

BY CARRIE WOOD

RED HOOD

With Dick Grayson having largely moved on to a starring role as the leader of the Teen Titans by the early 1980s, DC writers struggled to tell compelling Batman tales without a Robin. This led to the creation of perhaps one of the more controversial figures in Batman's history – Jason Todd.

Debuting in *Batman* #357 before making his first full appearance in *Detective Comics* #525, Jason originally carried a backstory similar to that of his predecessor. Prior to the events of *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, he was presented as the son of acrobats; his parents were killed by Killer Croc, and Jason was adopted by Bruce Wayne. Jason's original distinguishing feature was his light blonde hair, which he later dyed black after being presented with his own Robin costume. During the pre-*Crisis* years, he fought alongside Batman, took on the drug problem plaguing his school, and (in one of the more memorable scenes from this period) was completely forbidden by Batman from ever using "Holy ___!" puns.

As with many other characters in DC's stable, Jason saw a huge overhaul of his backstory and overall character following *Crisis on Infinite Earths*. His new backstory saw him first appear as a kid living on the streets who first runs into Batman while trying to steal the tires right off the Batmobile. Jason's parents in this new universe weren't the best role models for him – his mother had passed away of a drug overdose, and his father was working as a goon for Two-Face. Bruce Wayne, feeling as though Jason will become just another part of Gotham's criminal element without intervention, takes him in.

During the post-*Crisis* era, Jason became a far edgier character than he had ever been before, complete with an image that involved blatant swearing, smoking, and issues with authority. He often didn't follow Batman's orders, which led to failures about as often as it led to success.

His actions, especially his use of force, led to some controversy among the fandom, especially during the events of *Batman* #424 – Jason tracks down serial rapist Felipe Garzonas, who had escaped prosecution due to his father's diplomatic immunity. After discovering that one of Felipe's victims had hung herself, Jason speeds past Batman to the criminal. When Batman arrives, he discovers Felipe had fallen off a building to his death, with Jason standing at the edge of the balcony, simply saying, "I guess I spooked him. He slipped."



These changes to Jason's personality in the rebooted universe led to him becoming increasingly unpopular with fans. Editor Dennis O'Neil and writer Jim Starlin began discussing ways to either retire Jason or to kill him altogether – and then, after recalling a *Saturday Night Live* sketch in which Eddie Murphy told viewers to call in to see Larry the Lobster boiled live on-air, O'Neil conceived a similar idea. An ad featuring Batman carrying a seriously injured Robin was run on the back of *Batman* #427, encouraging readers to call in to one of two 900 numbers to vote on if Jason would live or die. More than 10,000 votes were cast, and with a margin of just 72 votes, the fans decided that Jason would die.

HARLEY QUINN



BY AMANDA SHERIFF

Harley Quinn has used her rather large mallet to break numerous barriers, both literally and figuratively. Though created to fulfill a singular purpose, her appeal has inspired far more adventures. She began as a sidekick to complement the Joker, but has become an independent, fully developed solo act. She suffered habitual abuse from the Joker and has taken serious strides to distance herself from the toxic relationship. Though she was originally portrayed as a villain, since *The New 52* she has been depicted as an antiheroine. She has been funny and energetic, at times nurturing, and often murderous.

Harley is a popular comic character, but was originally made for animation. Created by Paul Dini and Bruce Timm, she was introduced in *Batman: The Animated Series* in September 1992, voiced by Arleen Sorkin. Harley was developed as Joker's sidekick and love interest, wearing a jester costume that bore thematic similarities to Joker. She joined comics in *The Batman Adventures* #12 (September 1993), crashing a costume party with her future best friends, Poison Ivy and Catwoman.

Harley's origin was told in the 1994 graphic novel *Mad Love*, written by Dini and Timm. Before becoming Harley Quinn, she was Dr. Harleen Quinzel, a psychiatrist working at Arkham Asylum where she becomes fascinated by the Joker. As their sessions progress, she falls in love with him and becomes both his accomplice and on/off girlfriend. But, being that he's the Joker, he frequently abused her, ranging from petty insults to outright trying to kill her.

