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The Art And Making Of The Dark Knight Trilogy



Synopsis

In 2005, director Christopher Nolan redefined the Batman legend with *Batman Begins*, starring Christian Bale as the Caped Crusader. A fresh, dynamic reboot of the franchise, *Batman Begins* explored the comic book hero's origins and his evolution from billionaire Bruce Wayne to dark avenger who fights crime and corruption in Gotham City. A 2008 sequel, *The Dark Knight*, took those compelling, character-driven foundations and raised the stakes, pitting Batman against a deranged master criminal, the Joker, in an all-out war for Gotham's soul. Now, the final film of Nolan's trilogy, *The Dark Knight Rises*, is 2012's most anticipated film release. *The Art and Making of The Dark Knight Trilogy* tells the complete behind-the-scenes story of these three monumental films. Based on in-depth interviews with Nolan and all of the film's key cast and crew—including cowriters David S. Goyer and Jonathan Nolan, cinematographer Wally Pfister, and more—the book reveals the creative process behind the epic *Dark Knight Trilogy*, supported by lavish art and never-before-seen photography. BATMAN and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © DC Comics.

(s12) Praise for *The Art and Making of the Dark Knight Trilogy*:
• "A beautifully artistic photo book . . . For anyone who ever wanted to make a movie, *The Art and Making of The Dark Knight Trilogy* is as good a blueprint, as well as being an engrossing tale, of the making of a mega-hit film series."
• "McClatchy Newspapers" "This chance to revisit *Batman Begins* and *The Dark Knight* in ways both smart and definitive has revived my faith and enthusiasm on numerous levels. Kudos to authors Jody Duncan Jesser and Janine Pourroy for pulling off what seems like a daunting task, and doing so with style to spare."
• "School Library Journal" "The book reveals the creative process behind the epic *Dark Knight Trilogy*, supported by lavish art and never-before-seen photography."
• "Washington Examiner" "Every aspect of Nolan's filmmaking process is detailed in Jesser and Pourroy's fantastic, gorgeous book, accompanied by hundreds of high-quality photographs and illustrations. I could easily see it selling for \$60—\$75 because of the crazy amount of Bat-tastic geeky goodness within. BUY. THIS. BOOK."
• "Geeks of Doom" "This sumptuous coffee table book is pretty much the perfect studio-sanctioned guidebook through Nolan's films . . . No stone is unturned, and no interesting production still or story is neglected . . . No need to say more here, I think: if you love these movies . . . you'll find this book to be an absolute treasure."
• "Comics Bulletin"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jody Duncan Jesser has served as editor of Cinefex magazine since 1992. She is the author of 10 books covering the making of blockbuster films, including Terminator 2, Jurassic Park, and Avatar. She lives in Los Angeles. Janine Pourroy has written extensively for Cinefex magazine, covering special and visual effects in film since 1985. Pourroy lives in Southern California.

As a big fan of what Mr. Nolan has done with the Batman character in his "Dark Knight Trilogy", this book is 300+ pages of pure joy! Every aspect of the filmmaking process is detailed in the book, accompanied by hundreds of photos (many of which I have never seen published before). Here are the Chapters contained in the book: 1. Screenplay - how the concept of the films was born with Nolan & David Goyer, writing the scripts, and taking inspiration from the comics when crafting the story. 2. Production Design - building the sets, scouting & dressing locations, designing Batman's vehicles. Includes some concept art. 3. Cast - casting the characters, insight into the actors' process. One of the best aspects of the films is that Nolan assembles a very strong cast, even in smaller supporting roles. Obviously, much of the focus is placed on selecting Christian Bale to play Bruce Wayne. 4. Costumes & Makeup - discussion about the costumes of the film, including plenty of costume sketches. Includes detail about the evolution of Batman's suit, the Joker's makeup, Bane's mask, etc. 5. The Shoot: Batman Begins - a chronicle of the 129-day shoot, Nolan's directing style, filming on location, shooting the Tumbler chase, etc. 6. The Shoot: The Dark Knight - filming in Chicago, IMAX cameras, the hospital explosion, etc. 7. The Shoot: The Dark Knight Rises - filming in Pittsburgh and India, shooting the opening plane sequence practically, destroying a football stadium, etc. 8. Special Effects & Stunts - insight into the stunt work with effects coordinator Chris Corbould. This covers most of the big fight sequences and stunts in the three films and how they

