

The Original Prop Designer

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WELCOME

I am really happy to finally be able to share with you this issue of the magazine. It has a few surprises, some of them we even teased on our social handles.

First of all, I am really glad to publish the interview with Ruth Winick, who worked in the first two Harry Potter films as a graphic artist, designing some of the props that became iconic for all the Harry Potter fans. It is a pleasure to share her work and her story.

There is also a new section on the magazine: Fausto will not only work on the cover illustrations but now he will illustrate a famous wizard or witch for the Famous Wizards Cards Collection. The idea is to create a new version of the famous cards that Harry Potter and his friends collect, so be sure to save them and we even suggest you print them, so you can have a folder with all of them in the future.

As usual, we have Oliver Horton's article, this time about Peter Pettigrew, and Alan Dell'Oso's analysis of Scrimgeous' wand, an unknown one to many people, so it's an interesting piece. And we have much more content in this issue!

Remember that if you like what we do, you can support us by becoming a Patreon. Your contribution, as little as it could be, means a lot to us and helps us keep developing content!

We hope to see you back in May!

Patricio

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BY OLIVER HORTON

WORMTAIL

THE WEAKEST LINK

*“If you made a better rat than a human,
it’s not much to boast about, Peter.”*

– Sirius Black,
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

Being underestimated is Wormtail’s Cloak of Invisibility.

Professor McGonagall dismisses him as a “stupid and foolish boy”. Nobody imagines he is an Animagus. Nobody thinks he could best Sirius in a duel or murder a dozen Muggles. Nobody looks twice at Scabbers, the narcoleptic rat.

Peter Pettigrew’s years as a Hogwarts student are the best of his life. His magical skillset blossoms out of sight of the teachers, and somewhat out of sight of his friends. The teenage Peter Pettigrew reminds Harry of Neville Longbottom, another late bloomer, whose talent only begins to emerge circa year five.

But Wormtail has a mean spirit and a black heart. He runs with the bullies not against them. After school, he loses touch with his friends Remus, Sirius and James, not literally but emotionally. His new crew, the Order of the Phoenix, do not make him feel safe. *Quite an experience to live in fear.*

Voldemort sees him clearly: a weak personality craving dominance. The weakest link, hello. *Least loved, second best, eternally overshadowed,* Wormtail is ripe for the plucking. A coward and a survivor, Peter Pettigrew aligns himself with strength. Voldemort talks like a winner, but then loses. Peter, the betrayer, has to

disappear. Become a rat. Become Scabbers.

But then something happened that Wormtail did not intend. He was picked up by the most unlikely family imaginable. The Weasleys. For the time would soon come when Weasleys shape the fortunes of us all. The rat passes to the youngest son, Ronald. And Scabbers finds himself sharing a train carriage with Harry Potter, the son of his friends Lily and James, the student

of his friend Remus Lupin, the godson of his friend Sirius Black.

When Sirius escapes from Azkaban, rat-life becomes impossible. Everyone hates Peter Pettigrew, good people and Death Eaters. So he transforms into the faithful retainer, and digs up the Dark Lord.

“It turns out [Wormtail] was a better wizard than they knew.”

– J.K. Rowling.



PETER PETTIGREW BY JIM KAY,
FOR THE ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF
HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (BLOOMSBURY, 2017)

“Everyone hates Peter Pettigrew, good people and Death Eaters.”

Of all the wizards in all the world, it's wee wily Wormtail who revives Voldemort. He deceives yet another old school friend, Bertha Jorkins, and delivers her into Voldemort's clutches. He helps Barty Crouch Jr subdue 'Madeye' Moody. He milks a snake. He brews the potion that restores the Dark Lord. He murders Cedric. He chops off his own finger. He chops off his own hand. For such a craven, Wormtail is tenacious.

The trouble with being untrustworthy is that you cannot be trusted. Voldemort, when just a fetus, cuts him a little slack. But the reborn Dark Lord keeps his faithless servant on a tight leash. At the beginning of *Half-Blood Prince*, Wormtail is Snape's house boy, reduced to serving drinks to visiting witches. In *Deathly Hallows* he tends to the prisoners at Malfoy Manor. In neither situation is he a full participant to the more important events to which he bears witness.

