

= Batman Forever =

Batman Forever is a 1995 American superhero film directed by Joel Schumacher and produced by Tim Burton , based on the DC Comics character Batman . It is the third installment of the initial Batman film series , with Val Kilmer replacing Michael Keaton as Bruce Wayne / Batman . The film stars Chris O 'Donnell , Nicole Kidman , Tommy Lee Jones and Jim Carrey . The plot focuses on Batman trying to stop Two @-@ Face (Jones) and the Riddler (Carrey) in their villainous scheme to extract confidential information from all the minds in Gotham City and use it to learn Batman 's identity and bring the city under their control . He gains allegiance from a love interest ? psychiatrist Dr. Chase Meridian (Kidman) and a young , orphaned circus acrobat named Dick Grayson (O 'Donnell) , who becomes his sidekick Robin .

Batman Forever 's tone is significantly different from the previous installments , becoming more family @-@ friendly since Warner Bros. believed that the previous Batman film , Batman Returns (1992) , failed to outgross its predecessor due to parent complaints about the film 's violence and dark overtones . Schumacher eschewed the dark , dystopian atmosphere of Burton 's films by drawing inspiration from the Batman comic book of the Dick Sprang era , as well as the 1960s television series . Keaton chose not to reprise the role due to Burton stepping down as director . William Baldwin and Ethan Hawke were initially considered for Keaton 's replacement , before Kilmer joined the cast . The film was released on June 16 , 1995 , receiving mixed reviews , but was a financial success . Batman Forever grossed over \$ 336 million worldwide and became the sixth @-@ highest grossing film worldwide of 1995 .

= = Plot = =

In Gotham City , the crime fighter Batman stops a hostage situation caused by a criminal known as Two @-@ Face , the alter ego of the former district attorney Harvey Dent , but Two @-@ Face escapes and remains at large . Edward Nygma , a researcher at Wayne Enterprises who idolizes Bruce Wayne , has developed a device that can beam television into a person 's brain . However , Bruce rejects the invention , believing it to be too close to mind manipulation . After killing his secretary Fred Stickley , Nygma resigns and seeks retaliation against Bruce for rejecting his invention and begins to send him riddles . A news report reveals how Harvey Dent became Two @-@ Face : when he was prosecuting a mob boss named Sal Maroni , Maroni threw acid on Dent 's face , disfiguring half of it . Batman tried to save him , but failed . After the incident , Dent seeks to kill Batman for failing to save him . Bruce meets Chase Meridian , a psychiatrist who is obsessed with Batman , and invites her to come with him to a circus event . After a performance from the circus performers , The Flying Graysons , Two @-@ Face arrives and threatens to blow up the circus unless Batman comes forward and surrenders his life to him . The Flying Graysons attempt to stop Two @-@ Face , but they get killed by as a result . However , Dick Grayson , the youngest member , survives as he throws Two @-@ Face 's bomb into a river .

Bruce invites the orphaned Dick to stay at Wayne Manor . Dick , still troubled by the murder of his family , intends to kill Two @-@ Face and avenge his family . When he discovers that Bruce is Batman , he asks Bruce to help him find Two @-@ Face so that he can kill him , but Bruce refuses . Meanwhile , Nygma becomes a criminal called the Riddler and forms an alliance with Two @-@ Face . The two steal capital in order to mass produce Nygma 's brainwave device . At Nygma 's business party , Nygma discovers Bruce 's alter ego using the brainwave device . Two @-@ Face arrives and crashes the party . He nearly kills Batman , but Dick manages to save his life . Meanwhile , Chase has fallen in love with Bruce , which surpasses her obsession with Batman , but she soon discovers that they are one and the same . Bruce decides to stop being Batman in order to have a normal life with Chase and to prevent Dick from finding Two @-@ Face and kill him . Dick runs away while Bruce and Chase have dinner together in the manor . The Riddler and Two @-@ Face arrive and attack Wayne Manor . The Riddler destroys the Batcave and kidnaps Chase , while leaving an injured Bruce another riddle .

