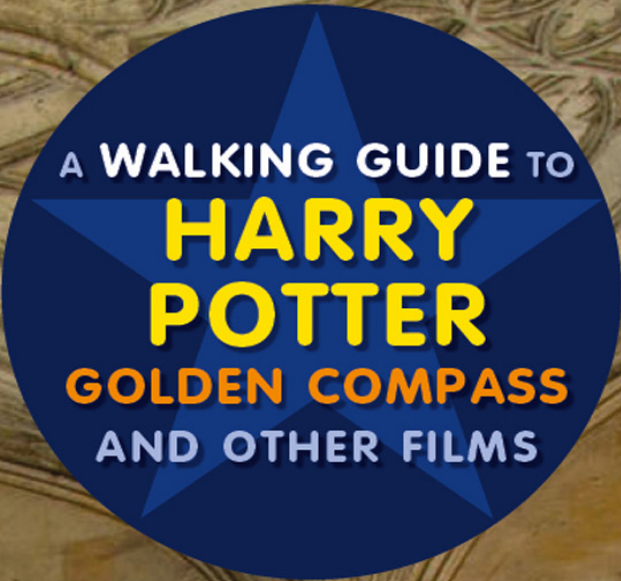
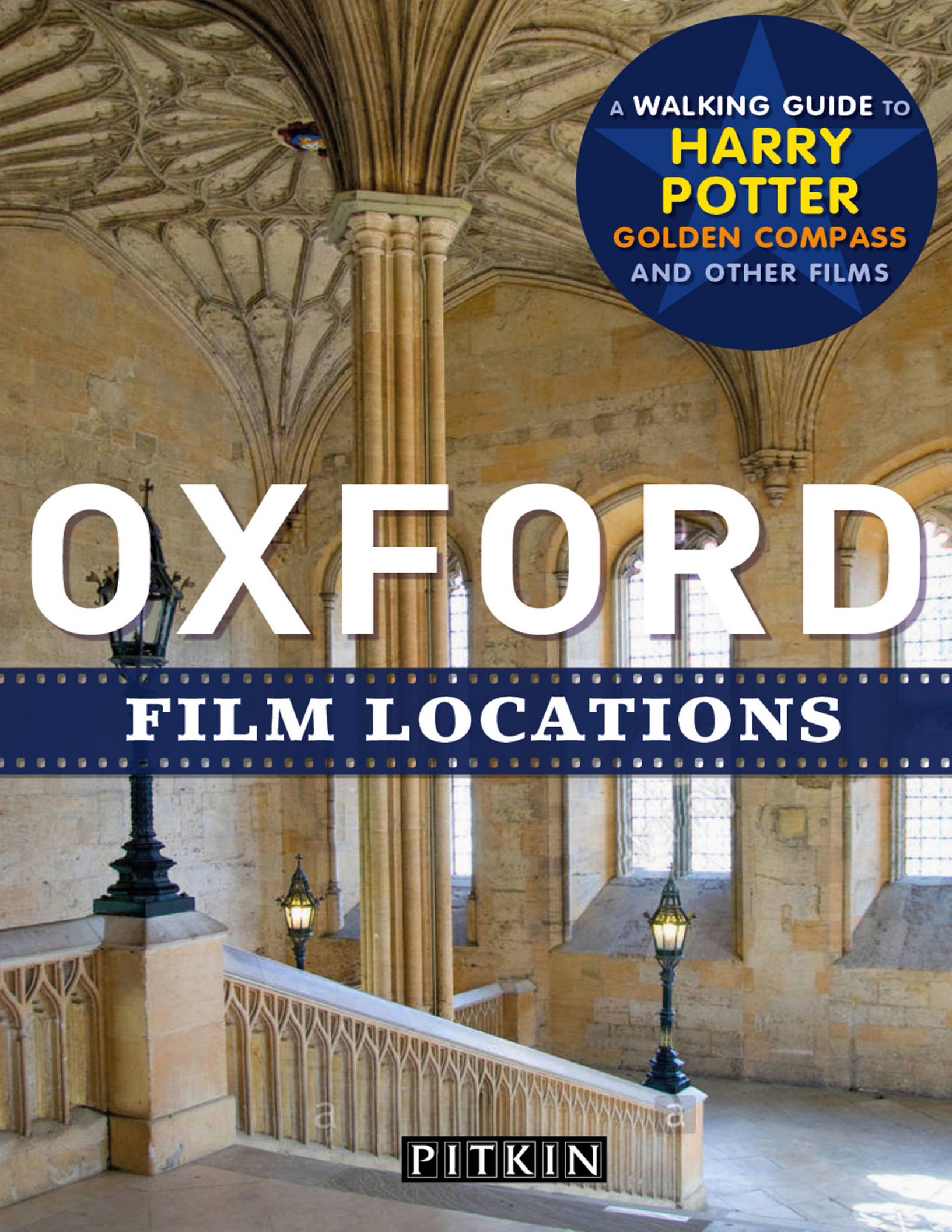