The 1999 graphic novel, *Batman: Harley Quinn*, opens with Poison Ivy finding an injured Harley in a wrecked rocket. Harley recounts her time at Arkham with the Joker, and how they worked together after breaking out, until he decides to kill her via rocket because he doesn't reciprocate her feelings. Wanting to protect her, Ivy gives Harley a drink that immunizes her to Ivy and makes her invulnerable to toxins. Harley decides to help Batman capture Joker, but when Joker apologizes, she forgives him, and they escape together.

Harley starred in her first titular series in 2001-2003. The 38-issue run showed her going solo, starting a gang, and leaving Gotham for Metropolis with Ivy. The series ends with Harley turning herself in at Arkham to seek help and redemption for past crimes.



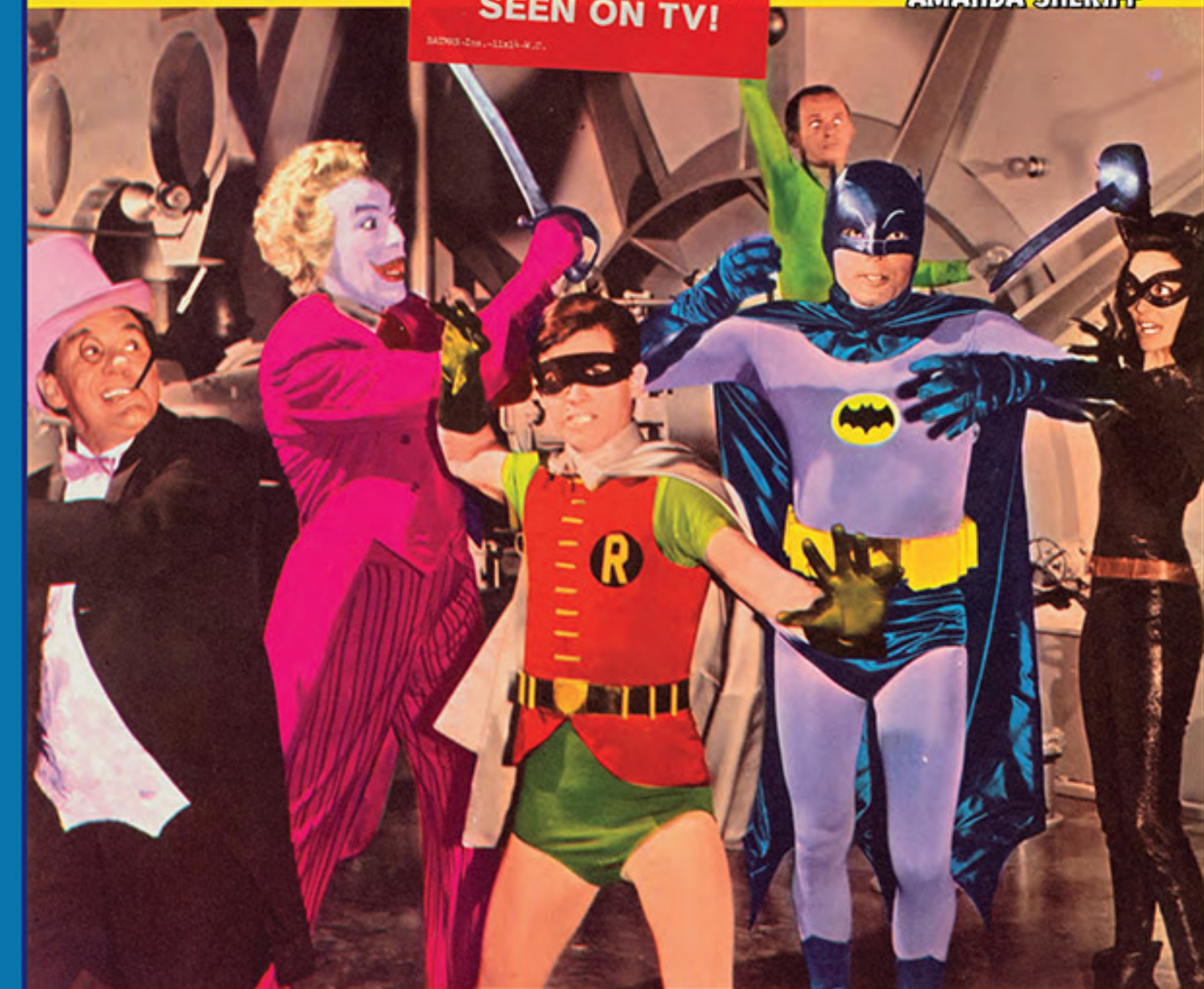
BOOM! POW! ZAP!

