

Despite bringing back veteran Harry Potter director David Yates and enlisting author J.K. Rowling to pen the screenplay, it would be easy to dismiss *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* as a desperate attempt by Warner Bros. to release a guaranteed hit after a string of high profile box office disappointments. Regardless of whether or not that's what executives had in mind though, this opening chapter of what looks set to be a five part franchise is something very special indeed and arguably better than any of the Harry Potter movies. Those were all good in their own way of course, but if you're a fan of the books, chances are that you didn't struggle to pick holes in them. *Fantastic Beasts* is lucky enough not to have expectations like that riding on it, and with a new original story set in a familiar world, Rowling proves herself every bit a master storyteller in film as she is with novels. While

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