were achieved.⁹ Editing, Music, and Sound - Lee Smith on editing the films, and specifically how he cut effectively between parallel story lines and action. Scoring the film, including quotes from composers Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard. Designing the film's sounds and mixing them effectively with the music (they discuss the clarity issue of Bane's voice).¹⁰ Visual Effects - It seems like these films used every method of visual effects available, from models and miniatures to computer-generated effects. Specific topics include creating digital bats and the monorail crash in *Batman Begins*, the ferry boat sequence from *The Dark Knight*, and the stadium explosions in *The Dark Knight Rises*.¹¹ Marketing - A discussion about the promotion of the films. This includes traditional methods like posters (with over a dozen poster images in the book) to the unique "viral marketing" that emphasized social media to get the audience to participate in the marketing. Other topics include screening the IMAX prologues and San Diego Comic-Con. The book also includes a foreword by Christopher Nolan and an introduction by Michael Caine. Also, printed at the end of the book is a tribute that Nolan wrote about Heath Ledger, titled "Charisma as Natural as Gravity" (originally published in *Newsweek* in 2008). This is the best book about the Batman films I have ever seen, and it is one of the best "making of" movie books in general. The detail in both the text and the photographs is very impressive, and I am so excited to be able to have this wonderful book in my collection. To see photos from inside the book, visit my blog at [MovieArtBook\(dot\)com](http://MovieArtBook(dot)com). If you're particularly interested in the design and technology aspects of the films, I'd also recommend this book: *The Dark Knight Manual: Tools, Weapons, Vehicles and Documents from the Batcave*

This is the making-of rather than an art-and-making-of book. So you're not going to see a lot of art. The only other artbook for the Dark Knight trilogy was *The Art of Batman Begins* and that wasn't very good in terms of art and content. Having said all that, this is a great movie companion book. It covers in detail all the three films and the complete production process. You get to read about the screenplay, production design, casting, use of visual and special effects, music and marketing. The book is packed with nice photos of the set, actors, props and vehicles, and some art illustrations. There are chapters for the shooting of each film which I thought was short considering the length of the movies. Still, it provides great insight into how the movie was shot, and the little clues were put into each film to tie them together. You get a sense of Christopher Nolan's film making philosophy, and understand how the film was directed. He has done an incredible job portraying on big screen one of the most recognisable comic characters. There are lots of interesting information throughout the book. Like how Anne Hathaway dressed up as Harley Quinn during a casting meeting because she misread the script, or why Nolan even considered using actual bats

but ultimately turned to animated ones. Of all the books relating to the Dark Knight trilogy, this is probably the best. Highly recommended for fans of the movies. It's a terrific deal for a 304-page hardcover.

Some reviews say this is more a "making of" book than "art of" book, this is absolutely true. Page count is really high, there is a lot of info coming from the filmmakers including anecdotes, production stills and some comic book pages that inspired them. If you want to get an art book like those dedicated to Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, with a lot of sketches and paintings, then this is not the right book for you. You could get the "Art of Batman Begins" but I didn't enjoy it that much. This book should be taken as one of those extensive "behind the scenes" documentaries you see on TV but translated into a nice big book. All images are great, a lot of them can be seen on the internet. There is a lot of text, which depending on how a big fan of the movies you are could be interesting or not. I must say this book is recommended to any fan of the movies who is interested in the making of all 3 movies. If you are looking for inspiring artwork you should look somewhere else.

I wasn't quite sure what I was getting when I purchased this book. I was even thinking about going to my nearest bookstore to purchase it so that I could look at it in person. However, I decided just to buy the book since I am a huge Batman fan. Anyways, the book is fantastic. The photographs in the book are top notch and really show some other sides to the film. If you like Batman, Chris Nolan, or just film in general, you owe it to yourself to pick up this book!

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