HOLY FULL-LENGTH MOVIE, BATMAN!



ALL NEW!
NEVER BEFORE
SEEN ON TV!

BY
AMANDA SHERIFF



Batman gained a new generation of fans in the 1960s when the show starring Adam West and Burt Ward premiered on television. Their take on the crimefighters was lighthearted and comical without skimping on heroics and detective work. After the first season of the action-adventure show wrapped, their legion of viewers was given an extra treat – a full-length summertime movie starring the Dynamic Duo.

Just two months after the first season ended, 20th Century Fox premiered *Batman: The Movie* in July 1966. Leslie H. Martinson, who had several high profile TV directing jobs under his belt, including *Maverick*, *77 Sunset Strip*, and a few episodes of *Batman*, took the reins. Set between the first two seasons, it was written by Lorenzo Semple Jr., who both co-created the TV show and wrote multiple episodes.

Along with West and Ward, the TV show's primary cast of Alan Napier as Alfred, Neil Hamilton as Commissioner Gordon, Stafford Repp as Chief O'Hara, and Madge Blake as Aunt Harriet starred in the movie. The show's best villains were also brought to the big screen, pitting the Caped Crusaders against Cesar Romero as the Joker, Burgess Meredith as the Penguin, and Frank Gorshin as the Riddler. Lee Meriwether stepped into the role of Catwoman, since Julie Newmar had previous commitments at the time of filming.

The movie was originally planned to premiere before the show began as a vehicle to introduce viewers to the new series. But the show's schedule moved up and the cost of a full-length film put it on the backburner as season one commenced. Given the show's solid ratings, the movie was greenlit, making it the first full-length Batman movie.



It's hard to pass up an Adam West autograph, especially from the famous bomb scene. On photos, West's signature usually sells for \$60-\$90.

Batman and Robin face a quarrelsome quartet of villains who use their talents and ambition on a plan to control the entire planet as the United Underworld. First, they attempt to neutralize Batman by orchestrating a shark attack after kidnapping a commodore on his yacht. Then, they decide to kidnap and ransom a wealthy man, in this case millionaire Bruce Wayne, to pull Batman into another trap. Finally, while hiding in Penguin's submarine, they hijack a dehydrator machine that can pull the moisture from bodies until they turn to dust. Using the weapon, the fiendish foursome turns the United World Organization's Security Council into piles of multicolored dust. Not only does Batman have the villains to deal with, but he must use his keen intellect to rehydrate the Security Council.



Items signed by both Adam West and Burt Ward average \$100.

Batman: The Movie is a great example of a fun superhero film, straight out of the funny books.

Batman and Robin have effective chemistry, solving riddles, traps, and foibles through teamwork, ingenuity, and intelligence. They are uncomplicated, honorable

BATMAN GETS ANIMATED ON TV

By **CARRIE WOOD**



Since the 1960s, Batman and his numerous allies and enemies have left quite an impression on animation. From sharing timeslots with other members of the DC family to setting the standard for Saturday Morning Cartoons while flying solo, Batman has truly encompassed what it means to be "animated" in every sense of the word. Here, we look at the history of Batman in animated television and the collectibles these series have inspired.

The 1960s

Batman made his animated debut in 1968's *The Batman/Superman Hour*, a 60-minute program developed by Filmation for CBS. The show was created in response to the earlier success of Filmation's *The New Adventures of Superman* and *The Superman/Aquaman Hour of Adventure*. With the popularity of the live-action *Batman* television series on ABC at the time, CBS secured the animation rights to Batman to capitalize on Batmania.

