

= Batman : Arkham Asylum =

Batman : Arkham Asylum is a 2009 action @-@ adventure video game based on the DC Comics superhero Batman . It was developed by Rocksteady Studios and published by Eidos Interactive in conjunction with Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 video game consoles , and Microsoft Windows . It was released worldwide for consoles , beginning in North America on August 25 , 2009 , with a Microsoft Windows version following on September 15 .

Written by veteran Batman writer Paul Dini , Arkham Asylum is based on the long @-@ running comic book mythos . In the game 's main storyline , Batman 's archenemy , the Joker , instigates an elaborate plot to seize control of Arkham Asylum and trap Batman inside with many of his incarcerated foes . With Joker threatening to detonate hidden bombs around fictional Gotham City , Batman is forced to fight his way through the asylum 's inmates and put an end to the Joker 's plans . Most of the game 's leading characters are voiced by actors who have appeared in other media based on the DC Animated Universe ; Kevin Conroy , Mark Hamill , and Arleen Sorkin reprised their roles as Batman , the Joker , and his sidekick Harley Quinn respectively . The game is presented from the third @-@ person perspective with a primary focus on Batman 's combat and stealth abilities , detective skills , and gadgets that can be used in combat and exploration .

The game received critical acclaim ? particularly for its narrative ? and won several awards , including Best Action Adventure game , Best Game , and Game of the Year from different media outlets . It held the Guinness World Record for " Most Critically Acclaimed Superhero Game Ever " . A Game of the Year edition was released on March 26 , 2010 , and an OS X version was released in November 2011 . A remastered version will be released for PlayStation 4 and Xbox One on July 26 , 2016 . Arkham Asylum 's success launched a series of Batman : Arkham sequels , beginning in October 2011 with Batman : Arkham City .

= = Gameplay = =

Batman : Arkham Asylum is an action @-@ adventure game viewed from the third @-@ person perspective . The playable character is visible on the screen and the camera can be freely rotated around him . The player controls Batman as he traverses Arkham Asylum , a secure facility for the criminally insane located off the coast of Gotham City . The opening areas of the game are linear , serving as a tutorial for the moves and approaches available to the player . Once the player emerges onto the island he can freely explore the game world , although some areas remain inaccessible until certain milestones in the main story . Batman can run , jump , climb , crouch , glide from heights using his cape , and use his grapple gun to climb low structures or escape to higher ledges .

The player can use " Detective Vision " ? a visual mode which provides contextual information , tinting the game world blue and highlighting interactive objects like destructible walls and removable grates , the number of enemies in an area and their status ? such as their awareness of Batman 's presence ? and shows civilians and corpses . The mode is also used to follow footprints , investigate odors , and solve puzzles .

Batman has access to several gadgets which he can use to explore or fight . The batarang is a throwing weapon that can temporarily stun enemies or trigger remote devices . A remotely controlled version can be steered once thrown , and the sonic batarang can be used to attract the attention of specific enemies wearing monitoring collars , or detonated to knock a nearby enemy unconscious . Explosive gel can be used on weak walls and floors , and can be remotely detonated ? sending rubble crashing onto an enemy . The line launcher can be used to traverse horizontal spans . The Batclaw ? a grappling device ? can be used to interact with remote objects such as vent covers or to grab enemies . The Cryptographic Sequencer is used to override security panels , open new paths , or disable various asylum functions . Some areas are inaccessible until Batman acquires the gadgets necessary to overcoming the obstacle . The player is encouraged to explore the game world away from the main game to find and solve riddles left by the Riddler ? who hacks into Batman 's communication system to challenge him with riddles . Objects can be collected , and

some of the Riddler 's puzzles require the player to find areas related to the answer to a riddle and scan it with " Detective Vision " . The game world has 240 collectable items , such as Riddler trophies , chattering Joker teeth , interview tapes with some of Arkham 's inmates , and cryptic messages left in the asylum by its founder Amadeus Arkham that discuss the facility 's bleak history . The player is rewarded for solving riddles and finding collectibles with experience points and additional game content , including challenge maps that test the player 's skill at the game 's combat system , character biographies , and in @-@ game statues of Arkham Asylum 's characters .

