

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS

Title: The Colour of Magic



1 Disc
Library Image



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Information

Release Title: **The Colour of Magic** 23rd March 2008 (United Kingdom)

Origin: United Kingdom

Release Date: United States: 30th January, 2009 (theatrical Release, ltd)

Genres: Parody, Adventure, Comedy, Fantasy

AKA: Also known as: Terry Pratchett's The Colour of Magic

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: 15

Duration: 3h 11m - 2h 17m(137 min) (theatrical) (United States)

Region Code: PG

Product Code:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Snowdonia, Gwynedd, Wales, UK

Sound mix: Stereo

Colour: Colour – Black & White

Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1

Camera: Arriflex D-21, Cooke S4, Zeiss Lightweight and Angenieux Optimo Lenses

Terry Pratchett's The Colour of Magic



Title Card

Genre	Fantasy comedy
Created by	Terry Pratchett
Based on	<i>The Colour of Magic</i> <i>The Light Fantastic</i> by Terry Pratchett
Written by	Vadim Jean
Directed by	Vadim Jean
Starring	David Jason Sean Astin Tim Curry
Voices of	Christopher Lee
Narrated by	Brian Cox
Theme music composer	Paul Francis David Hughes
Country of origin	United Kingdom
No. of episodes	2

Production

Producers	Rod Brown, Ian Sharples
Running time	189 min.

Original release

Network	Sky1
Release	23 March – 24 March 2008

Related

Terry Pratchett's Hogfather
Terry Pratchett's Going Postal



Storyline:– The Colour of Magic

The plot of the adaptation largely follows the first two Discworld novels, *The Colour of Magic* and *The Light Fantastic*. The story follows the misadventures of Rincewind, a wizard who is expelled from Unseen University after spending 40 years failing to learn even the most basic magic. In fact, Rincewind's head holds one of the eight spells from the Octavo, the most powerful spellbook in the Discworld, and he has been unable to learn others because "they were afraid to be in the same head" as the Octavo spell. Rincewind is forced by the Patrician of Ankh-Morpork to act as a local guide for Twoflower, a property insurance salesman and the Discworld's first tourist, who is visiting Ankh-Morpork, and Twoflower's luggage, which is made from Sapient Pearwood and can run on its own legs.

After a misunderstanding over an insurance policy causes the owner of the inn where Twoflower and Rincewind are staying to commit arson, the pair flee the city. They proceed across the disc, encountering a variety of mythical creatures, most of which lead to near-death experiences for Rincewind. Fortunately for Rincewind, the Octavo spell in his head precludes him from actually dying, resulting in several comic encounters with Death. Meanwhile, a significant power struggle is occurring within the Unseen University. Narrator Brian Cox explains that "in the competitive world of wizardry, the way to the top is via dead men's pointy shoes... even if you have to empty them yourself". The power-hungry wizard Ymper Trymon (Tim Curry) plans to become Archchancellor. Trymon assassinates several faculty members but is thwarted by the incumbent Archchancellor, Galder Weatherwax, and his superior magical knowledge of the Octavo. Trymon knows there is no point in deposing the Archchancellor until he learns how to control the Octavo, which is growing increasingly restless as Rincewind (and the spell in his head) moves further away from Ankh-Morpork and into greater danger.

Rincewind and Twoflower are eventually washed rimwards to the kingdom of Krull, which lies on the very rim of the disc, where they are taken prisoner. The astronomers and "astrozoologists" of Krull have for many years attempted to determine the sex of Great A'Tuin, and are on the verge of launching a space vehicle to carry a pair of "chelonauts" on a new mission over the rim of the disc. Unaware of this, Rincewind and Twoflower take the place of the two chelonauts and 'escape' to the spacecraft, which they accidentally launch, catapulting them off the rim. The prospect of losing the eighth spell in this fashion prompts the Octavo to act, causing A'Tuin to perform a barrel roll to recapture Rincewind, landing the pair near the centre of the disc. Watching the Octavo's restlessness, the Archchancellor reveals his intention to use the Rite of AshkEnte to ask Death about the Octavo and also about a large red star that has recently appeared in the sky. Now knowing all he needs, Trymon throws Weatherwax from the Tower of Art and becomes Archchancellor in his place.

