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"I'M DEVASTATED IT'S OVER, BECAUSE IT'S BEEN SUCH A PART OF MY LIFE - IT'S THE END OF CHAPTER BUT ALSO A PRETTY NICE PUNCTUATION MARK ON MY ADOLESCENCE."

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

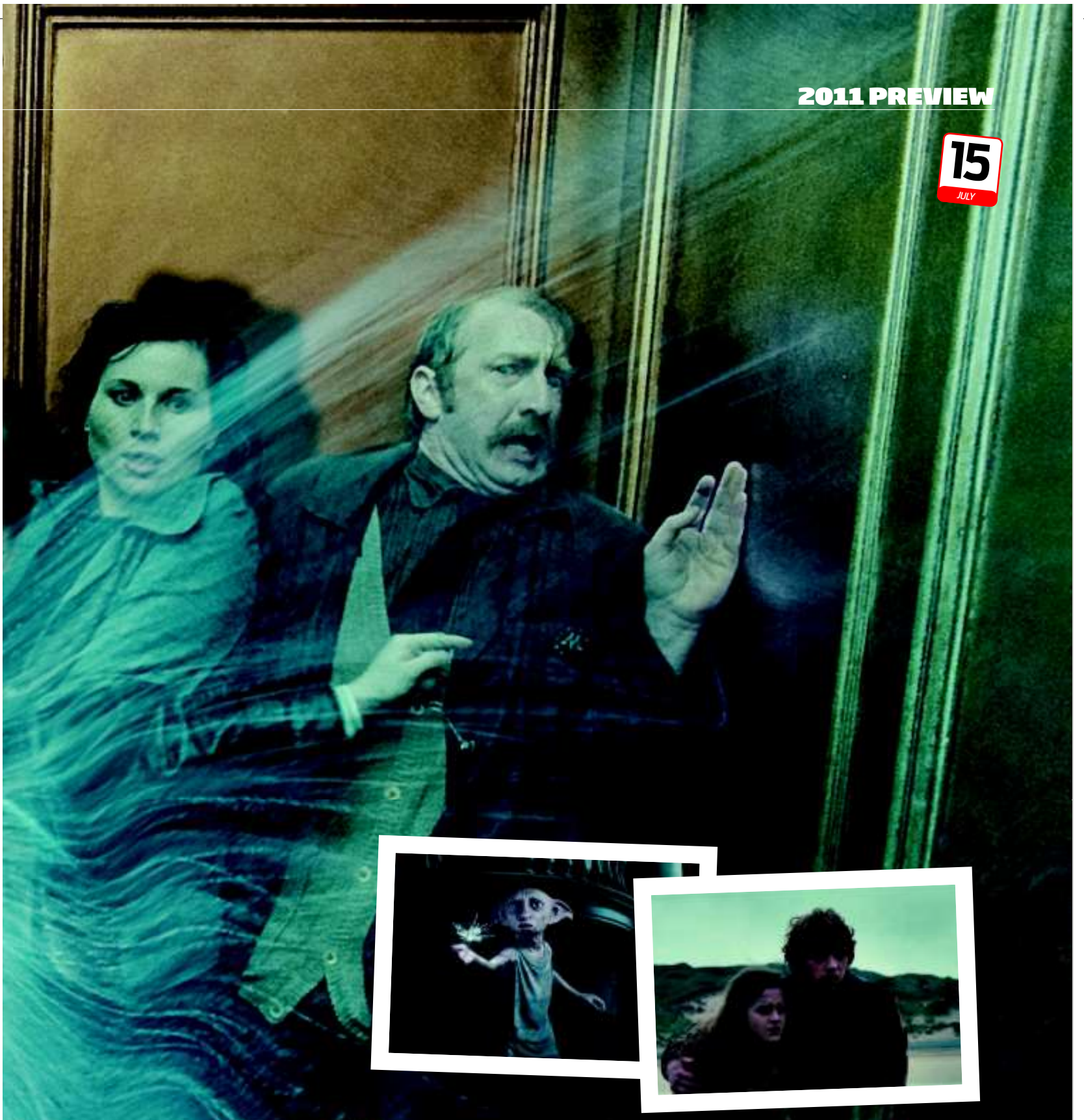
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 2

Director David Yates **Stars** Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint
In Cinemas 15 July **On Disc** November

This really is it. Thirteen years after *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone* was first published in the UK, and almost a decade after the movie adaptation was released, the film franchise comes to a close with this, the eighth instalment. The three young leads have gone from pre-teens to fashion icons and Ivy League scholars, full-frontal thespians and, erm, amateur ice-cream van drivers, earning personal fortunes worth upwards of £20 million, while Warner Brothers - which cannily bought the rights to the first four books from JK Rowling for a mere £1 million back in 1998 - has seen its investment return almost \$5.5

billion from the first six films alone, making it by far the most profitable film franchise of all time. (Runners-up *Bond* and *Star Wars* have made around \$5 billion and \$4.2 billion respectively, with *Lord Of The Rings* taking \$2.9 billion and the first three *Twilight* movies making \$1.7 billion.) This second part of *The Deathly Hallows* takes up the story two-thirds of the way through the book (covering chapters 25-36, plus the controversial epilogue) - high time to get down to the Horcrux of the matter. So, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint) must continue their quest to find the three Deathly Hallows

- a matter complicated by the fact evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) has laid hands on one of them during the finale of *Part 1* - and destroy them, along with the other four (out of a total of seven) Horcruxes that Voldemort has imbued with parts of his soul, making himself as good as immortal. Only Voldemort isn't quite as clever as he thinks he is; some Horcruxes were destroyed books ago, while others aren't what they seem... Of course, this comes at a cost - if you wept for R-Patz's Cedric Diggory in *Goblet Of Fire* (killed on Voldemort's command) and still miss the mighty Professor Dumbledore (Michael Gambon, slain by Alan Rickman's



Snape), you won't know what hit you when the Battle Of Hogwarts really kicks off. Scores will be settled, and there will be blood. And tears.