Players can traverse enemy @-@ controlled areas using stealth or direct combat . The game 's " Freeflow " combat uses three main buttons : attack , stun , and counter . The system lets Batman move quickly between enemies , chaining attacks together until all enemies are unconscious . Combining the three main abilities can keep Batman attacking while moving between enemies and avoiding being attacked himself . The more combo attacks that are chained together , the faster and more agile Batman becomes , and special attacks ? such as a throw , grapple , and an instant takedown which can immediately defeat an enemy ? become available . Combat is rewarded with experience points , which are used to unlock gadgets , combat moves , and health upgrades . Higher combos , a wider variety of moves , and avoiding damage delivers more points . Enemy attacks are preempted with a warning icon , which indicate the attack can be countered . Some enemies require different approaches to overcome ; knife @-@ wielding thugs must be stunned before they can be attacked , and others must be struck from behind . Some enemies are armed with guns which significantly damage Batman . Enemies react to Batman 's elimination of their allies , which raises their fear level and alters their behavior ; for example , they will adopt new patrol routes , requiring the player to adapt to the changing situation . During combat , Batman 's health is diminished by attacks , but is fully restored once the battle ends .

The player can use predatory tactics through stealth ? including silent takedowns , dropping from overhead perches and snatching enemies away , or using the explosive gel to knock foes off their feet ? to tilt the odds in their favor . Some areas feature sections that require the player to use these tactics to avoid alerting the Joker 's henchmen and thus failing to meet an objective . Many areas feature stone gargoyles placed high above , helping Batman remain concealed . Batman can use his grapple gun to reach the gargoyles , giving him a high vantage point over the area and the enemies . From the gargoyles , Batman can glide down to attack enemies or hang upside down from the gargoyles to grapple a nearby enemy and leave him tethered there . The player can use floor grates to attack from below , hide around corners , use batarangs to stun enemies from afar , and use the grapple gun to pull enemies over ledges .

Arkham Asylum features a series of challenge maps separate from the game 's story mode that are unlocked while playing , and others are available as optional downloadable content (DLC) . The maps focus on the completion of specific goals , such as eliminating successive waves of enemies in combat , and subduing patrolling enemies while using stealth . The methods and variety of abilities used to achieve these goals earn an overall performance score that is ranked online against other players . On the PlayStation 3 , the Joker is a playable character in the combat and stealth challenge maps via optional DLC ; he must confront the asylum guards and police commissioner James Gordon . The Joker has his own combat abilities and weapons , such as a handgun , exploding chattering teeth , and x @-@ ray glasses which allow him to see opponents through walls .

On compatible systems , the Microsoft Windows version uses nVidia 's PhysX software engine to produce realistic , dynamic interactions with the game world . With PhysX enabled , some areas contain smoke or fog which reacts to Batman moving through it , while with PhysX disabled the fog will not appear at all . Other effects include dynamic interaction with paper and leaves , surfaces which can be scratched and chipped , and dynamic , destructible cloth elements such as banners and cobwebs . The Game of the Year version features the ability to play the game in 3D on any 2D television using anaglyph 3D glasses .

= = Synopsis = =

== = Characters == =

Arkham Asylum is set in the fictional Arkham Asylum , a facility on Arkham Island off the coast of Gotham City that houses criminally insane supervillains . The game features a large ensemble of characters from the history of Batman comics . Three voice actors , who worked on the DC Animated Universe series of film and television , reprised their roles for the game . Kevin Conroy voices Batman ? a superhero trained to the peak of human physical perfection and an expert in martial arts , Mark Hamill voices Batman 's psychopathic nemesis the Joker , and the Joker 's sidekick Harley Quinn is voiced by Arleen Sorkin . Batman is aided by his allies Oracle (Kimberly Brooks) ? who remotely provides him with intelligence , and police commissioner James Gordon (Tom Kane) .