The red star grows steadily larger, and the worried people of Ankh-Morpork mob the Unseen University because the wizards appear unable to save the disc from it. Trymon learns from Death that all eight spells of the Octavo must be said together at the solstice to save the disc from destruction and that Great A'Tuin is flying towards the red star for a purpose that Death says is " NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.[1]" Trymon dispatches a group of mercenaries, led by Herrena, to capture Rincewind and retrieve the eighth spell, along with a force of wizards. Meanwhile, Rincewind and Twoflower encounter Cohen the Barbarian (87 years old and retired), and Twoflower rescues Bethan, a human sacrifice in a druid ritual. A battle between the wizards and Rincewind leaves Twoflower in a coma; Rincewind rescues him from Death's door, and Cohen in turn rescues Rincewind and Twoflower from Herrena and the mercenaries.

The four take a ferry to Ankh-Morpork, where the populace is rioting because the star is now larger than the disc's own sun. Trymon assembles the senior wizards of the University, and orders them to unchain the Octavo. When they release the spellbook, Trymon steals it and locks the wizards in its chamber. Rincewind releases them and they follow Trymon to the top of the Tower of Art, afraid that he will attempt to say the spells and that they will destroy his mind (and the rest of the world). Trymon, however, says the first seven spells successfully and gains near-ultimate power, and turns the wizards to stone. Rincewind fights Trymon, who is eventually killed, returning the spells to the Octavo. Rincewind expunges the eighth spell from his head, completing the set, and reads the entire spellbook.

The red star is finally revealed as a world-turtle breeding ground: the Octavo spells prompt several eggs orbiting the star to hatch into juvenile discworlds, which follow Great A'Tuin as it returns to deep space. The narrator

ties up a few loose ends: the Octavo is eaten by the Luggage, which Two Flower donates to Rincewind. Rincewind, now able to learn new spells with the departure of the 8th spell from his head, re-enrolls at Unseen University. Cohen and Bethan decide to get married (despite the 60-year age difference), with Cohen celebrating by commissioning some Din Chewers, made from troll's teeth (pure diamond). Two Flower presents them with a dozen gold coins as a wedding gift. Although Two Flower, who comes from the Counterweight Continent where gold is extremely common, considers this a small sum Rincewind comments that in Ankh-Morpork a dozen gold coins is enough to buy a small kingdom. Two Flower returns home on a ship and Rincewind returns to the Unseen University with the Luggage happily following.

Differences from original texts

Although the film generally remains true to the original novels, several scenes and characters were removed or merged with others to bring the script to a reasonable length. Noting that "there wasn't time for everything", the producers cut completely the scene in the Temple of Bel-Shamharoth and the associated plotline about the significance of the number eight; Director Vadim Jean defended the decision, saying "we could have gone there, but we went to the Wyrnberg instead. There [were] time constraints and we could have gone one way or the other, so we went the whole hog on just one." The scenes in the Wyrnberg were themselves shortened and simplified, reducing the character of Li'ort to a cameo and losing the characters of K!sdra, Greicha and Hrun completely.

The inter-wizard rivalry at Unseen University, by contrast, was expanded and spread out throughout the film, while in the novels the sequences are short and mainly found in *The Light Fantastic*. This established Trymon as a more easily recognisable antagonist.

To avoid the necessity of explaining the *deus ex machina* in detail, the Octavo in the film simply causes A'Tuin to roll to recapture Rincewind, whereas in the novel, a complicated "change spell" returns him to the disc. The creatures from the *Dungeon Dimensions* which invade reality at the end of *The Light Fantastic*, and Rincewind's fight in the *Dungeon Dimensions* themselves, are completely omitted, and Trymon is simply driven mad by reading the Octavo spells at the end of the film version. Galder Weatherwax is also killed by Trymon in the film version, whereas, in the books, he is killed by accidentally summoning the Luggage instead of Rincewind.

In the book, Rincewind never attempted suicide, whereas in the film version, he tries to take his own life by jumping into the river Ankh. His circumstances of spotting the Luggage are additionally different: in the book he spots it while sitting in the Broken Drum, while in the film he spots it while being carried up from the River Ankh on an empty pallet.

In the book, Two Flower was toothless and wore dentures. In the film, Two Flower's teeth were his own ^{wiki}

In late-'80s Britain, Porterhouse College Cambridge is an anachronism, its students uniformly male and (in the vast number of cases) privately educated. When the incumbent Master dies (from a stroke brought on by overeating) the government revenges itself on Porterhouse by appointing as his successor an old graduate, the politician Sir Godber Evans. One of the tiny minorities of state-school students the college has had forced on it over the years, Evans returns to his alma mater determined to drag this bastion of privilege into the twentieth century. The elderly academic staff cease their bickering and close ranks against him, but the new Master finds his most implacable and unscrupulous opponent in Skullion, the college porter. - Peter Brynmor Roberts ^{IMDb}

Main Cast

Principal cast

David Jason as Rincewind, a failed wizard and the main protagonist.

