

The secret to the success of “The Batman” is no riddle



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Batman is a comic book and pop culture staple, dating all

would become the best Batman film of all time.

From that teaser’s opening scene to release day on March 4, 2022, hype has been brewing. DC fans have been eagerly waiting to see what Matt Reeves and Robert Pattinson do with comics’ most famous character. Taking heavy

Batman throughout Gotham, revealing corruption and mistrust in the legal system, which all too well can be reflected in the real world. The film also takes every chance it can to build the world around Batman, introducing future characters, teasing plot lines, and setting up what will likely be a whole universe of films.

Reeves does all this while still staying in line with the plot, and never skipping a beat with his pacing.

“The Batman,” while building this world of Gotham, features the

Batman is so known for. He is not only horrifyingly brutal and menacing, just like the comic, but he is by far the smartest Batman we’ve seen. The film establishes Pattinson as a detective genius, which just like the comics, is one of the most vital aspects of the character, which has been forgotten in most iterations.

Donning the most realistic Batsuit seen in live action, looking imperfect and homemade, Batman looks just like one would expect from a solo vigilante in his second year of fighting crime. He isn’t the perfect Batman yet,

Wayne. The true identity of Batman, and Gotham’s biggest playboy, Bruce Wayne, has always been portrayed as a joyous and elitist socialite, almost opposite to the vigilante. However, Reeves designed Pattinson’s Wayne to be a brooding, reclusive loner, which, despite criticism, is the most realistic this character has been written.

Bruce Wayne as a character has always been emotionally unavailable and reclusive, but puts on a façade to blend in with the social elite. This

the way back to the 60’s with Adam West, to the rejuvenation with Michael Keaton, and perfection by Christian Bale. With so many iterations, a young kid in the 2000s had no choice but to become a fan.

This was me, particularly with the animated ‘Justice League,’ my favorite interpretation of Batman. Every time a new Batman takes up the mantle, I feel the nostalgia of a young me watching his favorite superhero.

“The Batman” was revealed all the way back in August of 2020, when director Matt Reeves displayed the teaser trailer, giving audiences the first glimpse of what

inspiration from critically acclaimed comics like “Batman: Year One” and “Batman: The Long Halloween,” Reeves crafts a detective-based storyline that follows a relatively new Batman in his second year of crime fighting, accompanied by Lieutenant Jim Gordon (Jeffrey Wright). The two must hunt down the elusive serial killer plaguing Gotham called the Riddler (Paul Dano).

The mission takes

single best live-action adaptation of the hero fans have ever seen. Pattinson’s towering figure, growling voice, and overall presence on screen feels straight from the pages of the comic book. Even the poster’s silhouette strikes the fear of the unknown that

and that’s reflected so well throughout the film, and allows for so much potential character growth in upcoming sequels.

On the other side of the cowl, director Matt Reeves made an interesting and concerning decision when writing and designing his Bruce

young, inexperienced version of the character would have no way of knowing how to do this. This off-comic choice shows how committed Reeves was to making this a real, grounded Batman story, and it’s apparent at how well he succeeded.

Opposite to Bruce Wayne and Batman was Selina Kyle, the Catwoman (Zoe Kravitz) is one of the largest highlights in this film. Her presence is uplifting on stage, and like Pattinson, gives the best performance of the character to ever hit the big screen. Kravitz and Pattinson have genuine chemistry on screen, and their character's attraction to each other is tangible when together. Their teamwork is second only to that of Batman and Gordon.

Jim Gordon is a staple in every Batman story, often playing a side character role, but Reeves made the Lieutenant a major staple in this film, acting as the good cop in a twisted buddy cop adventure. Wright gives an incredibly grounded performance; audiences can truly experience the frustration and anger welled up inside the character from being the only good cop in a city filled with

corruption.

The two main characters team up together to take down the Zodiac-inspired 'Riddler' on a rampant serial killing spree, targeting corrupt politicians and people in power. Dano's performance is terrifying, leaning heavily into the serial killer aspect, and forgoing the comic book style riddles for more elaborate ciphers, just like the Zodiac Killer.

Dano's grounded take on the Riddler plays perfectly into Reeve's world, just like the other villains, Carmine Falcone (John Turturro) and the Penguin (Colin Ferril). Turturro's interpretation of an Italian mob boss could be ripped straight from The Godfather. He plays the role with such confidence and power, holding himself exactly like the character would in a grounded, rotten city like Gotham.

Sidekick to Turturro's mob boss, was his front man, the Penguin. Despite

Ferril's large stature, he manages to perfectly encapsulate the blubbing British charm and humor that is synonymous with the Penguin's small size. Ferril is unrecognizable in the role, but his acting skills don't fail to shine through the stage makeup, as he is genuinely hilarious as the Penguin, despite the limited role he played.

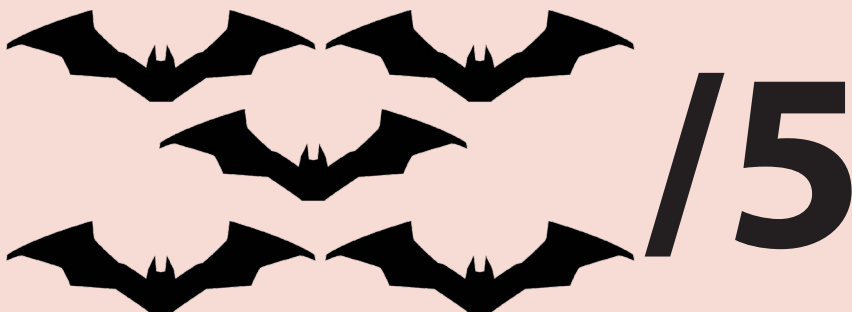
The success of every single actor in this film would be lost if it weren't for Reeves and his cinematography team. Each shot is a work of art, beautiful in every way, and features false skylines that aren't ruined by poor green screen editing. Warner Brothers allowed "The Batman" to use the 'StageCraft' a jumbo-sized LED screen that works like a real time green screen, but much more realistic. The use of this technology shows throughout, as not a single shot is bogged down by heavy CGI, like most superhero movies

today.

Accompanying the picturesque scenes was the brilliant Batman score. Michael Giacchino, the composer of this score, faced the impossible task of achieving something as iconic as the Tim Burton Batman theme, that has been synonymous with the character of Batman for over 30 years. Giacchino, however impossible it seemed, composed a menacing, heart racing theme, perfectly in tone with the movie and the character. It is the perfect mix of the Burton theme and Star Wars' 'Imperial March'

helping convey Pattinson's Batman as a Vader-esque character. The score as a whole features a unique theme for each character, truly punctuating their presence onscreen.

Matt Reeves was given a daring task of making a unique Batman movie in 2022, after years of Batman attempts and failures, with a movie market flooded by repetitive superhero movies, and a board of DC executives that fail to understand their characters. Even with all these factors working against him, Reeves has managed to make a masterpiece of Batman, and a masterpiece of a film.



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