In the asylum , Batman is faced with several supervillains ; he must defend himself from an enraged Bane (Fred Tatasciore) , subdue indiscriminate serial killer Victor Zsasz (Danny Jacobs) , confront the monstrous Killer Croc (Steven Blum) , defeat the plant @-@ controlling Poison Ivy (Tasia Valenza) , and battle his way through hallucinogen @-@ induced nightmares created by the Scarecrow (Dino Andrade) . The Riddler (Wally Wingert) does not physically appear in the game , but communicates with Batman and challenges him to solve riddles placed around the island . Other characters appearing in the game include the asylum 's warden Quincy Sharp (also voiced by Kane) , Batman 's parents Thomas and Martha Wayne (voiced by Conroy and Valenza respectively) , and asylum guard Aaron Cash (Duane R Shepard , Sr) . The shape @-@ shifting Clayface appears in cameo , taking on the guise of other characters as he tries to trick the player into releasing him . The Mad Hatter was almost included in the game , but the developers removed him . The body of Ra 's al Ghul is in the asylum 's morgue and the Ventriloquist 's dummy , Scarface , appears several times in the story . Several other characters ? including the Penguin , Jack Ryder , Mr. Freeze , Two @-@ Face , Catwoman , and the asylum 's founder Amadeus Arkham ? are referenced in the game , but do not appear in it .

== = Plot == =

After the Joker assaults Gotham City Hall , he is caught by Batman and taken to Arkham Asylum , which temporarily houses many members of the Joker 's gang , who were transferred after a fire at Blackgate Prison . Believing the Joker allowed himself to be captured , Batman accompanies him into the asylum . The Joker 's plan is revealed as Harley Quinn takes control of the security and the Joker escapes into the facility , aided by a corrupt guard who kidnaps Commissioner Gordon . The Joker threatens to detonate bombs hidden around Gotham City if anyone tries to enter Arkham , forcing Batman to work alone . While pursuing Quinn to rescue Gordon , Batman is exposed to the Scarecrow 's fear toxin and hallucinates , seeing Gordon 's death and the corpses of his parents talking to him . Batman fights off Scarecrow and the toxin 's influence , and eventually finds Quinn , knocks her unconscious , and rescues Gordon . The Joker then directs Batman to the captured Bane , who has been experimented on by asylum doctor Penelope Young . The Joker frees Bane and Batman is forced to fight him , after which he navigates his way to a secret Batcave installation he had hidden on the island , where Batman restocks his gadgets .

There , Batman learns that the Joker returned to the asylum to gain access to Young , who has been developing Titan ? a more powerful version of the Venom drug that gives Bane his strength ? intending to use it to help patients survive more strenuous therapies . Young learned that the Joker had been funding her research to create an army of superhuman henchmen ; her refusal to hand over the formula precipitated Joker 's return to the Asylum . While searching for Young , Batman is again attacked by Scarecrow and the fear toxin , and hallucinates the night of his parents ' deaths . After he recovers , Batman destroys Young 's Titan formula and rescues Young from Victor Zsasz . An explosion kills Young and the Joker obtains the completed batches of Titan .

Quinn releases Poison Ivy from her cell and later fights Batman , but is defeated and imprisoned . Quinn inadvertently reveals that Joker has a Titan production facility in the Arkham botanical

gardens . Batman travels there and learns that Titan is created by genetically modified plants . He tries to enlist Ivy 's help to create an antidote , but she tells him that it can only be made from spores found exclusively in Killer Croc 's lair in a sewer . En route to Croc , Batman is again attacked by Scarecrow and overcomes several doses of fear toxin . Meanwhile , Joker injects Ivy with Titan , enhancing her powers . Ivy begins ravaging Arkham Island with giant mutant plants . Pursued by Batman into the sewers , Scarecrow is attacked by Croc and disappears . Batman recovers the necessary spores and subdues Croc before returning to the Batcave , but can only synthesize one dose of the antidote before Ivy 's plants breach the cave and destroy his equipment .

Batman returns to the botanical gardens and defeats Ivy , halting the rampaging plants . The Joker announces that the preparations for his party are finally complete and Batman travels to the asylum 's visitor center where the Joker 's applauding henchmen welcome him . The Joker reveals he has recaptured Gordon and tries to shoot him with a Titan @-@ filled dart ; Batman leaps to Gordon 's defense and is shot instead . Batman attempts to resist the change , and an upset Joker takes an overdose of Titan , mutating into a massive monster . In a makeshift arena on the building 's roof , the Joker challenges Batman to a fight as Titan @-@ induced monsters in front of news helicopters . Batman refuses to transform , uses the antidote on himself , and defeats the Titan @-@ affected Joker and his henchmen , knocking his nemesis unconscious with an explosive gel @-@ enhanced punch . In the aftermath , those affected by Titan begin to revert to normal , including the Joker ? who is restrained and taken into custody as police officers retake the asylum . Batman overhears a call about a crime led by Two @-@ Face in progress and flies back to Gotham City in the Batwing . In a post @-@ credits scene , a crate of Titan formula is shown floating in the ocean near the asylum when a hand surfaces and grabs it .