Sean Astin as Twoflower, the Discworld's first tourist.

Tim Curry as Trymon, the power-hungry senior wizard at the Unseen University and the main antagonist.

Brian Cox as the Narrator

Christopher Lee as DEATH (Voice)

Marnix van den Broeke as DEATH (Physical on-set)

Jeremy Irons as Lord Vetinari, the Patrician of Ankh-Morpork.

David Bradley as Cohen the Barbarian, the most famous barbarian in the Discworld, now 'retired'.

Laura Haddock as Bethan, a druid sacrifice, who falls in love with Cohen.

James Cosmo as Galder Weatherwax, the incumbent Archchancellor of the Unseen University.
Nicholas Tennant as Head Librarian of the Unseen University, who is turned into an orangutan during the events of the film.
Karen David as Liessa, a dragonlady from the Wyrnberg.
Liz May Brice as Herrena, a mercenary who is employed to capture Rincewind.
Nigel Planer as the Arch-Astronomer of Krull.
Richard Da Costa as The Luggage.
Roger Ashton-Griffiths as Lumuel Panter.
Miles Richardson as Zlorf, the leader of the Ankh-Morpork Assassins' Guild.
James Perry as Kring, the enchanted sword.
Stephen Marcus as Broadman, the bartender at the Broken Drum.
Terry Pratchett appears in a cameo role, playing Astrozoologist #2 in the opening and closing scenes of the film.
Richard Woolfe, the director of programming at Sky One, also appears as the Alchemist.

Casting

David Jason was the first actor to be cast for the production, as it had always been his desire to play Rincewind in a film adaptation of *The Colour of Magic*. Jason had mentioned in an interview some fifteen years previously that, of all the parts available, the character of Rincewind was the one he coveted the most. Jason describes the wizard as "just such an amusing, endearing character... I always kept this idea in my head that one day I [would] play Rincewind". Jason's appointment to the role, announced in April 2007, drew mixed reactions, with comments ranging from "terrible choice" to "brilliant". A common criticism was that Jason, at 68, was too old to play a character who is, according to the books, middle-aged.

From the day Jason was cast, rumours began to fly that a major American actor would be cast alongside him to bolster the film's international appeal. On 31 July 2007 it was revealed that Sean Astin, world-famous for his part in the *Lord of the Rings* film trilogy, had been signed for the role. Before filming started, Sean had to ask his agent just who "Dave Jason" was and left the video store with two large bags of David Jason's back catalogue to watch. The casting of Tim Curry as Trymon and Christopher Lee as the voice of Death was revealed at the same time. The choice of Astin as Twoflower was criticised by some fans, who had anticipated that the tourist would be Asian. Pratchett responded to this criticism in an open letter, where he noted that he had only described Twoflower as "exotically foreign" until *Interesting Times*. The choice of Lee to replace Ian Richardson, who had voiced Death in *Hogfather*, was more widely accepted; Lee had previously voiced the part in the animated adaptations of *Soul Music* and *Wyrd Sisters*.

The part of the Patrician of Ankh-Morpork, Havelock Vetinari, was not revealed until the premiere of *The Colour of Magic*, where Jeremy Irons, billed as a "guest star", was revealed to have played the role. A small number of Pratchett fans were invited to participate as extras in the mob scenes towards the end of the film, and the bar fight in the *Mended Drum*.

Several members of the cast previously had roles in Sky One's previous adaptation of Pratchett's novel *Hogfather*, including David Jason as Albert, Nigel Planer as Mr. Sideney, and Stephen Marcus as Banjo and Nicolas Tennant, who previously had played Corporal 'Nobby' Nobbs. Pratchett himself had also made a cameo in *Hogfather* as The Toymaker. Nigel Planer had also previously contributed his voice to *Discworld* audiobooks, as well as the computer games *Discworld II: Missing Presumed...!?* and *Discworld Noir*.

Parents Guide

Certification

United Kingdom 15..... currently not rated on scale

Sex & Nudity –None **Violence & Gore** –Mild, **Profanity** – Mild, **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Mild,
Frightening & Intense Scenes – None

Australia PG, **France** 10 self-applied, **Norway** 9 recommended rating., **Poland** 12, **Singapore** PG, **United Kingdom** PG
DVD, **United States** – Not Rated