Team Voldemort begins to take him seriously – as a liability. Wormtail cannot be left alone. He is given no missions. Yet he still manages to betray this crew:

he shows Harry a *tiny merciful impulse* and is throttled to death by his own magic hand. Wormtail chooses Voldemort because he is scared. Wormtail kills because he is scared. But he dies for the sliver of good that lingers.

Wormtail flies beneath the radar of popular condemnation. The detested Dolores Umbridge never killed 12 Muggles and a popular teenage wizard. She does not kill anybody. But she is reviled, above all, because she intends and enjoys the evil that she orchestrates. Wormtail is simply desperate and pathetic. He takes no pleasure. He only wants to live, Merlin knows why! He was content to be a rat and sleep in Ron's bed. He would give his right hand to go back... oops, too late.

“Your devotion is nothing more than cowardice. You would not be here if you had anywhere else to go.”

— Voldemort, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.

TO BE A MARAUDER

As far as the books go, Messrs Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot and Prongs are not “The Marauders”.

Not really.

Their marvellous creation is the Marauder's Map.

Marauder's Map = map for a *marauder* (singular).

Ron, who presumably has no respect for the placement of the apostrophe, refers (in *Half-Blood Prince*) to the Map's four creators as "The Marauders" – which in itself is a little weird since he must harbour some serious resentment towards Wormtail for sharing his

bed. In fact, Ron's nickname for the quartet is author J.K. Rowling's in-book wink to fans who had referred to the gang as "The Marauders" since their introduction in *Prisoner of Azkaban*.

There is no inkling that the "Purveyors of Aids to Magical Mischief-Makers", as they are called on the Map, ever referred to themselves as "The Marauders" (plural). Lupin, at the very least, would know the correct punctuation.



TIMOTHY SPALL PLAYING PETER PETTIGREW
IN HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PART I
(WARNER BROS., 2010)

The Original prop designer

Ruth Winick worked as a Graphic Artist in the first Harry Potter films and is the original creator of some of the most iconic designs from the Wizarding World. We had the chance to interview her about her work, her inspirations and more!



RUTH WORKING ON THE HARRY POTTER DESIGNS (2000)

If you visited the Warner Bros. Studio Tour after April 2019 (one of the top attractions for tourists who go to the United Kingdom and an obligatory stop for any Harry Potter fan who can afford to travel there), you may have noticed that the café store is shaped after the Chocolate Frog package, a classic design for any Harry Potter fan. What you possibly do not know is that it was created by Ruth Wallington (credited as Ruth Winick), an Irish designer who worked on the first two Harry Potter films as a Graphic Artist and is the author of iconic designs that were featured in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, and then they were re-used (with minor modifications) throughout the whole series.

Ruth's story starts in Ireland, where she studied Production Design for Film and TV at Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design in Dublin. "I worked in the film

industry in Dublin for three years as a Graphic Designer, my first film was *Spacetruckers* starring Dennis Hopper. My aim was to work in the film industry in London but at the time I did not think I had enough experience", she remembers. Then she decided to go to Australia to gain some experience before going back to London a year later. "Within a week of moving to London, I had a job on Harry Potter. I had arranged an interview with John [King], one

of the Art Directors. The timing was perfect as they had just started to crew. John looked at my portfolio of work and said he would be in touch. He said that while I was there I should meet Stuart [Craig] the Designer.

I showed Stuart my portfolio and he told John to give me a job!". She started work as a Graphic Designer on Harry Potter shortly afterwards.

She hadn't heard of Harry Potter before (probably because of her stay in Australia in the previous months), but after getting the job



CHOCOLATE FROG CARD-SHAPED CAFÉ STORE IN WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR

she read it and was immediately hooked. “I loved it”, she remembers.