= = Development = =

Batman : Arkham Asylum was first announced in August 2008 ; it was developed by British studio Rocksteady Studios under the aegis of Eidos Interactive and Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment . Eidos obtained the rights to make a Batman game in spring 2007 , and approached then little @-@ known Rocksteady after viewing the developer 's prototype . At Eidos ' request , Rocksteady presented their approach to the Batman license , and by May 2007 , they had begun developing the game 's concept , with full production beginning in September . Writer Paul Dini (Batman : The Animated Series , Detective Comics) was first approached by DC Comics around late 2007 about the prospect of creating a story for an original Batman video game . Dini found the idea intriguing , believing that few Batman games were based on an original idea , instead being adapted from film or television . DC Comics asked Dini what his approach to writing a new Batman film or graphic novel would be , but one that was designed for gameplay . He later met with the Rocksteady team , where it was decided that Dini 's ideas were in line with what Rocksteady wanted to achieve . By the time Dini joined the project , Rocksteady were investigating the idea of setting the game within Arkham , and had produced preliminary designs depicting it as a huge estate on an island connected to mainland Gotham City by a bridge . The cast had not been finalized , but given the setting it was certain that the Joker would play a large role . The game and story were developed together , with the limitations of mechanics requiring the story to be built around them . The core aim was to make the game engaging enough for players to spend 8 ? 10 hours completing it , especially those uninterested in Batman @-@ franchised media . Rocksteady would guide Dini when they thought he was writing too much story or character motivation .

Among various Neal Adams and Frank Miller @-@ penned Batman stories , Grant Morrison 's Arkham Asylum : A Serious House on Serious Earth was an inspiration for the game 's design . Producer Nathan Burlow said the narrative and atmosphere of the 2007 game BioShock influenced Arkham Asylum 's design . Director Sefton Hill said the influences of the gadgets and abilities that can be combined and used in different ways in The Legend of Zelda and Metroid . The design team isolated the components that they felt made Batman , and exaggerated these elements . Design ideas which contradicted these facets of the character were dropped , and other elements of Batman , such as his refusal to kill his enemies , were strictly enforced , which provided additional

challenges in allowing the player to have complete freedom in the game without transgressing on that fundamental aspect of the character . Arkham Asylum was chosen as the setting because it confined the player to an area containing several enemies , whereas in an open city setting he could receive help , return to the Batcave , or otherwise be able to distance himself from his opponents .

The development team wanted to include iconic aspects of the Batman mythos , and decided early on in production to have Conroy , Hamill , and Sorkin reprise their roles in Dini 's Batman : The Animated Series as Batman , the Joker , and Harley Quinn , respectively . Hamill has thousands of lines of dialogue in the game , and Conroy has relatively few in comparison . After seeing character models of the Joker 's Arkham Asylum appearance , Hamill decided to portray the character as dark and gritty while retaining a clownish and playful nature . Although the game features references to plot events in both The Animated Series and Batman comics , the story does not directly follow any singular story or depiction of the character .

The game took approximately 21 months to complete ; Rocksteady began development with a team of 40 , which had expanded to around 60 by the game 's completion . Combat was considered one of the greatest challenges in developing the game ; the system went through three iterations . Rocksteady originally developed the game 's combat as a full rhythm action game . It was later set in 2D , which involved colored circles crashing into each other during fights ; the final system was based on this 2D model . Combat was designed to be unique for Batman , and was given a simple control scheme to reflect the ease with which Batman can perform the moves . Arkham Asylum was built on Epic Games ' Unreal Engine 3 . Eidos president Ian Livingstone said one developer spent two years programming Batman 's cape , using over 700 animations and sound effects to make it move realistically .