Critics have bemoaned *Part 1*'s 146-minute running time - a bad omen for *Part 2*, which is rumoured to be longer still - but praised the scarier scenes, so we can expect an edge-of-the-seat sequence when Harry and Voldemort have their final showdown. And we can also look forward to finally getting to see JK Rowling's creations in three dimensions. Both halves were set to be shown in dual formats but, as Warner regretfully announced in early October, the

3D post-production couldn't be completed in time for the first part's November release date: "Despite everyone's best efforts, we were unable to convert the film in its entirety and meet the highest standards of quality."

The studio remains confident it can deliver on the 15 July release date for *Part 2* though (the 3D ticket prices likely making it the first billion-dollar *Potter* film), meaning that, short of taking a trip to the Universal Orlando theme park, this is the only chance you'll ever get to utterly immerse yourself in all things Harry and Hogwarts.

DISC PREDICTIONS Fans of the franchise have always been well-served by the two-disc

editions of the previous instalments, comprising loads of interactive material along with games, deleted scenes and some solid featurettes. This being *The End*, we'd hope for some 'Then And Now'-style retrospectives about the series - and, finally, a commentary, if the sentimental cast and crew can keep from crying long enough to offer us their insights, that is. Boxset ahoy!

This One's For Fans Of... The wonderful wizarding world of Hogwarts, *The Boy Who Lived*, house-elves, Quidditch and butter beer - but *not* fans of He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named.

"I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS ALMOST TOO CHICKEN TO PLAY CAPTAIN AMERICA. BUT IT'S A BIG RESPONSIBILITY..."

CHRIS EVANS

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER

Director Joe Johnston **Stars** Chris Evans, Hugo Weaving, Samuel L Jackson
In Cinemas 29 July **On Disc** November

"I can't believe I was almost too chicken to play Captain America," says Chris Evans. We would say we can't believe it either, but the fact is that Captain America is one of the most important and iconic Marvel characters around - a highly covetable part, then, but get it wrong and you're likely find there's a rather long way to fall. "It is a big responsibility," he admits. So, no pressure or anything...

Marvel, though, would appear to have high hopes indeed for the reboot (or rather, the re-re-re-re-re-reboot) when you consider that the comic-hero factory has already given the green light to a sequel, titled *The Avengers*, in which Evans is scheduled to

appear once again in May 2012. The two films are shooting back-to-back and it's in no small part a testament to Marvel's confidence in *Captain America* that it's aiming to press ahead with delivering the second movie before the first one's impact is really known.

For the most part, this first film will be an origin story. In the title role, Evans starts out as a young World War Two soldier, Steve Rogers, who undergoes a series of experiments which turn him into a hero with super-powers... or rather, they transform him into the human super-weapon known as Captain America. And how does he transform?

Director Joe Johnston isn't dishing out any juicy details just yet: "I can't divulge how we're going to do it, but the performance will be Chris from beginning to end."

We're told in the promotional blurb that the Captain "Earns his way into the hearts and souls of every American, bringing hope and justice to a war-weary nation". On the course of which, he takes on the likes of Hugo Weaving's evil Red Skull, on the streets of... Manchester and Liverpool.

Or rather, that's where these superhero skirmishes are being filmed. Because, in what may just be a delightful dose of irony, *Captain America: The First Avenger* could just as well

have been called *Captain Manchester: The First Ever Non-US Marvel Productions Shoot*. The film uses Manchester's Northern Quarter, which has also been known to play Victorian London onscreen - most notably in Guy Ritchie's Sherlock Holmes update from last year - but here stands in for 1940s New York, with its wide streets and towering buildings helping to recreate the right image.

And while it might not be groundbreakingly original to cast, say, Samuel L Jackson as Nick Fury, head of the shady SHIELD organisation, there's no denying it's a good fit. Indeed Marvel has drummed up quite the cast, and from what we've seen and heard so far,

Captain America's going to be poised to conquer the world...

DISC PREDICTIONS What with plenty of mysterious hints about how Chris Evans is going to transform from Steve Rogers to Captain America, and tales of New York being recreated in the north of England, it's clear there's going to be a lot of fodder for bonus and behind-the-scenes material.

In particular, we're expecting some background on Captain America - we're hoping for a really good, in-depth retrospective - and his various iterations through different decades and media. And while director Johnston's keeping tales from

filming under his hat for now, we expect he'll reveal some of his tricks and secrets in a director's commentary. We're also hoping to see a decent selection of behind-the-scenes featurettes and other material, and it's highly likely you'll see some retailer-exclusive limited edition packaging. Not to mention the inevitability of the disc itself being emblazoned with the Cap's iconic shield emblem...

This One's For Fans Of... The classic ultimate superheroes of old. One of Marvel's most iconic characters makes onto the big screen in a proper adaptation at long last. Marvellous...