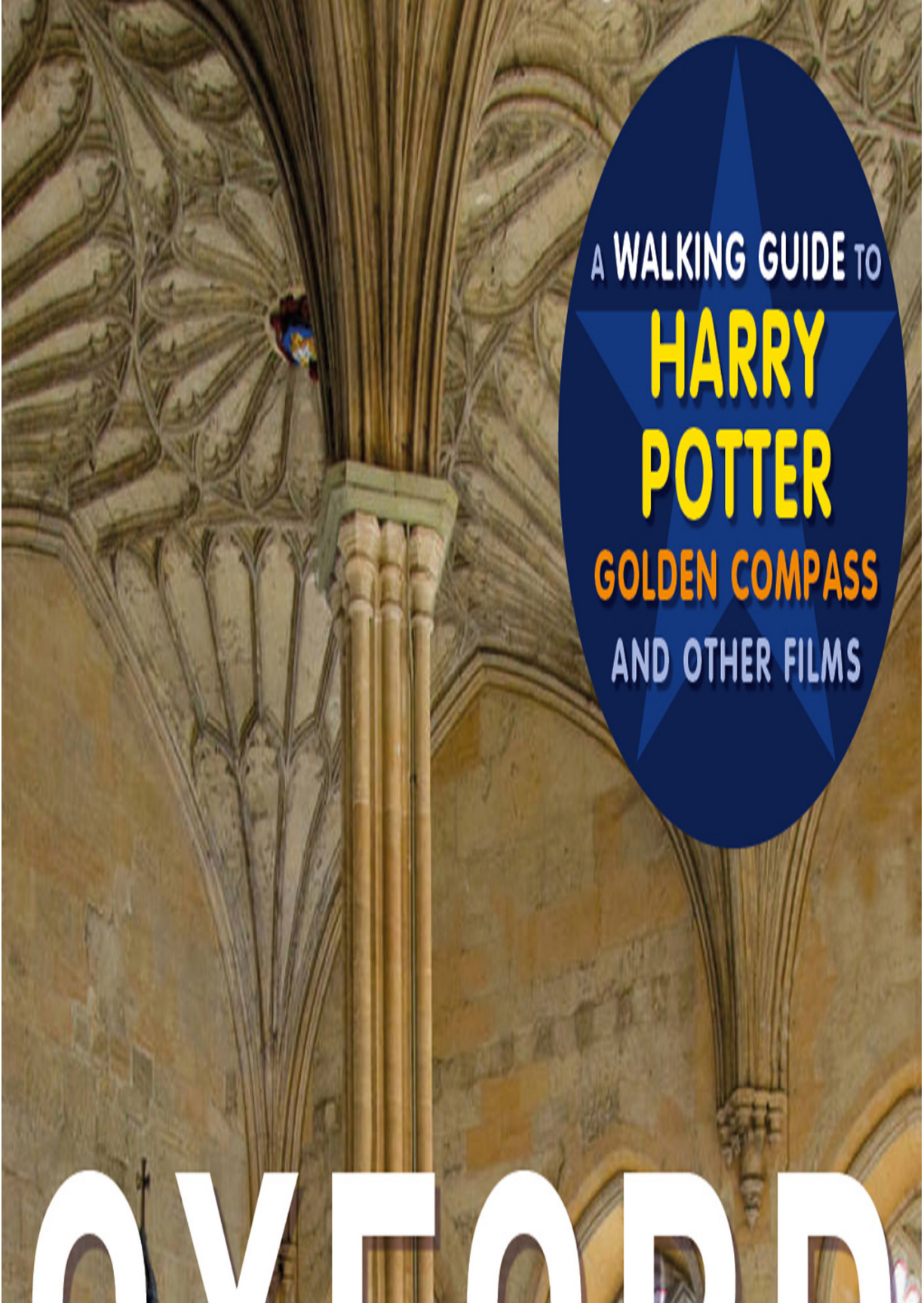
A WALKING GUIDE TO
**HARRY
POTTER**
GOLDEN COMPASS
AND OTHER FILMS

OXFORD

FILM LOCATIONS



PITKIN



A WALKING GUIDE TO

HARRY POTTER