Using the riddles , Bruce and his butler , Alfred , find out the Riddler 's secret identity . Dick returns

and becomes Batman 's sidekick , Robin . Batman and Robin head to Riddler and Two @-@ Face 's lair , Claw Island , where they are separated . Robin encounters Two @-@ Face and nearly kills him . Realizing that he does not have it in him to murder , Robin spares him . Two @-@ Face gets the upper hand and captures Robin . Batman arrives at the lair , where Robin and Chase are held as hostages . The Riddler gives Batman a chance to save only one hostage . But instead , Batman destroys the Riddler 's brainwave collecting device , causing the Riddler to suffer a mental breakdown . Batman manages to save Robin and Chase . Two @-@ Face corners the trio and determines their fate with the flip of a coin , but Batman throws a handful of identical coins in the air , causing Two @-@ Face to stumble and fall to his death . The Riddler is taken to Arkham Asylum and imprisoned , but he claims he knows who Batman is . Chase is asked to consult on the case , but Nygma says that he himself is Batman , due to his damaged memories . Chase meets Bruce outside and tells him that his secret is safe before leaving . Bruce decides to become Batman again and he and Robin continue to protect Gotham from crime .

= = Cast = =

Val Kilmer as Bruce Wayne / Batman

After coming across the journal of his father , he starts questioning his act of vengeance . Bruce struggles with his dual identity as a crime fighter , becoming romantically involved with Dr. Chase Meridian .

Chris O 'Donnell as Dick Grayson / Robin

Once a circus acrobat , Dick is taken in by Bruce after Two @-@ Face murders his parents and brother at a circus event . Bruce is reminded of when his parents were murdered when he sees the same vengeance in Dick , and decides to take him in as his ward . He eventually discovers the Batcave and learns Bruce 's secret identity . In his wake , he becomes the crime fighting partner , Robin .

Nicole Kidman as Dr. Chase Meridian

A psychologist and love interest of Bruce Wayne . Chase is fascinated by the dual nature of Batman . She is held as a damsel in distress in the climax .

Tommy Lee Jones as Harvey Dent / Harvey Two @-@ Face

Formerly the good district attorney of Gotham City , half of Harvey 's face is scarred with acid during the conviction of a crime boss . Driven insane , he becomes the criminal Harvey Two @-@ Face obsessed with killing Batman . He flips a coin to determine if he kills (tails) or not (heads) .

Jim Carrey as Edward Nygma / The Riddler

A former Wayne Enterprises employee , Edward resigns after his newest invention is personally rejected by Bruce Wayne , with whom he is obsessed . He becomes the villainous Riddler , leaving riddles and puzzles at crime scenes .

Michael Gough as Alfred Pennyworth

The Wayne family 's faithful butler and Bruce 's confidant . Alfred also befriends the young Dick Grayson .

Pat Hingle as James Gordon

The police commissioner of Gotham City .

Drew Barrymore as Sugar

Two @-@ Face 's " good " assistant .

Debi Mazar as Spice

Two @-@ Face 's " bad " assistant .

Elizabeth Sanders as Gossip Gerty

Gotham 's top gossip columnist .

René Auberjonois as Dr. Burton

The head Doctor of Arkham Asylum .

Joe Grifasi as Hawkins , the Bank Guard

Two @-@ Face 's hostage during the opening scene .

Ofer Samra as Two @-@ Face 's thug

Ed Begley , Jr. as Fred Stickley

Edward Nygma 's ill @-@ tempered supervisor at Wayne Enterprises . After Stickley discovers the side effect of Edward 's invention , Edward kills him and makes it look like suicide . Begley was uncredited for this role .

Don " The Dragon " Wilson as the leader of the Neon Gang .

Patrick Leahy in an uncredited cameo

This is the first of five cameo appearances in Batman films by Leahy , a United States Senator and DC Comics fan .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Even though Batman Returns was a financial success , Warner Bros. felt the film should have made more money and decided to make the film series more mainstream . Tim Burton , who had directed the two previous installments , was asked to restrict himself to the role of producer and signed Joel Schumacher as director . After approving Schumacher as director , Burton met with Lee and Janet Scott @-@ Batchler , who agreed with him that " the key element to Batman is his duality . And it 's not just that Batman is Bruce Wayne " . Burton along with Schumacher hired the Batchlers to write the script which introduced a psychotic Riddler with a pet rat accompanying him . The story elements and much of the dialogue still remained in the finished film , though Schumacher felt it could be " lighte [ne] d down " . Schumacher claims he originally had in mind an adaptation of Frank Miller 's Batman : Year One . The studio rejected the idea as they wanted a sequel , not a prequel , though Schumacher was able to include very brief events in Bruce Wayne 's past . He hired Akiva Goldsman ? with whom he previously had worked with on The Client ? to write the second draft of the script .