The Batman/Superman Hour consisted of various 6-1/2-minute shorts; the Batman portion was entirely new, while the Superman portion reused earlier material from *The New Adventures of Superman* and *The Adventures of Superboy*.

The show marked the debut of Olan Soule as Batman and of radio personality Casey Kasem as Robin. Both would reprise their roles in future Batman animated projects, voicing the characters into the 1980s.

The series would run for just one season, airing from September 14, 1968 to January 4, 1969. Because production began so close to the start of the television season, Filmation pulled animators off other projects to speed up production on *The Batman/Superman Hour*. The rushed schedule was a consequence of CBS shelving another DC show based on the character Metamorpho that had already entered production and had several episodes finished at that point.

Rather than create a second season, the Batman segments from *The Batman/Superman Hour* were repackaged into *Batman with Robin the Boy Wonder*, which

was also sometimes called *The Adventures of Batman*. The show was a half-hour long and included old segments from *The Batman/Superman Hour*.

As was typical of Filmation shows, these were produced using limited animation to create a high quantity of cartoons on a tight budget and deadline. The company was known for reusing stock footage across various episodes, as well as for using long shots of a camera pan across a background painting to eat up time without using any actual animation whatsoever. Despite the quantity-over-quality approach, the Filmation cartoons of the '60s helped establish Batman and other DC heroes as go-to stories for kids.

1960s Animation Collectibles

While the 1960s had no shortage of toys, figures and other knick-knacks themed to Batman and Robin (many of which you can find information on in our chapter on action figures and toys elsewhere in this book), there wasn't really anything produced specifically themed

to the cartoons. Fortunately, fans of the early Filmation Batman shows have other options, such as original cels and production artwork, which crop up in auctions on a fairly frequent basis.

Hand-painted backgrounds from the show (that do not feature any of the actual characters) can be found for as low as \$10 or so. Cels that include less-popular characters, or contain just a character without a background, have been found usually in the range of \$100-\$250.

On the higher end of things, auctions that contain cels specifically featuring a nice





BE THE CAPED CRUSADER WITH BATMAN TOYS AND ACTION FIGURES

By Amanda Sheriff
With Art Cloos

Batman is a character of daring heroics and spectacular gadgetry, making his exploits fertile ground for exciting toys. Though a lot of toys and characters fall out of fashion from one generation to the next, Batman's action figures, Batmobiles, and playsets have done battle in countless kids' bedrooms for over 60 years. Those collectibles, from the earliest toy examples to modern items made specifically for display, have become some of the most coveted superhero toys in the collecting hobby.



The volume of Batman toys is so large that the category could fill an entire price guide on its own. Adding to that, new Batman toy discoveries are routinely being made by determined collectors. The content of this section provides an overview of those toys with callouts to companies that produced well known toy lines as well as some interesting, lesser known pieces, with a focus on toys produced in the U.S. The values that accompany images throughout represent verified sales completed through auctions in recent years.

The earliest Batman toy merchandise sold in stores were the 1944 full color transfers, which were pictures that could be applied to different surfaces. The sheet contains transfers of Batman, Robin, Bruce Wayne, Dick Grayson, the Joker, Penguin, Linda, Alfred the Demon Detective, the Batmobile, and the Batplane.



Originally selling for 10¢, the full color transfers in Fine condition recently sold for \$525.

Batman toys and related merchandise were not produced in earnest until the 1960s during the *Batman* TV show's Batmania. Marx created an array of games and toys, such



Marx Bagatelle game prototype in Fine condition realized \$11,825.

Marx Bagatelle game (opened) has sold for \$80 to \$350 in various conditions.

as the bagatelle game with the Dynamic Duo and their villains. The company made a few variations of shooting arcade games, which includes the rare large version with Joker's head. They made a water blaster



Marx water blaster prototype in Very Good condition has achieved \$4,210.

Marx Batman Picture Pistol battery-operated film projector gun has sold for \$100 to \$485 in a range of conditions.