And then she was assigned to work on the design of objects that would become a trademark in the Wizarding World. One of them was present in one of the most important moments of the series, when Harry Potter and Ron Weasley began their friendship. We are talking about the Chocolate Frog Cards and their package. “Stuart [Craig] drew the shape of a pentagon and said I should think classical. So I looked at Gothic architecture and played with shapes to make it fit in the shape of a pentagon”, she says, and adds: “I thought that the wizards on the

cards should appear behind ornate gold frames like the walls on the staircase at Hogwarts with their names underneath. I also wanted to incorporate dark blue sky and stars to make it magical. Stuart loved the design”, and so did all the fans. In fact, the pentagon design is not mentioned in the book, and it was a movie invention, but it fitted the idea of the Wizard Cards so well that it is hard to imagine them in a different way.

Another item that makes its introduction on that scene and was designed by Ruth are the Bertie Botts Every Flavor Beans packaging. “I wanted the packaging to have a British seaside feel and



RUTH WITH THE FILIBUSTERS FIREWORKS THAT SHE DESIGNED. THEY DID NOT MAKE THE FINAL CUT OF THE MOVIE.

Ruth's designs in *Harry Potter*

AND THE
SORCERER'S
STONE



The Daily Prophet

Chocolate Frog packages and card



Bertie Botts Every Flavour package

be fun to open. The red stripes are inspired by the traditional Punch and Judy puppet shows. I loved making up crazy ingredients for all the sweets on the sweet trolley even though they would not be seen.” she recalls. The designs were shown to and approved by Stuart Craig, Production Designer, and Stephenie McMillan, Set Decorator, who loved them. And of course, the very same J.K. Rowling, who “came to see the sweet trolley when it was finished and ready for the first day of shooting” (she was along with her young daughter that day).

But perhaps the most important prop of which Ruth is the author is *The Daily Prophet*, which was vital to move the plot forward in the first film, informing of the

break-in at Gringotts. The magical newspaper evolved throughout the movies, using bold fonts and a more modern design, although Ruth’s style was used until *Prisoner of Azkaban*.

When consulted about the inspiration, she says “I looked at some modern typography books and ways to use text to form shapes. This was the basis for the design of the newspaper. I also looked at gothic fonts and in particular decorative initial letters from medieval ornamental alphabets for the first letter of each article.” The fonts used in the newspaper were not the only trait that defined that design - also the shape of each article, not following the normal standards: “I wanted it to have a magical feel and look.



PACKAGES FOR BERTIE BOTTS' EVERY FLAVOUR BEANS DESIGNED BY RUTH



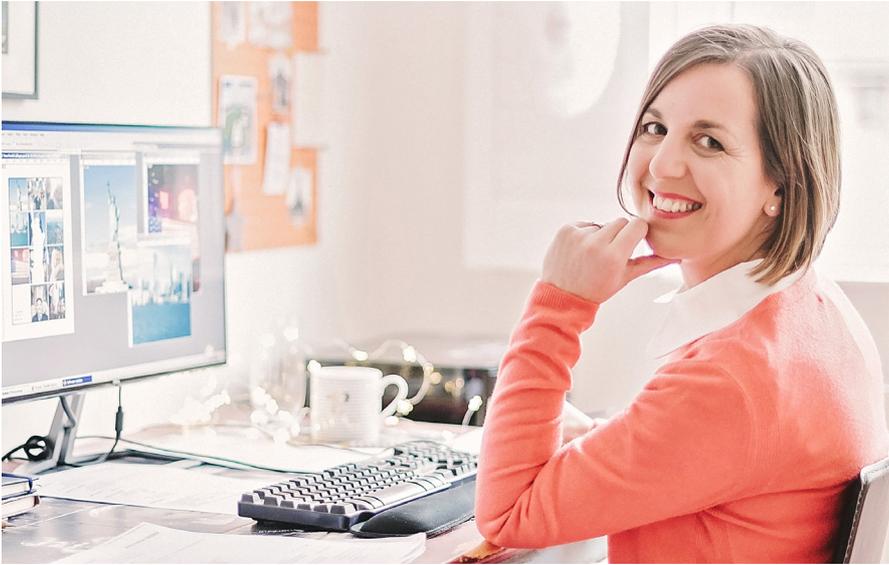
RUTH'S DESIGN FOR THE CHOCOLATE FROG PACKAGE,
AS SEEN IN HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE (2001)

The first letter of each article was a decorated letter. I wanted lots of swirls and the paragraphs to make their own shapes with the words. If I remember correctly, after the newspaper was printed, I drew little squiggles by hand on the words of the headlines to make it feel even more magical. I also designed a crossword which couldn't be done which I thought would be fun!"