The developers intended to use other Batman characters in the game , but these were removed when it was decided they would not work within the story . For example , Batman 's enemy Mr. Freeze did not fit because the character has different motivations to the Joker . Unlike the Riddler , who is obsessed with proving his superiority over Batman , Mr. Freeze does not hold a personal grudge against Batman , and Mr. Freeze would not care about the other villains ' plans . A garden maze under Poison Ivy 's control was considered as a location ; she could grow it in different directions . In its center , Batman would find the Mad Hatter hosting a tea @-@ party , but the developers decided these ideas would not match the game 's tone . Batman 's vehicles , the Batmobile and Batwing , were considered for inclusion in the game , but developing unique control mechanics and gameplay segments for them would have taken too much time , and compromised its quality ; the vehicles appear in the game , but players cannot control them .

Rocksteady began conceiving ideas for a possible sequel , which became Batman : Arkham City , approximately seven months before development of Arkham Asylum was completed . Rocksteady developed ideas for the sequel 's story and setting so the games ' narratives could be effectively connected . A secret room containing hints , blueprints , and concept art for the next game was hidden in the asylum warden 's office in Arkham Asylum . The room remained hidden for six months following the game 's release until Rocksteady revealed its presence . Arkham Asylum 's musical score was composed by Ron Fish and Nick Arundel , who also composed the soundtrack for the sequel , Batman : Arkham City .

= = = Design = = =

To develop the game 's overall aesthetic , the main aim was to create designs that would combine comic book style with realism . The environmental architecture and characters had to be extravagant enough to represent the Batman universe , but needed realistic texture and detail . The second aim was to recreate the dark , Gothic imagery inherent to the Batman universe , especially Arkham Asylum , so that the structure would feel as insane as those whom it houses . The asylum was considered an ideal location because it can house many of Batman 's foes .

Batman 's design was heavily influenced by the work of comic artist Jim Lee , who drew Batman as a strong , muscular character who could believably take part in extreme combat . His black and dark gray costume was based on modern versions , and has military influences and an industrial look .

About 13 concept designs were produced before his final appearance took form . Artists avoided film interpretations of the Joker , partly because the developers only had access to the rights to the original Batman license . Alan Moore 's 1988 graphic novel *Batman : The Killing Joke* influenced the character 's design . Harley Quinn underwent a drastic redesign , removing her black and red full @-@ body outfit and jester 's hat , and replacing them with a costume with design elements from a nurse 's outfit and a schoolgirl 's uniform . WildStorm , Lee 's now @-@ defunct comic book publishing company , produced concept art for the game .

Designs for the asylum departed from comic interpretations of a large mansion and instead developed an entire island , with hints of Alcatraz prison , composed of multiple buildings to allow for greater variety and exploration . Each building was designed with a different architectural style to make the facility appear believable and to imbue each location with a history . The medical building was inspired by Victorian architecture and its metalwork structure was intended to inspire feelings of horror . The intensive treatment unit has a Gothic , industrial aesthetic . The catacombs beneath the facility , inspired by early twentieth @-@ century brickwork and Victorian industry , were meant to feel oppressive . The maximum security area was designed to feel claustrophobic and was retrofitted like a bunker , and the Arkham mansion displays a High Gothic style . The designers integrated crooked lines into environmental objects , such as trees and drainpipes , where possible . 40 rooms , 34 corridors , 3 exterior areas , and 3 Scarecrow @-@ induced hallucination areas were designed for the game .

To bring these areas to life , the level designers produced game mechanic elements using simple room layouts and shapes , while concept artists worked in tandem to create artwork for each location , following the art direction . Environment artists would then build 3D layouts based on those designs . Finding an appropriate color palette for the game world was difficult ; browns and monochromatic colors could depict the desired dark and moody atmosphere , but the developers wanted the aesthetic to resemble the vibrant color schemes of a comic book . To this end , they used saturated colors for in @-@ game lighting . Lighting was an important component of the game , being used to highlight points of interest and to draw the player onward in otherwise boring corridors . To maintain the intended level of detail and allow the game 's console versions to fit into the devices ' memory , each area had to be streamed in and out of memory seamlessly to free up memory for textures and geometry . All of the cutscenes were storyboarded by Rocksteady artists , being visualized in the game engine before the character performances were motion @-@ captured . The design team decided that cutscenes should be used to advance character relationships , and that after each cutscene the player should have had their goal changed or the importance of their actions modified . Priority was given to keeping action scenes under the player 's control rather than showing them in cutscenes .