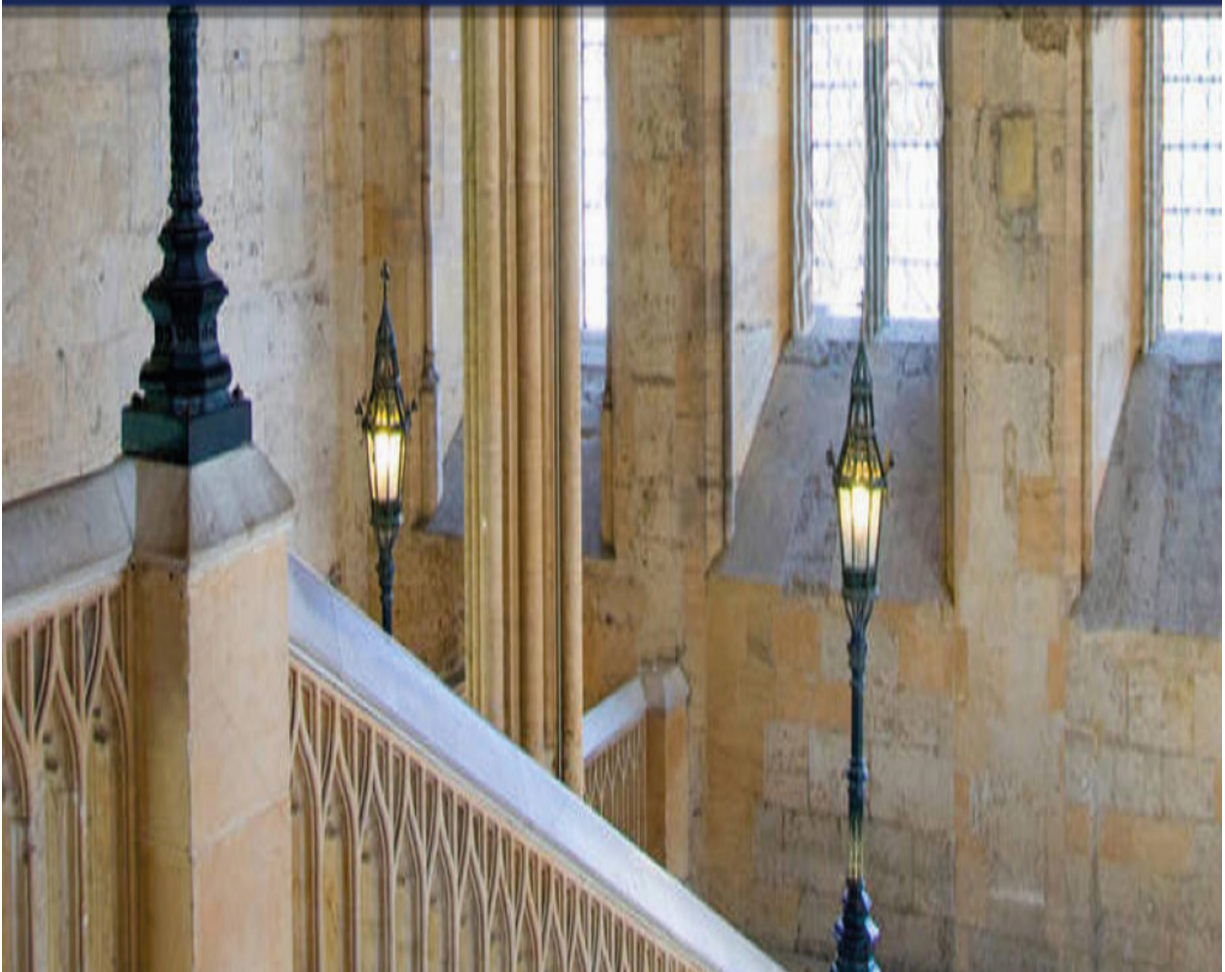
GOLDEN COMPASS

AND OTHER FILMS

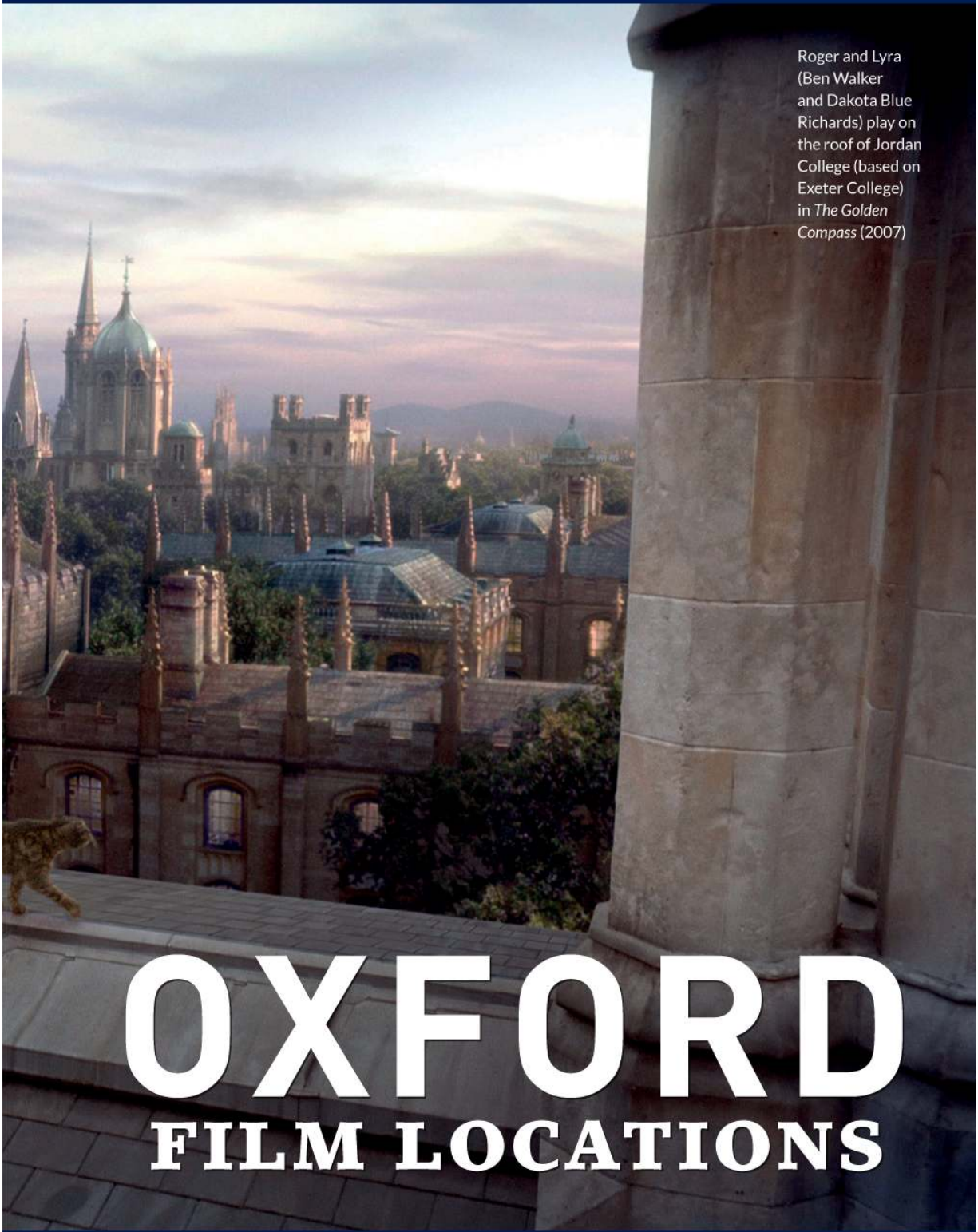
OVERLODD

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FILM LOCATIONS







Roger and Lyra
(Ben Walker
and Dakota Blue
Richards) play on
the roof of Jordan
College (based on
Exeter College)
in *The Golden
Compass* (2007)