Production went on fast track with Rene Russo cast as Dr. Chase Meridian but Michael Keaton decided not to reprise Batman because he did not like the new direction the film series was heading in . Keaton also wanted to pursue " more interesting roles " , turning down \$ 15 million to appear in Batman Forever . Val Kilmer was cast days later , and the filmmakers decided that Russo was too old for Kilmer , replacing her with a different actress . Schumacher became interested in Kilmer for Batman after seeing him in Tombstone , and the actor accepted the role without even reading the script or knowing who the new director was . Before Val Kilmer was cast , Daniel Day @-@ Lewis , Ralph Fiennes , William Baldwin and Johnny Depp were all under consideration to replace Michael Keaton . Ethan Hawke turned down the role over fear of typecasting , but later regretted the decision .

Robin Wright , Jeanne Tripplehorn and Linda Hamilton were in competition for Dr. Chase Meridian , with Wright appearing as the favorable choice . Nicole Kidman was eventually cast . Billy Dee Williams took on the role of Harvey Dent in Batman on the possibility of portraying Two @-@ Face in a sequel , but Schumacher cast Tommy Lee Jones in the role . Jones was always Schumacher 's first choice , after having worked with him on The Client . Jones claims he was sent the script and was very cautious to accept , but did so after his son 's insistence . Robin Williams was in discussions to be the Riddler at one point . In a 2003 interview , Schumacher stated Michael Jackson lobbied hard for the role , but was turned down before Jim Carrey was cast . Robin appeared in the shooting script of Batman Returns but was deleted due to too many characters . Marlon Wayans had been cast in the role , and signed for Batman Forever . It was decided to replace Wayans with a white actor . Leonardo DiCaprio was considered , but decided not to go the role after a meeting with Schumacher . Chris O 'Donnell was cast and Mitchell Gaylord served as his stunt double . Schumacher attempted to create a cameo role for Bono as his MacPhisto character , but both came to agree it was not suitable for the film .

= = = Filming = = =

Filming started in September 1994 . Schumacher hired Barbara Ling for production design , claiming that the film needed a " force " and felt Ling could " advance on it " . Schumacher wanted a design that was not to be in any way connected to the previous films , and instead was to be inspired by the images from the Batman comic books seen in the 1940s / early 1950s and taken from that of New York City architecture in the 1930s , with a combination of modern Tokyo . He also wanted a " city with personality " , with more statues , as well as various amounts of neon .

Schumacher had problems filming with Kilmer , whom he described as " childish and impossible " , reporting that he fought with various crewmen , and refused to speak to Schumacher during two weeks after the director told him to stop behaving in a rude way . Schumacher also mentioned Tommy Lee Jones as a source of trouble : " Jim Carrey was a gentleman , and Tommy Lee was threatened by him . I 'm tired of defending overpaid , overprivileged actors . I pray I don 't work with them again . " Carrey later acknowledged Jones was not friendly to him , telling him once off @-@ set during the production , " I hate you . I really don 't like you ... I cannot sanction your buffoonery . "

= = = Design and effects = = =

Rick Baker designed the prosthetic makeup . John Dykstra , Andrew Adamson and Jim Rygiel served as visual effects supervisors , with Pacific Data Images also contributing to visual effects work . PDI provided a computer @-@ generated Batman for complicated stunts . For the costume design , producer Peter MacGregor @-@ Scott claimed that 146 workers were at one point working together . Batman 's costume was redesigned along the lines of a more " MTV organic , and edgier feel " to the suit . Sound editing and mixing was co @-@ supervised by Bruce Stambler and John Levesque , which included trips to caves to record bat sounds . A new Batmobile was designed for Batman Forever , with two cars being constructed , one for stunt purposes and one for close @-@ ups with both showcasing a V8 engine . Swiss surrealist painter H.R. Giger provided his version for the Batmobile but it was considered too sinister for the film .