= = Release = =

Batman : Arkham Asylum was released for PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 in North America on August 25 , 2009 , and on August 28 in Europe and Australia . It was released for Microsoft Windows in North America on September 15 , 2009 , and on September 18 in Europe and Australia . A Game of the Year edition was released on March 26 , 2010 , in Europe and on May 11 in North America . Feral Interactive developed an OS X version , which was released on disc and as a download on November 3 , 2011 . On the Windows version of the game , the developers used an anti @-@ duplication measure that disables Batman 's glide ability and causes other bugs , preventing copied games from progressing beyond a certain point . Although not the first game to implement such countermeasures , *Arkham Asylum* received media coverage , as this was seen as a novel method of copy protection .

A Collector 's Edition containing the game , a 14 @-@ inch (36 cm) replica of Batman 's batarang , a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes DVD , a leather @-@ bound 48 @-@ page book about Arkham 's inmates , and a code to download the " Crime Alley " challenge map was released . Pre @-@ ordering the game at some retailers allowed access to the " Dem Bones " challenge map . The Game of the Year version was initially announced for release only in Europe , Asia , and Australia ,

but a North American release was later added . The Game of the Year version includes the game , support for TriOviz 3D visual effects , two pairs of themed 3D glasses , and the six released DLC challenge maps ? two of which were omitted from the North American version .

Batman : Return to Arkham , developed by Virtuos , features remastered versions of Arkham Asylum and Arkham City using the Unreal Engine 4 for the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One . Additionally , both games include all previously released downloadable content , and feature improved graphics , upgraded models and environments , and improvements in the lighting , effects and shaders for both games . Originally intended for release in North America on July 26 , 2016 , and in Europe on July 29 , 2016 , the collection has since been delayed indefinitely in order to give the development team " additional time to deliver a polished Batman Arkham game experience . "

== Downloadable content ==

In April 2009 , it was announced that the Joker would be a downloadable playable character for use in the game 's challenge maps exclusively for the PlayStation 3 . Additional DLC packs were later released . The Insane Night pack , containing the " Totally Insane " combat and " Nocturnal Hunter " stealth challenge maps , was released on September 17 , 2009 . The " Prey in the Darkness " pack was released on September 23 , 2009 , and contains the " Heart of Darkness " combat and " Hothouse Prey " stealth challenge maps . In North America , the " Prey in the Darkness " pack was released exclusively for the PlayStation 3 .

== Marketing ==

A demo version of the game was released via digital download for the PlayStation 3 on August 6 , 2009 , and for Xbox 360 and Microsoft Windows on August 7 . The PlayStation 3 version of Arkham Asylum unlocked a Batcave @-@ themed virtual apartment for players on the social @-@ gaming platform , PlayStation Home . Additionally , North American game retailer GameStop ran a contest which allowed one winner to be rendered in @-@ game as an Arkham inmate . A series of action figures based on character designs from the game were released through Warner Bros. ' outlet DC Direct .

== Reception ==

Batman : Arkham Asylum received critical acclaim . Aggregating review websites GameRankings and Metacritic gave the Xbox 360 version 92 @.@ 34 % and 92 / 100 , the PlayStation 3 version 92 @.@ 07 % and 91 / 100 , and the Microsoft Windows version 91 @.@ 89 % and 91 / 100 . The game held the Guinness World Record for " Most Critically Acclaimed Superhero Game Ever " based on an average Metacritic score of 91 @.@ 67 , until it was succeeded by Arkham City .

Arkham Asylum was called one of the best comic book superhero games ever made . Edge magazine said it was " by some distance the best superhero game of modern times " , IGN 's Greg Miller called it " the greatest comic book game of all time " , and Eurogamer 's Dan Whitehead called it " the best superhero game bar none " , and wrote that it has " excellent visuals , a compelling story and superb voice acting . " Whitehead also wrote , even without the iconic superhero , it would be a polished and engrossing game featuring compelling story and superb voice acting . PSM3 's Andy Kelly wrote , " Rocksteady have struck the perfect balance of giving you the confident power of a superhero , but with enough weaknesses to make the game challenging ; a remarkable feat of balancing and design " . Wired 's Chris Kohler said that the game 's strength lies in its tight script and masterful acting , making what could be a generic game captivating . 1UP.com 's Thierry Nguyen gave the game an A ? , stating that Rocksteady " manages to combine combat , stealth , storytelling , and cartoon voices into the best digital Batman simulator we 've seen to date . "

Several reviewers compared Arkham Asylum to other games ? including BioShock for its ability to deliver a unique adventure and establish a connection with the game world , and its innovative ideas ; The Legend of Zelda for its adventuring style ; Metroid for its world layout ; and Resident Evil and

Tomb Raider for its classic action @-@ adventuring that acts as a true hybrid of brawling , stealth , and platforming .

