

TeenStar



Goodbye art

"America has traded culture for entertainment and technology. How can you ever come back from that?"
White Stripes singer Jack White in *Blender*



MyTeenStarTV

All things Harry Potter will be discussed when MyTeenStarTV returns. 12:30 p.m. Sunday, July 22, on Channel 62 or cable channel 10.

TEENSTAR: A VOICE OF, BY AND FOR TEENS

THE RAIL

Ride for life

Twelve and a half million people worldwide suffer from PKD, a disease that can cause the kidneys to swell and then shut down. There is no known cure, and the only treatments for severe PKD are dialysis and kidney transplant.

Saturday the Kansas City chapter of the PKD foundation will hold its third annual Bike Run to help find a cure for PKD for those like 12-year-old R.J.

The ride will begin at 10 a.m. at Worth Harley-Davidson North, 6609 North Oak Trafficway in Gladstone, and end at Side Pockets 600 N.W. Englewood Road, Gladstone. There will be a silent auction at Side Pockets after the ride. To register go to www.pkdcure.org/kansascitychapter or register from 9

to 10 a.m. the day of the event. Fee: \$35 dollars per person or \$50 per couple.



ON THE WEB

Is it important to have read the books when you see a Harry Potter movie?

To answer the question, TeenStar sent Kale Hills, who has read all six, and Jessie Chipchase, who hasn't read word one, to a screening of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

To read their full reviews, go to KansasCity.com/teenstar. Meanwhile, here are excerpts.



Kale Hills

"I've always thought that when discussing the merit of the Harry Potter movies, one should view them as a separate entity from the books. Otherwise, you're bound to be disappointed.

"Unfortunately, the same is true of the latest film. What's even more unfortunate is that if Potter fans can't detach themselves from the book, then they'll be missing out on a great movie."



Jessie Chipchase

"Unexpected and a bit frustrating, 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix' is not an easily understandable ride for those who have not read the book. ...

"Why is this not surprising? 'The Order of the Phoenix' suffers from a new director and screenwriter who unwittingly jumble a promising movie into a pile of beautiful scenes and special effects. Maybe the rabid fans comprehended the slices, but this reviewer had to be told what the heck anything means."



As Harry Potter, Daniel Radcliffe dominates onscreen time in the new film.

FILM | She writes, directs and finds 'Harmony'

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CAREER

Northland teen wins scholarship to make a movie and pursue her passion.

By LAURA NELSON
TeenStar

It all started on an airplane, when Morgan Dameron scribbled an idea for a film on a paper napkin. It was a good idea, an interesting story about music and race.

But she didn't need the idea at the moment, so she filed the napkin in her book of ideas.

But when she heard about a moviemaking contest from Kansas City Women in Film, she needed an idea fast. She had less than two weeks to write and submit a 10-page screenplay, so she pulled out the napkin and wrote it up, adding dialogue and characterization.

Her rough screenplay slipped into the stack just under the deadline. And it won.

After reviewing her screenplay, Kansas City Women in Film granted Dameron a \$1,500 Trailblazer scholarship to turn her writing into a full-fledged movie.

It was exactly the experience she craved. Dameron, 18, a Pembroke Hill graduate from Kansas City, North, wants to become a director. So she treated her first production like a movie industry salad bar: She sampled a little of each craft — lighting, set design, filming, producing, directing, writing — to help her refine her career goals.

But what she valued most was working with professionals and their equipment.

"Directing my own movie was such a learning experience for

me," said Dameron, who won a full scholarship to the prestigious film school at the University of Southern California.

"When I make my own films, it's very different, because professionals, unlike me, are very specialized. This was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to explore areas to learn what I like most, to learn what skills I need to improve."

Dameron's finished product, a 17-minute film called "Finding Harmony," tells the story of Harry — Harmony, really — a young

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ALL FILM, ALL THE TIME

While at Pembroke Hill, Morgan Dameron created a film and photography club and launched the youth branch of the Independent Filmmakers Coalition in November. She also coordinated and judged TeenStar's 2006 film festival. Right now, she's working on a film festival at a drive-in theater.



@ To hear Morgan discuss her film and to see excerpts, go to kansascity.com/teenstar.

RUSS DAMERON
SPECIAL TO
TEENSTAR

MOVIE REVIEW

This time Harry Potter is out of order

'Phoenix' doesn't fly as high as other magical installments.

By MICHAEL SIMPSON
TeenStar

The magic of the first four Harry Potter movies is not completely missing from "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," but it's not completely there, either.

The first four, especially "Sorcerer's Stone" and "Chamber of Secrets," are worth four stars, with a sense of warmth filling Hogwarts and with the characters having a grand originality like no other films.

But director David Yates lost it on "Order of the Phoenix."

Harry senses that Lord Voldemort is returning and that he will do some serious damage if someone doesn't do something. As always, nobody believes him — until he

can prove himself all over again in the end. You would think the classmates and professors would have learned by now: Harry is always right.

Of all the non-believers who have scoffed at the threat, the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher doubts Harry most. This teacher changes the rules, manipulates people, punishes the students unnecessarily, fires old professors and makes sure everyone stays "eight inches away from one another." As Lord Voldemort inches more into Harry's mind, the people of Hogwarts worry. Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) team up again with Potter, but they're not equipped with dialogue nearly as witty as in the past films.

As the "Harry Potter" franchise is famous for doing, this film is darker than the ones before.

Darker is fine, but gritty shots and shaky camera movements won't do. Warner Bros. has spent \$655 million on the franchise, but for some reason the studio still bets on a director who doesn't deliver. To make a "Harry Potter" film as good as the book, the director needs to be as smart and committed as J.K. Rowling herself — he/she has to put a personal trademark on things and create something on film that is as satisfying for the moviegoers as it was for the readers.

Although this film isn't bad, it's definitely the weakest of the bunch. Warner Bros. already has hired Yates to direct the next one, but let's hope the studio allows Steven Spielberg to direct the last one. It'd be worth the money, even for a few more million.

Reach Michael Simpson, a graduate of Blue Valley, at teenstar@kcstar.com.

NEXT WEEK IN TEENSTAR: NOW THAT HARRY'S ALL BUT GONE, WHAT'S NEXT?