= = = Music = = =

Elliot Goldenthal was hired by Schumacher to compose the film score before the screenplay was written , whereas most composers are hired during production . In discussions with Schumacher , the director wanted Goldenthal to avoid taking inspiration from Danny Elfman , and requested an original composition . The film 's promotional teaser trailer used the main title theme from Elfman 's score of 1989 's Batman .

The soundtrack was commercially successful , selling almost as many copies as Prince 's soundtrack to the 1989 Batman film . Only five of the songs on the soundtrack are actually featured in the movie ' . Hit singles from the soundtrack include " Hold Me , Thrill Me , Kiss Me , Kill Me " by U2 and " Kiss from a Rose " by Seal , both of which were nominated for MTV Movie Awards . " Kiss from a Rose " (whose video was also directed by Joel Schumacher) reached No. 1 in the U.S. charts as well . The soundtrack itself , featuring additional songs by The Flaming Lips , Brandy (both songs also included in the film) , Method Man , Nick Cave , Michael Hutchence (of INXS) , PJ Harvey , and Massive Attack , was an attempt to (in producer Peter MacGregor @-@ Scott 's words) make the film more " pop " .

= = Deleted scenes = =

Batman Forever went through a few major edits before its release . Originally darker than the final product , the movie 's original length was closer to 2 hours and 40 minutes according to director Joel Schumacher . There was talk of an extended cut being released to DVD for the film 's 10th anniversary in 2005 . While all four previous Batman films were given special edition DVD releases on the same day as the Batman Begins DVD release , none of them were given extended cuts ,

although some of the following scenes were in a deleted scenes section in the special features .

There was an undercurrent theme involving Bruce having repressed memories of an aspect of his parents death that he hadn 't faced which was finding his father 's diary on the night of his parents wake and reading that Bruce insisted his parents go to the theater so he could watch one of the shows , meaning the reason he became Batman was out of the guilt that he killed them .

Many scenes were filmed but deleted from the film , other scenes had footage removed . These included :

The escape of Two @-@ Face from Arkham Asylum . René Auberjonois had another scene filmed here in the role of Doctor Burton , but his role was reduced in the final film . He discovers Two @-@ Face 's escape , encountering his psychologist hanged in Two @-@ Face 's cell with " The Bat Must Die " written in blood on the wall . This was supposed to be the film 's opening scene , but producers decided this was far too dark for a family audience .

When Two @-@ Face addresses the crowd from the helicopter in the opening action scene , the speech was truncated and several lines that appeared in the Theatrical Trailer were removed , including the line " If the Bat wants to play , we 'll play ! " .

There was a sequence that contained an extended fight scene between Two @-@ Face and Batman , where they both struggle for control of the helicopter . In this scene , Two @-@ Face accuses Batman of being " a killer too " , a direct continuity reference to the first two Batman films in which Batman killed the Joker , the Penguin and several of their respective goons . Two @-@ face then manages to escape by the parachute , after Batman realizes he has locked the steering wheel into position . This sequence is included in rough form on the special edition DVD .

A scene right before Edward Nygma arrived at Wayne Manor . It featured Bruce Wayne watching a local Gotham talk show with Chase Meridian as a guest , talking about Batman .

One scene right before Riddler and Two @-@ face team up featured a little conversation with Dick and Bruce in the gym of the manor . This would explain why Dick suddenly has martial arts training . This scene appears in a rough edit on the Special Edition DVD .

The scene where the Riddler fails to punch a security guard out . The guard is then brutally beaten by the Riddler using his cane .

One sequence came directly after the casino robbery , where Batman follows a robbery signal on a tracking device in the Batmobile . He shows up at the crime scene and finds he is at the wrong place (a beauty salon) , in which a room full of girls laugh at him . The Riddler had been throwing Batman off the track by messing with the Batmobile 's tracking device . This would explain why in the theatrical version Batman seems to give Riddler and Two @-@ Face moments of free rein over the city . This scene appears in a rough edit on the Special Edition DVD .

The construction of NygmaTech was after Batman solves the third riddle and was more in @-@ depth . There were scenes shot that appear in publicity stills of Edward Nygma with a hard hat helping with the construction of his headquarters on Claw Island .