The game world 's design and the game 's attention to detail were well received by critics . Game Informer 's Andrew Reiner said the game 's setting had a taut and mesmerizing atmosphere , and was a place of wonder and inexplicable horror . Miller called it the right mix of creepy and cool , and appreciated the gradual damage reflected on Batman 's suit as the story progressed , but said that pixelated CGI and lip synching issues diminished the presentation . Whitehead said that the impressive animation makes Batman feel alive , but wrote that the world itself was lifeless and lacking in interactive objects . He criticized segments in which character logic was sacrificed for video game tropes , citing repeated use of poison gas and electric floors as obstacles .

The combat system was well received for the simplicity of its implementation , allowing players to use it effectively without learning complex combinations of special moves , and the emphasis upon timing and flow to create fluid , graceful , and satisfyingly brutal attacks . Reviewers said that the combat remained challenging with the inclusion of more difficult @-@ to @-@ overcome enemies , and better use of combat was well incentivized without punishing those unable to master it . The design of stealth and the wide variety of methods available to disable enemy opponents were praised . Computer and Video Games ' Andy Robinson wrote that it is a " thinking man 's stealth game " that is the centerpiece of the game , and Edge said that the stealth offering was thrilling . Others wrote about the way in which enemies react with fear to the elimination of their allies , but some reviewers criticized the AI for allowing Batman to easily escape when discovered , and for being oblivious to Batman 's presence . Whitehead said that stealth was not as directly rewarding as combat , citing difficulty in controlling Batman at close quarters and the inconsistent contextual actions .

Arkham Asylum 's boss fights were criticized , with many reviewers labeling them as the game 's biggest failing . Reviewers found that the battles often rely on old @-@ fashioned , tedious , and repetitive game tropes that required the player to learn and repeat monotonous routines ? some of which , in the case of Bane , had already been employed on lesser enemies ? or to confront repetitive attack patterns and one @-@ hit deaths . Reviewers generally agreed that the fights were anti @-@ climactic to their build @-@ up spectacle . The final boss fight with the Joker was singled out for vapid gameplay , a battle with Killer Croc was labeled boring and overly long , and the reviewers said these should not have been in the game . However , the fear toxin @-@ induced hallucination segments of Scarecrow 's battles were almost unanimously praised as some of the game 's best and most cerebral moments for their fourth wall manipulation , subversion of the game 's established narrative and expectations , and meta @-@ textual influences that were compared to the battle against Psycho Mantis in 1998 's Metal Gear Solid , and 2002 's Eternal Darkness .

The main voice cast ? including Conroy as Batman , Sorkin as Harley Quinn , Valenza as Poison Ivy , and Wingert as Riddler ? was well received , but Hamill 's performance received consistent praise , with reviewers commenting upon his excellent inflection and timing on a cackling , maniacal performance that steals the show . Nguyen said that Dini and Hamill 's Joker was the best depiction of the character outside of The Killing Joke and Heath Ledger 's incarnation in The Dark Knight (2008) .

Writer Grant Morrison said the game was the inspiration for his Batman Incorporated comic book . He said he wanted to " capture the feeling of the Batman : Arkham Asylum game ... When I played that game , it was the first time in my life where I actually felt what it is like to be Batman ... We are now the heroes , and we can look through their eyes . "

= = = Sales = = =

Worldwide , the game sold nearly two million units in its first three weeks of release , and had sold 2 @.@ 5 million by the end of September 2009 . According to NPD Group , Batman : Arkham Asylum sold approximately 593 @,@ 000 units in North America during the five tracked days following its release on August 25 . By December 2009 , the PlayStation 3 version of the game had outsold the Xbox 360 version by approximately 10 @,@ 000 units despite multi @-@ platform titles typically

selling better on the Xbox 360 at the time . The exclusive content featuring the Joker as a playable character was cited as a possible reason for the success of the PlayStation 3 version . The game took two of the top five spots on the US software chart in its first week of release , and topped the UK all @-@ format chart for two weeks .