The newspaper is also interesting to look at behind the scenes for the small details and fun word plays that it contains, which sometimes can't be appreciated on camera. That came from Ruth too: "I had the idea of making the Daily Prophet a fun magical newspaper. I enjoyed making up the headlines,

for example, 'Oldest Wizard turns 755' or 'Unfortunate broom flyer hit by a muggle helicopter.' I remember writing a few lines at the beginning of each article even though they would not be seen, using made up names and stories". Of course, she couldn't decide every text, but she had a bit of freedom: "I had to follow the script for the specific headlines that would be in shot on the Daily Prophet but not all the other headlines had to be approved as far as I can remember."

Today, Ruth runs a small business called Hello Ruth, where she creates personalised photo gifts and origami greeting cards. She is already working on the products for the Christmas season (their



WINICK WORKING ON HER SMALL BUSSINESS “HELLO RUTH”

Christmas press show is in July “so I need to have everything designed, made and photographed before then”). Apart from selling on her website, she also sells her products on notonthestreet.com.

Twenty years have passed, and Ruth definitely left her mark in the Wizarding World. Not only through her design skills, but if you ever get the chance to take a very close look at some objects you might be able to see a reference to Ruth in some recognizable wizarding items. Her name can be seen within the articles written for the Daily Prophet as Rufus Winikus or even on the label of the bone growth potion SkeleGro bottle as Rubens Winikus.

Her designs have made an impact on children from all around the world, children who watched a movie about a wizard boy and dreamt of reading that magical newspaper and eating those incredible candies. Her work reached unknown corners of the world, and of course, she feels “proud to be the original creator of the Daily Prophet, Chocolate Frog and Bertie Botts.”

You can (and should!) follow Ruth on Instagram as [@helloruthuk](https://www.instagram.com/helloruthuk), and visit her website at www.helloruth.co.uk.

Thanks to Felipe Gabriel for the collaboration on this piece.



Bowman Wright
Inventor of the Golden Snitch

#1



The Rowling Library
Famous Wizards Cards Collection

APRIL IN TWITTER HISTORY



J.K. Rowling
@jk_rowling



Exciting morning at rehearsals for [#CursedChild](#). What do you think of our wand designs? [#HarryPotterPlay](#)



8:37 AM · Apr 18, 2016 · Twitter for iPhone

11.3K Retweets 18 Quote Tweets 33.7K Likes





Fantastic Beasts 3

A Phoenix in a Title?

Although Gellert Grindelwald is part of the title of the second film of *Fantastic Beasts*, one could argue that the main character is Albus Dumbledore. Not only because of his actions and scenes, but also because he is part of the open question that is left at the end of the film for fans to speculate.

J.K. Rowling already told us on her Twitter account that “answers are given” in the third instalment of the series, and it means that we will probably know more about that mysterious relationship teased by Grindelwald between Albus Dumbledore and Credence Barebone (or should we call him Aurelius already?). But that’s not the only mystery surrounding the soon-to-be Hogwarts headmaster: there is also the whole topic of the blood pact, and

how or why he is manipulating Newt Scamander.

Since then, fans have been playing and theorizing possible titles for the third film, and most of them (if not all) go around Dumbledore or a phoenix. Titles like “The Curse of the Dumbledore”, “The Blood of Dumbledore”, “The Secrets of Dumbledore” have been in mouth of some fans, while other including a phoenix as “The Revenge of the Phoenix”, “The Return of the Phoenix” and “The Rise of the Phoenix” were as well discussed.

None of these titles were hinted by Warner Bros. and were only created by fans, but lately there have been some clues that may indicate that a phoenix (or Dumbledore, since both beings are interconnected in one way or

another) may be part of the title.