OXFORD

FILM LOCATIONS

Setting the Scene

'a city ... steeped in storytelling ... a place where the past and the present jostle each other on the pavement'

The camera pans over domes and spires, cobbled squares and neo-classical pediments... From Harold Pinter's *Accident* (1967) to Harry Potter's Hogwarts, Oxford's ancient and beautiful buildings have appeared in dozens of movies and TV series in the last half-century or so. This guidebook takes you to the city's best-loved sights, whether it's Lyra's college playgrounds, the cloisters where Harry Potter learns about Quidditch, or a lamppost straight out of C.S. Lewis's Narnia.

In recent years, the cast of *Mamma Mia!* have cycled over Oxford cobbles for an irrepressible sequel *Here We Go Again* (2018) and the glowing stained glass of Exeter chapel formed a backdrop for evil sorcery in *Doctor Strange* (2016).

Supercars screeched down ancient Holywell Street in *Transformers: The Last Knight* (2017) while, down the road, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz starred in *The Favourite* (2018) as rivals for the attention of Queen Anne (Olivia Colman).

Oxford colleges, libraries, chapels and museums have not only been locations for films, they also inspired the original stories – from *Shadowlands*, the story of C.S. Lewis, filmed in the author's college, Magdalen, to *The Golden Compass*, Philip Pullman's Oxford-based fantasy, where Exeter becomes fictional Jordan College. Pullman has called Oxford 'a city ... steeped in storytelling, ... a place where the past and the present jostle each other on the pavement'. Perhaps it is this that makes it such a magnet for filmmakers.

The walks in this book take in some of the city's most delightful and interesting corners and venture out into the nearby countryside, to pubs and palaces, farms and forests. You can, of course, enjoy them without seeing the films. But fans of *Inspector Morse* or *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings* or *Downton Abbey* will find these landscapes full of familiar sights and inspirational places.



A familiar view across the Oxford skyline with its towers and distant hills

Oxford Inspiration

Stories just seem to pour out of Oxford. The walks in this book explore some of the inspirations and locations associated with Oxford's most famous writers, such as Lewis Carroll and Philip Pullman. C.S. Lewis, who wrote the Narnia books, and J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*, met over tea in 1926 and grew to be friends, discussing their ideas in a group known as the Inklings, which often met in the Eagle and Child pub.

In the film *Shadowlands* (1993), about the life of C.S. Lewis, Anthony Hopkins played the author, and Debra Winger was his wife, Joy. In *The Golden Compass* (2007), the film of Philip Pullman's novel, Lyra grows up in 'Jordan' College, a fictional institution based on the author's old college, Exeter. Pullman's works are some of the more recent additions to the venerable tradition of stories set and filmed in Oxford, from *Brideshead Revisited* to *Morse* and beyond. A novel by Nicholas Mosley inspired Harold Pinter's portentous screenplay for *Accident* (1967); it centres on a pipe-smoking, married Oxford don (Dirk Bogarde) in love with his aristocratic Austrian student.

In 1981, the celebrated TV mini-series of *Brideshead Revisited*, based on the novel by Evelyn Waugh, was filmed partly in Hertford, Waugh's old college – even using his old

room. Charles Ryder (Jeremy Irons) is supposed to be studying here, while Sebastian Flyte (Anthony Andrews) is at Christ Church. In the 2008 film, Lincoln represents both colleges, while – in both the film and TV series – the Brideshead estate itself is represented by Castle Howard in Yorkshire.



Robert Taylor and Maureen O'Sullivan on a film poster for *A Yank at Oxford* (1938), remade on location as *Oxford Blues* (1984)