**Source:** [**http://www.msmarmitelover.com/2009/10/generic-wizard-night.html**](http://www.msmarmitelover.com/2009/10/generic-wizard-night.html)

**Friday, 23 October 2009**

**Generic Wizard night**



I was just about to post up the menu for my Harry Potter nights at The Underground Restaurant which will take place, appropriately, on Halloween when I received the following letter from Warner brothers.

Dear Ms Marmite Lover,
I have been asked to write to you by Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. and Warner Bros. Entertainment UK(together, "Warner").
We notice that you're planning to hold a "*Harry Potter Night at the Underground Restaurant*" on 30th - 31st October 2009 with a Harry Potter style menu and butterbeer (the "Harry Potter Nights") and that tickets are being sold for the Harry Potter Nights on<http://www.wegottickets.com/location/2522>. While we are delighted that you are such a fan of the Harry Potter series, unfortunatelyyour proposed use of the Harry Potter Properties (as we explain below) without our consent would amount to an infringement ofWarner's rights.
As you may know, Warner owns the trade mark and owns and/or controls the copyrights in and to the Harry Potter series of films based on J.K. Rowling's internationally acclaimed children's novels. Warner also owns the associated merchandising rights and has licensed to others the right to use various aspects of the Harry Potter property including the Harry Potter name, stylised logo, the names of the characters, themes, incidents and other associated indicia from the series of Harry Potter books and films (collectively, the "Harry Potter Properties") in respect of a wide variety of goods and services. In view of Warner’s ownership of these rights, no one may copy, license, exhibit, reproduce or otherwise trade on the Harry Potter Properties without the prior authorization and consent of Warner.
We would therefore ask that you refrain from holding and/or offering for sale any tickets to the Harry Potter Nights and confirm to me by return email that the Harry Potter Nights will not go ahead as planned. Warner does not, of course, object to you holding a generic wizard/Halloween night at the Underground Restaurant.
As I am sure you can appreciate, this email is not a complete statement of Warner's rights, all of which are expressly reserved.
I look forward to hearing from you and please do feel free to call should you have any questions.
Kind regards,
Legal and Business Affairs - Europe
Warner Bros. Entertainment Europe
Warner House
98 Theobald's Road, London, WC1X 8WB

I've written back, saying that I've changed the title of the event to Generic Wizard night. But I added that J.K. Rowling herself, having at one time been a struggling single parent, and having donated to the National Council of One Parent Families, would probably approve of a single mother being entrepeneurial and creative.

Myself, my daughter (an HP obsessive) and food writer Catherine Phipps (qualification: used to moderate a HP forum) have been researching and developing the menu based, as accurately as possible, on food described in the books.The evening, as it stood, consisted of:

Journey through Diagon Alley...Give the password to the Fat Lady...

On Saturday night Professor Trelawney will be reading fortunes in the shrieking shed at the bottom of the garden, cross her palm with silver...

Sorting Hat to determine which house table you will sit at:

Butterbeer....

Dumbledore's favourite sweets, lemon sherbets and mint humbugs will be scattered on the tables.

To start we will have pumpkin soup accompanied by Witches hat pumpkin pasties.

It was difficult to think of main dishes that are not meat based for Harry Potter characters seem to be mostly carnivore. The only fish mentioned are pickled eels. They do eat Shepherd's pie and therefore I thought that Fish pie would be the most likely fishy equivalent. Also it contains mashed potatoes, which, along with roast potatoes, is always on the table at meals.

The main keynote is **abundance**; they can eat whatever they want, pluck it out of thin air.

Harry Potter characters do not eat complex exotic food. The dishes are recognisably English for the most part except a fish bouillabaise which the French ate during the international Quidditch tournament.

Minted peas and roast potatoes will accompany the fish pie.

For dessert...

Fizzpop chocolate frogs, cauldron cakes

Many Potter foods are magical, transformative. How can I reproduce that? I thought of the miracle berry, a fruit from Africa that transforms sour foods into sweet foods.

I will serve miraculin powder, an extract from the miracle berry. Guests will pour the contents of the sachets into the mouth, savouring the taste.

Accompanied by a tiny sugarless tarte au citron which will taste miraculously sweet.

**Drinks** available:

Goblet of fire: Schnapps with spun sugar balls £5 a glass

Butterbeer £4 a glass

Pumpkin juice £3 a glass

Dandelion wine £4 a glass

Price: £25, £20 for unemployed

Tips will be appreciated, but more than a quidditch please...