= = = Accolades = = =

At the 2009 Spike Video Game Awards , Rocksteady Studios won Studio of the Year , while the game received nominations for Best Action Adventure Game , Best Graphics , Best Voice for Hamill and Sorkin , respectively , Best Xbox 360 Game , and Game of the Year . As part of the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences (AIAS) 2009 awards , it won Outstanding Achievement awards for Character Performance (Mark Hamill as the Joker) , Game Design , and Adapted Story , and was nominated for Adventure Game of the Year , Overall Game of the Year , and Outstanding Achievement awards for Animation , Original Music Composition , and Game Direction . At the 6th British Academy Video Games Awards , it won the awards for Best Game , and Gameplay , and received nominations for Action , Original Score , Story , Use of Audio , Artistic Achievement , and the publicly voted GAME Award of 2009 . It won Best Game Design at the 10th Game Developers Choice Awards , and was nominated for Game of the Year and Best Writing . It was also nominated for Best Sound Editing : Computer Entertainment for the 2010 Golden Reel Awards . According to Metacritic , on all platforms , Arkham Asylum was tied with God of War Collection and Forza Motorsport 3 as the fourth @-@ highest @-@ rated game of 2009 . It was also the highest @-@ rated Microsoft Windows game alongside Dragon Age : Origins and Street Fighter IV , the third @-@ highest @-@ rated Xbox 360 game alongside Forza Motorsport 3 , and the fifth @-@ highest @-@ rated PlayStation 3 game alongside FIFA 10 and Killzone 2 .

Batman : Arkham Asylum appeared on several lists of the top video games of 2009 . It was placed at number one by The A.V. Club , number two by CNET , Time and CraveOnline , number three by Complex , IGN UK , Joystiq , and The Daily Telegraph , number four by CBC News and Wired , and number five by Gamasutra and IGN Australia . Giant Bomb named it the 2009 Best Multiplatform Game , GamesRadar labeled it their Game of the Year ahead of Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves , and Eurogamer listed it on their " Games of 2009 " series . GameSpot listed it as having the Best Atmosphere and the Best Use of a Creative License as part of their " Best Games of 2009 " series , and IGN UK named it the Best PC Action Game and Best Xbox 360 story . GameTrailers named the title both Best Action @-@ Adventure Game and Biggest Surprise of 2009 . In 2013 , Eurogamer listed it as the twentieth best game of the contemporary console generation , Game Informer named it the second best superhero game of all time , and GamingBolt listed it as the eighty @-@ ninth greatest game ever made . In 2014 , Empire named it the 28th Greatest Video Game of All Time , behind Arkham City at number 12 , and IGN listed as the twenty @-@ second best game of the console generation . In 2015 , PC Gamer named it the fiftieth best PC game , and IGN listed it as the 91st Top Game of All Time .

= = Legacy = =

Arkham Asylum 's success launched a series of Batman : Arkham sequels , beginning in October 2011 with Batman : Arkham City . Batman : Arkham City , set one year after the events of Arkham Asylum , is the direct sequel to the earlier game . It was developed by Rocksteady Studios , and distributed by Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment . Manipulated by Hugo Strange , Gotham City 's mayor Quincy Sharp closes Arkham Asylum and Blackgate prison , and converts a section of the city 's slums into an open air prison known as Arkham City , to house all of Gotham 's criminals . While a wary Batman watches over the activities in Arkham City , the Joker is dying from his consumption of Titan . The sequel introduces several new characters ? including Hugo Strange , Robin , Catwoman , Ra 's al Ghul , and Mr. Freeze ? to the series . A limited , six @-@ issue comic series , also titled Batman : Arkham City ? bridging the plots of Arkham Asylum and Arkham City ? was written by Paul Dini and featured art by Carlos D 'Anda . The first issue was released on May

11 , 2011 . A third installment of the Arkham series (not developed by Rocksteady) , Batman : Arkham Origins , was released in October 2013 , featuring a story set before the events of Arkham Asylum . A narrative sequel to Arkham City , Batman : Arkham Knight , was released on June 23 , 2015 and is the series ' concluding chapter .