Sugar and Spice , played by Drew Barrymore and Debi Mazar , try out the Riddler 's device during the montage when it goes on sale . They are seated with the Riddler and Two @-@ Face on the couch where Chase is handcuffed later in the film . This scene appears in the comic adaptation but not in the final film .

There was originally a scene after the montage of Alfred and Bruce examining the NygmaTech " Box " .

An extended scene established Bruce in the Batcave shortly after having discussed with Dick then that this would have saved his life after the battle with Two @-@ Face in the subway system under construction . In this scene he is appreciated as the GNN news (Bruce watching in the Batcomputer) attacking Batman and Two @-@ Face after the battle in the Subway and after that Bruce talking to Alfred turns into the dilemma of continuing to be Batman and try a normal life with Chase . Like the deleted Helicopter fight sequence , this scene also makes reference to Batman himself being " a killer " , and in the original production screenplay , this scene was to contain footage from Batman Returns , specifically taken from the rooftop fight scene with Catwoman . This would explain why in the theatrical version Bruce turns off all the systems in the Batcave telling Dick he gives up being Batman . This scene appears in a rough form on the Special Edition DVD .

Another scene in the Wayne Manor raid sequence was longer , featuring Bruce and Chase fighting Two @-@ Face and his thugs .

The scene involving Chase Meridian on the couch originally included a longer ending where the Riddler injects her with a green sleeping agent so he can easily place her in the small tube with the trap door .

The most well @-@ known deleted scene involved further backstory to the film . It involved Bruce waking up after being shot in the head by Two @-@ Face , temporarily wiping a part of his memory ; he has forgotten his origin and life as the Dark Knight . Alfred takes him to the Batcave , which has been destroyed by the Riddler . They stand on the platform where the Batmobile was , and Alfred says , " Funny they did not know about the cave beneath the cave . " The platform then rotates downward to another level where the sonar @-@ modification equipment is kept , from the special Batsuit to the hi @-@ tech weaponry . Bruce then discovers the cavern where he first saw the image that inspired him to become Batman ? a giant bat . Inside he finds his father 's red diary which he had dropped when he first fell into the Batcave after his parents death . He reads the entry that his memories had repressed , about him insisting his parents take him to the theater to see a show the same night they were killed and discovers that he had misread it all those years ago , his father writing ' even though Bruce insists , we wanted to see Zorro so his show will have to wait until next week ' . Bruce realizes his parents death was not his fault after all . The giant bat then appears and Bruce raises his arms to match the wing anatomy of the bat and the shot shows that they are one . Bruce now remembers who he is and goes with Alfred to solve the riddles left throughout the film . This scene makes what Batman tells the Riddler at the end of the theatrical version that he 's Batman now because he chooses to be a little more meaningful . Screenwriter Akiva Goldsman admitted the scene was very theatrical on the special edition DVD and felt it would have made a difference to the final cut . The bat was designed and created by Rick Baker , who was in charge of the make @-@ up of Two @-@ Face . This scene appears in a rough form on the special edition DVD and is briefly mentioned in the comic adaptation .

The fight scene between Two @-@ Face and Robin on Claw Island was originally longer .

The original ending was similar in style to the previous Batman films , which had involved a scene with Alfred in the limousine , the camera tracking upward through the Gotham cityscape , followed by a rooftop shot involving a silhouetted hero (Batman in the original , Catwoman in Batman Returns) facing the Bat Signal . When Alfred drives Doctor Chase Meridian back to Gotham she asks him " Does it ever end , Alfred ? " Alfred replies , " No , Doctor Meridian , not in this lifetime ... " The Bat @-@ Signal shines on the night sky and Batman is standing on a pillar looking ahead . Robin then comes into shot and joins his new partner . They both leap off the pillar , towards the camera . A rough edit of the first half of the scene appears on the special edition DVD , but not in its entirety . The sequence with Batman and Robin at the end of this scene is not to be confused with a commercial for the video game , whose appears in a teaser trailer for the video game , which is on the VHS release of this film , released in the UK on December 3 , 1995 .

