

First appearing as socialite turned crime-fighter Bruce Wayne in DETECTIVE COMICS #27 on March 30, 1939, the Dark Knight has stood as a symbol of determination, courage and justice to generations of fans for over 80 years. Created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger, he is one of the *most iconic fictional characters in the world. Batman has dedicated his life to an endless crusade, a war on all criminals in the name of his murdered parents, who were taken from him when he was just a child. Since that tragic night, he has trained his body and mind to near physical perfection to be a self-made Super Hero.*

Batman is recognized across the globe thanks to his portrayal in universally beloved comics, TV shows, cartoons and movies. From Adam West in the hit 1966 show to the latest Caped Crusader, as played by Robert Pattinson in the upcoming film *The Batman*, the image of Batman is *reinvented for every generation by incredible writers and artists both behind the camera and at the drawing board.*

A staple of Saturday morning cartoons, Batman has been a constant source of inspiration for children since 1968. Bruce Timm and Paul Dini's *Batman: The Animated Series* would also bring acclaim by winning an Emmy for Outstanding Writing in an Animated Program, the first cartoon based on a comic book to do so. We would also be introduced to the voice that would be Batman for an entire generation, Kevin Conroy. Batman continues to thrive in the animated realm with shows like *Batman the Brave and the Bold* returning to the lighter side of the universe while animated films like *Batman Year One*, *The Dark Knight Returns* and soon to come *The Long Halloween parts 1 & 2* have explored the darker tales of Batman's history,

With the help of Tim Burton and actor Michael Keaton, Batman would usher in the age of the *comic book movie in 1989. Then, in 2005, we would see a new Batman for a new era of storytelling in Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins.* The Dark Knight Trilogy would widely be hailed as some of the finest filmmaking of the beginning of the 21st Century.

Through it all, Batman's continued adventures through the pages of DC Comics reaches readers around the globe every month. Batman has inspired countless writers and artists like Frank Miller, Scott Snyder, Tom King, Jim Lee to tell stories of heroism and perseverance. Batman has *transcended his story into one of the great American myths, He is vengeance, He is the night, He is Batman.*