet of Fire also features the biggest underwater set ever constructed, holding up to 500,000 liters of water.

-According to J.K. Rowling, the approximate value of a Galleon, the currency used in the wizarding world, is about five pounds, or \$7.30.

-The first person to be cast in the first Harry Potter movie was Robbie Coltrane, who plays Rubeus Hagrid.

-There are thirteen characters in the book series that are named after flowers (ie. Lavender Brown), and fifty-four characters' first and last names form alliterations (ie. Severus Snape)!

-Five members of the Black family are named after stars or constellations: Sirius, Bellatrix, Regulus, Alphard, and Andromeda.

-J.K. Rowling tends to reference the numbers 4, 7, and 12, a lot in the Harry Potter series.

-The Harry Potter series has been translated into over 63 languages other than English, and there are different versions for the U.S. and the U.K.



Harry's coming to the Orinda Theater

Photo by Nee-Sa Lossing

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