= = Release = =

= = = Box office = = =

Batman Forever opened in 2 @, @ 842 theaters in the United States on June 16 , 1995 , making \$ 52 @. @ 8 million in its opening weekend , breaking Jurassic Park 's record for highest opening weekend gross of all @-@ time (it was surpassed two years later by The Lost World : Jurassic Park 's \$ 72 @. @ 1 million) . The film went on to gross \$ 184 million in North America , and \$ 152 @. @ 5 million in other countries , totaling \$ 336 @. @ 53 million . The film earned more money than its predecessor Batman Returns , and was the second @-@ highest (behind Toy Story) grossing film of 1995 , in the U.S.

= = = Critical reaction = = =

On Rotten Tomatoes , the film received a rating of 41 % , based on 58 reviews , with the site 's critical consensus reading , " Loud , excessively busy , and often boring , Batman Forever nonetheless has the charisma of Jim Carrey and Tommy Lee Jones to offer mild relief . " On Metacritic , the film has a score of 51 out of 100 , based on 23 critics , indicating " mixed or average reviews " .

Peter Travers said " Batman Forever still gets in its licks . There 's no fun machine this summer that packs more surprises . " However , he criticized the film 's excessive commercialism and felt that " the script misses the pain Tim Burton caught in a man tormented by the long @-@ ago murder of his parents . " Brian Lowry of Variety believed " One does have to question the logic behind adding nipples to the hard @-@ rubber batsuit . Whose idea was that supposed to be anyway , Alfred 's ? Some of the computer @-@ generated Gotham cityscapes appear too obviously fake . Elliot Goldenthal 's score , while serviceable , also isn 't as stirring as Danny Elfman 's work in the first two films . "

James Berardinelli enjoyed the film . " It 's lighter , brighter , funnier , faster @-@ paced , and a whole lot more colorful than before . " Scott Beatty felt " Tommy Lee Jones played Harvey Dent as a Joker knock @-@ off rather than a multi @-@ layered rogue . " Lee Bermejo called Batman Forever " unbearable " . Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert both gave the film mixed reviews , but with the former giving it a thumbs up and the latter a thumbs down . In his written review , Ebert wrote : " Is the movie better entertainment ? Well , it 's great bubblegum for the eyes . Younger children will be able to process it more easily ; some kids were led bawling from Batman Returns where the PG @-@ 13 rating was a joke . " Mick LaSalle had a mixed reaction , concluding " a shot of Kilmer 's rubber buns at one point is guaranteed to bring squeals from the audience . "

= = = Accolades = = =

At the 68th Academy Awards , Batman Forever was nominated for Cinematography (lost to Braveheart) , Sound (Donald O. Mitchell , Frank A. Montaño , Michael Herbick and Petur Hliddal ; lost to Apollo 13) and Sound Editing (John Leveque and Bruce Stambler) (also lost to Braveheart) . " Hold Me , Thrill Me , Kiss Me , Kill Me " by U2 was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song (lost to " Colors of the Wind " from Pocahontas) , but was also nominated for the Worst Original Song Golden Raspberry Award (lost to " Walk Into the Wind " from Showgirls) . At the Saturn Awards , the film was nominated for Best Fantasy Film (lost to Babe) , Make @-@ up (lost to Seven) , Special Effects (lost to Jumanji) and Costume Design (lost to 12 Monkeys) . Composer Elliot Goldenthal was given a Grammy Award nomination . Batman Forever received six nominations at the 1996 MTV Movie Awards , four of which were divided between two categories (Carrey and Lee Jones for Best Villain ; and Seal 's " Kiss from a Rose " and U2 's " Hold Me " in Best Song from a Movie) . However , it won in just one category ? Best Song from a Movie for Seal 's " Kiss from a Rose " .

= = = Merchandising = = =

In addition to a large line of toys and action figures from Kenner , the McDonald 's food chain released several collectibles and mugs to coincide with the release of the film . Peter David and Alan Grant wrote separate novelizations of the film . Dennis O 'Neil authored a comic book adaptation , with art by Michal Dutkiewicz .

Six Flags Great Adventure theme park re @-@ themed their " Axis Chemical " arena , home of the Batman stunt show , to resemble " Batman Forever " , and the new show featured props from the film . Because of the mostly negative critical reaction however , the stunt arena was changed back to its original version after the season . Six Flags Over Texas featured a one @-@ time fireworks show to promote the movie , and replica busts of Batman , Robin , Two @-@ Face , and the Riddler can still be found in the Justice League store in the Looney Tunes U.S.A. section .