

SUN **SHOWBIZ**

Now at jam/canoe.ca ...

CBC's Battle of the Blades is down to four pairs. See how they fared last night in Lindsey Ward's recap.

Goodbye to Harry

LONDON — Retiring Harry Potter left Daniel Radcliffe “devastated,” admits the 21-year-old star.

“I was crying for two hours ... It was very sad. At that particular moment in time, you feel pretty desolate, I suppose, is the word. And I was quite inconsolable.”

Those moments occurred this past summer as Radcliffe shot his final scenes as the teenage wizard in the two-part *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the first half of which opens Friday.

Radcliffe's attachment to his Quidditch-playing alter-ego is understandable. For the past decade, the franchise based on J.K. Rowling's literary phenomenon has shaped his career and life. Conversely, his performance has defined how millions of fans envision Rowling's creation.

Nor is Radcliffe the only Potter actor adapting to life as a mere muggle.

Twenty-year-old Emma Watson, who's studying at Brown University in Rhode Island, acknowledges she's still coping with the void left behind.

“I go through periods where it feels fine and I'm in school so I'm busy, and there are days where I feel really lost,” she says. “I had people telling me where I needed to be, what they wanted me to do. My whole life was on a schedule, on a call sheet every day ... It was always going to be an adjustment.”



KEVIN WILLIAMSON
Movies

After all, since 2001's *The Philosopher's Stone*, production at the Potter factory has been nonstop. And even when not at Hogwarts, the actors have remained in Potter's orbit and in the media spotlight. How — or if — that will change now is uncertain. But for the time being, Radcliffe, Watson and the other Potter participants have a reprieve of sorts — namely, several more months of press and promotion.

First up: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I*, which continues the franchise's deepening drumbeat towards war and death, with Harry hunted by Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) and determined to find a means to defeat the dark lord. That quest eventually takes him — as well as Hermione (Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint) — to forsaken wastelands far removed from the relative safety of Hogwarts. Similarly, Radcliffe, Watson and Grint are called upon to carry most of the movie on their own without the support of such veterans as Alan Rickman and Robbie Coltrane. Back in the director's chair is David Yates, who helmed *The Order of the Phoenix* and *The Half-Blood*

Prince and will conclude the saga with July's *The Deathly Hallows Part II*.

Radcliffe says all involved recognized the pressure to measure up to or surpass the previous episodes.

“We were all conscious that this was the last one and as a consequence of that, we don't want to get anything wrong,” he says. “There's a lot of chaos on film sets and on Potter, on the seventh film, things were being rewritten constantly. Scenes would be cut, then reinstated, then rewritten massively, so you never knew what you were doing from one day to the next.”

And while his wand may be mothballed, Radcliffe isn't taking a break. Ahead of a stint on Broadway in 2011, he's currently in the midst of his next film, the supernatural thriller *The Woman in Black*, about a lawyer sent to a small English town where he encounters a mysterious ghostly presence. He read the script, he explains, on that aforementioned — and emotional — climatic day of shooting on Potter.

“I realized, ‘Hold on, I'm on Broadway next year and I'm definitely doing another film before the end of the year — it's not that bad.’ Ten years is a long time with one character. It's just a pleasure to go out on a high note, which I feel we will do. I felt very lucky to have spent so long with this character.”

kevin.williamson@sunmedia.ca

Radcliffe his own worst critic

LONDON — Daniel Radcliffe was hardly spellbound by his own work in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

“When I saw the sixth film, I was so unhappy with my performance in it,” he says candidly. “That knocked me back a bit. I saw it and was so bored by my own performance.

There was no variety and nothing interesting about it in otherwise a good film. When it came to (*The Deathly Hallows*), that was the kick in the butt I needed to spur me on.

“That was the biggest challenge — to get over how unhappy I was with the sixth. There's two ways to react to

a situation like that. You can become so fixated on what you didn't like that you go right into a shell. The other way to do it, is come out kicking. That's what I tried to do — just give a more varied, interesting performance as Harry.”

— Kevin Williamson

Daniel Radcliffe plays Harry Potter for the last time in *The Deathly Hallows, Parts I and II*. Part I comes out Friday with Part II debuting next summer.