

Harry's world has just got a whole lot darker

Death Eaters, skulls and snakes greet visitors to a new Dark Arts corner, writes **Kat Brown**



"IT'S not your standard 12-seater, is it really?" says Pierre Bohanna, gesturing towards a giant table housing Death Eaters, a 20ft snake, and a transfixed Muggle Studies professor.

This is one of the highlights of the Warner Bros Studio Tour's new Dark Arts area, which opens next week.

Three years after the final film, and seven years after JK Rowling's final book, the dust has yet to settle on Harry Potter.

Millions are signed up to Rowling's virtual world, Pottermore, and a cryptic tweet from Rowling earlier this week sent fans mad about a possible book – disappointingly, it wasn't.

This is the first new permanent exhibit since the tour – The Making of Harry Potter – opened in March 2012, and you have to wonder how they made room. Fans make multiple visits to the colossal place, already stuffed with sets and screens.

"In a film like Harry Potter, you're having to make a lot," says Bohanna, who oversaw 10 years of wands, Horcruxes and broomsticks as Harry Potter's head prop-maker. "This stuff isn't something you find in John Lewis."

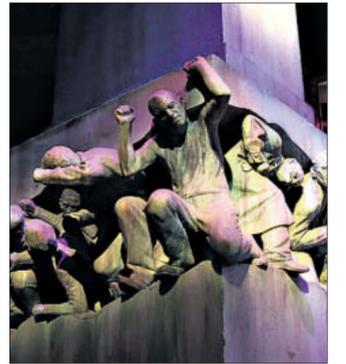
Set pieces such as the Gryffindor common room and the Great Hall are still impressive, but a look at the darker side is well overdue. Once you pass the warmth of the Weasley home set, the mood immediately changes.

The Malfoy Mansion's huge fireplace is lit up, with vast chandeliers casting shadows over a number of unpleasant additions. Suspended above the table is the film's model of Charity Burbage, the unlucky Hogwarts professor (uncannily, down to the ladders in the foot of her tights) while poised by the Death Eaters is Voldemort's snake, Nagini.

The Dark Arts exhibit, like the wider tour, is a show of imagination, creativity and talent. The Horcruxes, items where Voldemort stored parts of his soul, are



Death Eaters seated around the table at the Malfoy Mansion, with a Hogwarts professor suspended above; Voldemort's statue in the Ministry of Magic; Umbridge's pink Xs on her enemies; the snake Nagini



displayed in a securely locked cabinet. There is the basilisk fang used to destroy Tom Riddle's notebook – but this is a rubberised version designed not to hurt if you accidentally stab yourself with it. Delicate copper work and etching was used to form the Death Eater masks, which were moulded to each actor's face,

"using processes that the Greenwich armoury would use", says Bohanna.

There is further beautiful metal work on the vanishing cabinet where the Death Eaters enter Hogwarts.

You could spend hours inspecting the detail in each product and probably should – one Canadian couple spent 10

hours doing the tour. Borgin and Burkes, a deeply suspect antiques shop piled high with skulls in Knockturn Alley, is a new addition – spot the sarcophagus where Harry hid in a deleted scene and Malfoy's Hand of Glory. A taxidermist brought in a real shrunken head for the team to study when making theirs;

thankfully the film heads are made of sponge.

Professor Umbridge's creepy pink office now backs onto Borgin and Burkes. Look closer, and you can see the pink Xs scratched through her enemy's pictures.

Not just a theme park for Potter fans, the tour will also appeal to cinephiles as

a monument to the quality of filmmaking in Britain, says Bohanna.

Warner Bros Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter, opens the Dark Arts feature on Tuesday, with two weeks of extra Dark Arts activities included Oct 17 – Nov 3. Details: wbstudiotour.co.uk

The Clooneys settle on their marital home: a nine-bedroom house near Reading

By Patrick Sawyer

WHEN word spread through the Berkshire village of Sonning that someone had bought one of the finest homes in the area, a £10million Grade II-listed manor house on the Thames, there was a certain amount of anticipation as to the identity of the new multi-millionaire owner. But not in their wildest dreams did

residents of the small community near Reading expect the buyer to be a certain George Clooney.

"It was the vicar of our local church who told me," said Trishaws Redrup, 78, a retired designer. "But to be honest I couldn't quite believe it. Why Sonning?"

After marrying in Venice last month, Clooney and his new wife, the London-based human rights lawyer Amal Ala-

muddin, appear to have chosen a nine-bedroom house on a four-acre Thames island just outside Sonning for their marital home. The property has its own library, gym, spa and steam room, plus a cellar, boathouse and a separate cottage for guests or staff. Surrounded by dense trees and expansive gardens, it offers the seclusion required of an A-list couple. Clooney is understood to have been

drawn to the area after visiting the nearby Oxfordshire village of Fingest to shoot scenes for his film *The Monuments Men*.

Near-neighbours will include Uri Geller, the illusionist, and Theresa May, the Home Secretary.

Clooney and his wife were reportedly spotted in the village pub, The Bull Inn, on Saturday night, apparently after viewing their new home. One villager, Sarah

Hele, 40, said: "We are a small, friendly community where people get involved. It's a great place. We have the village show every year and the Scarecrow hunt every two years. The village rounders match is also great fun and the school children do a lovely nativity play in the local church."

● Sir John Boardman, an Oxford historian, said yesterday that returning the

Elgin Marbles to Greece would set an "appalling precedent", resulting in museums worldwide having to give up artefacts. It emerged on Wednesday that the Greek government had enlisted the help of Amal Alamuddin and Geoffrey Robertson QC, two of Britain's most prominent human rights barristers, to provide advice on securing the return of the marbles from the British Museum.

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