The official account for the Fantastic Beasts films, both on Instagram and Twitter, published two posts, out of nowhere, about a phoenix and Dumbledore. While the phoenix post was some kind of infographic about the creature's history and characteristics, the Dumbledore one was more about his scenes and favourite quotes. It was weird that the timing of the posts was almost the same (both of them on the same day, with a few hours of difference), and without any special reason. It could be to warm up the fan and the not-so-fan before the release of the title.

A few weeks ago as well, at the end of February, when the film was wrapping production, Maja Bloom (who played the character Carrow in the second film) shared on her Instagram account that a colleague gifted her a personalized and expensive chocolate with the shape of a phoenix. These symbolic gestures are normal after wrapping production of these big films, so it is safe to guess that Maja received it from a colleague who worked with her on Fantastic Beasts 3. The choice of the phoenix as the shape of the piece of chocolate could be a hint about the main topic or title of this picture, as we mentioned earlier. Including the word "phoenix" in the title is

not entirely out of place because it would somehow bring the Fantastic Beasts movie series to its core: the fantastic creatures that started everything in the first film.

However, if Warner Bros. / J.K. Rowling goes with this route, it could feel cheap. "Phoenix", as a word, was already featured in the fifth Harry Potter book, and the repetition would look a bit vulgar or highlight a clear lack of imagination. Featuring Dumbledore's name in the title could (and will) be seen as a last ditch effort to bring more people to this new film series, making the relationship with Harry Potter even more evident.

The producers (or whoever is in charge to decide the title) will not have an easy task: they have to make the right call so that it's good enough to attract people to watch the film, without giving too much away or falling for a tacky and obvious choice. The title for *The Crimes of Grindelwald* was revealed one year exactly before the release of the film, and considering the third title will be screened in July 2022, it seems we will have still a few months until knowing how it is going to be named.



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And all our patrons also receives The Daily Prophet two times a week in their email inbox, with the latest Harry Potter news and commentary, which means that you are paying less than €30 per Daily Prophet edition.

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BECOME A PATRON

WAVE A WAND

BY ALAN DELL'OSO

RUFUS SCRIMGEOUR

The first time that Rufus Scrimgeour is mentioned in the book series is in the first chapter of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: The Other Minister*.

Scrimgeour is the Minister of Magic that succeeded Cornelius Fudge after the battle at the Ministry of Magic, where it was revealed to everyone that He-who-must-not-be-named had returned.

His wand is not described in the book, but he used it almost from the minute after appearing in the Muggle First Minister's office to lock the door and close the windows.

On the big screen, on the other hand, Rufus Scrimgeour briefly appears in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallow - Part 1*, and his only memorable scene is the one reading and giving the objects of Albus Dumbledore's last will to Ron, Hermione and Harry. While in the books he uses his wand in that scene, in the movie he doesn't.

Rufus Scrimgeour's wand has never been shown along with him in any movie, poster or picture, but it seems that the art department has designed and crafted a wand for him. My theory



is that it was possibly designed for the *Half-Blood Prince* movie in pre-production, before deciding to cut the opening scene of *The Other Minister* in which Scrimgeour is introduced for the first time in the series as the new Minister of Magic.

After his first (and only) appearance in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1*, The Noble Collection released his replica wand in 2010, and in November of 2017, the book *Harry Potter: The Wand Collection* was published, including the picture of Scrimgeour's wand and a brief (very brief) description about it.

The wand is 38.7cm long, with a very simple, traditional design, and a small distinctive silver detail which separates the handle from the shaft. Most of the wand designs of Ministers of Magic are sober and traditional, but with a small piece of well worked precious metal, adding a little bit of luxury to the conventional designs.

The color of the wand is a dark brown with a red tint, and the book *Harry Potter: The Wand Collection* describes the wood of the movie prop as hard and heavy, worthy of an Auror.





‘Harry,’ said the other twin, ‘did we introduce ourselves? Fred and George Weasley. And this is Ron, our brother. See you later, then.’

Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone
J.K. Rowling



BY BELÉN SALITURI

The Making of Another Studio Tour

The second Harry Potter Studio Tour coming to Japan in 2023 now has an official website and a trailer. There will be differences with the London attraction, and while everything in Japan will be replicas, Warner Bros. has justified why building a new studio tour was the right call for them.

The “Warner Bros. Studio Tour Tokyo – The Making of Harry Potter” will open its doors in Toshimaen in 2023 and a brand new website and trailer were launched this month to promote this attraction. The website publicizes the Studio Tour as the second one of its kind after London and it will give guests the chance to “step into the fascinating behind the scenes world of the Harry Potter films.” The attraction will be set on a 300.000ft area, where the former Toshimaen Amusement Park used to be.

The two-minute trailer is actually from the London Tour and it showcases the experience visitors will have while touring

the authentic sets, seeing original props and costumes from the movies, and stepping to the backlot to the external sets. While the trailer is quite informative and gives a glimpse of what the experience in Tokyo could be like, it makes a great emphasis on the authenticity of everything you’ll see there. So there is something that doesn’t quite add up here: how can you have a studio tour in Japan, a place where the movies weren’t shot, and where the sets won’t be the originals?

Sarah Roots, Executive Vice President of Warner Bros. Studio Tour, gave an interview to Attractions Magazine in which she explains and justifies the

company's reason for going to Japan: "The intense Harry Potter fandom of Japan and the location of Tokyo with such a high population of people who love to engage with IP and have days out made it a really strong place for us to go."

According to Roots, the new Studio Tour in Japan "will feature authentic recreations of films sets from the Harry Potter films,

including the Great Hall inside Hogwarts, the Forbidden Forest and Diagon Alley," but since these will be replicas, they will have "more freedom when designing the attraction." Given they won't be working with the original props and sets from the films and the whole process will be a recreation, the teams building the new studio tour are allowed to make changes to the size of the sets or the



materials used in order to build enhanced and bigger areas, such as the Forbidden Forest. “We’ll be replicating the sets with the original filmmakers – we’ll use the same authentic processes for Japan, but the materials might be slightly different. The fact that the sets at the London Studio Tour are original is fantastic, but they’re very delicate because they were made for filming not for a visitor attraction. There’s an opportunity to make them more durable, which would allow visitors to have better access to them,” says Roots.

Another difference with London is that the Tokyo tour will include photo ops: “The Japanese love photo ops, interactives and getting involved, and we’ll be adding a lot of interactivity and engagement into that tour,” explains Roots and adds: “We’ll take the essence of the Studio Tour London and build on it using lessons we’ve learned to create something even more amazing in Japan.”

So the idea of opening a second Harry Potter Studio Tour with these new and improved conditions is not entirely out of place and it’s not necessarily bad because it will give many people on the other side of the world the chance to somehow experience the filmmaking process, live the “magic” of walking around Harry Potter sets and observing props.

And obviously, it will be very profitable business-wise, given what Roots has stated about Japan being “the place to go.” But we can’t help but wonder: will it truly be a studio tour experience if the sets are replicas or if the Forbidden Forest is bigger than the one it was actually used for the films?

I believe the whole point of the Studio Tour in London was to set foot inside the real Wizarding World without the need for a ride or rollercoaster to make your day exciting (and I’m not belittling the parks – I’m a huge fan and I love what they’ve created there!). The same as with the theme parks, the Studio Tour in Japan will have that mark that it was made specifically for visitors, as opposed to the Studio Tour in London where almost everything you encounter stems from the actual filmmaking process, almost everything you come across was made for the movies. We don’t doubt that the recreation will be accurate and you probably won’t notice if it’s the original or not, but in the end, you’ll know that what you’re seeing is not the real thing.

A QUOTE BY JO

“““

“I always want to see a game where there were four balls in play at once or more than one ball in play, I just thought it would be funny...”

Blue Peter BBC, 2001



RIDDIKULUS!

Erik (@knockturnerik on Instagram) plays with original artwork from the Harry Potter books!

Follow @knockturnthepages on Instagram for more humour!



ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION BY MARY GRANDPRÉ FOR HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX. (SCHOLASTIC, 2003)



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