

Thursday, June 29, 1989

## Prince right man to compose 'Batman' soundtrack

By Don Atkinson Jr.  
GUEST REVIEWER

The hoopla surrounding the release of the new "Batman" movie has been more of a series of surprises than anything else.

Big Surprise Number One: Michael Keaton was cast in the lead role of Batman/Bruce Wayne.

Big Surprise Number Two: Tim Burton ("Pee-Wee's Big Adventure", "Beetlejuice") was signed to direct.

Big Surprise Number Three, fortunately, turned out to be something we could all live with — Jack Nicholson would be The Joker.

But then along came Big Surprise Number Four!!! A surprise so horrifying that it struck terror in the hearts of millions!!! A surprise so

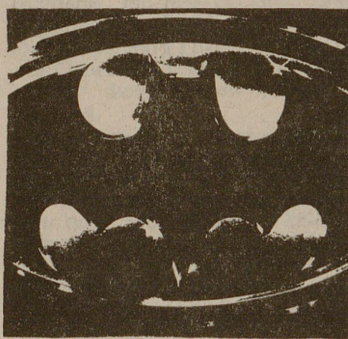
hideous that movie-goers everywhere began preparing for the worst!!! A surprise so... well, you get the idea.

Big Surprise Number Four, as it turned out, was that Prince was asked to write music for the movie.

Remember Prince? That little sweaty guy who wears black lingerie, sticks his tongue out a lot and grabs himself in strategic locations?

So get ready for Big Surprise Number Five: after hearing the album and seeing the film (in that order), it is my opinion that Prince was the perfect choice to do music for "Batman."

Prince's "Batman" soundtrack is more than just a good album — it is a serious study of the film as a whole. He captures not only the moods and textures of the film itself, but also a



strong sense of the major characters as well.

The structure of the album is remarkably complex and resembles the film in the approach taken to each of the characters. Songs about

Batman speak of optimism and a sense of purpose, while songs about The Joker are full of egotism and insanity. Bruce Wayne emerges as a character deeply troubled, yet the Vicki Vale character is almost completely ignored, coming across as a sex object and nothing more.

The album begins with "The Future," a song that introduces the major themes associated with Batman. His sense of righteousness and his belief in the future come across strongly. This song also conveys a sense of Prince himself; his anti-drug/pro-spirituality message is clearly parallel to that of Batman. It is obvious that Prince has found common ground on which to base his songs.

The next song is "Electric Chair," which addresses the issue of The Joker's insanity. The other two songs that deal with The Joker, "Partyman" and "Trust," add other essential elements to the characterization

by addressing his ego and his search for answers. These songs are, for the most part, fun and have a no-holds-barred feel to them.

Perhaps the most impressive song on the album is "Vicki Waiting," which clearly distinguishes Bruce Wayne as a separate personality from Batman. This song has a deep, brooding quality that paints Bruce Wayne as a tragic figure, torn between his love for Vicki and his need to vindicate the past. Lyrics such as, "This is where she wants 2 be/ I am what she wants 2 see/ I've never known a love so sweet/ Still I keep Vicki waiting," reveal the darker side of Bruce Wayne's character.

This dark side is developed more fully in the song "Scandalous," which deals with the issue of how two personalities can exist in one man. Even though "Scandalous" sounds like a steamy love song on the surface, it is actually a war between the two characters. Bruce

Wayne says, "Everybody's been told me that good things come to those who wait/ But I've got so much on the mind/ I just can't," which explains why he has such a problem committing to Vicki Vale.

The album's only real low point is the song "The Arms Of Orion," which features Sheena Easton, who was a decent singer until she discovered that she could sell more records by imitating the moans and groans of the female orgasm. Musically and lyrically, "The Arms Of Orion" is a good song. The problem comes in the vocals, which are OK until the end, when Prince and Sheena seem to get into a competition over who can moan and wail louder than the other. Obviously, the real loser of that competition is the listener.

Overall, Prince's "Batman" soundtrack is a good album. Not only did it work in conjunction with the film but it has the ability to stand on its own.

## 'Batman' as seen by Batt staff

To be honest, I was impressed with the movie. I think a lot of people were upset because they paid too much attention to the hype. The blend between Michael Keaton's quietly intense Batman and Nicholson's outrageously done, chew-up-the-scenery Joker, was well handled. Tim Burton maintained a clever, subtle hand throughout the film until the end, which was weak. I think Burton's problem there was that he was trying too hard to entertain. \*\*\* (out of 5).

Don Atkinson Jr., Cartoonist

Enjoyed it. (I've never seen a single Batman episode on TV — so I had no high hopes or grand illusions.) Combined, Keaton's subtle humor and Nicholson's mischievous ways were a hit. \*\*\*\*

Kelly Brown, Staff Writer

A good movie worth seeing, but highly overrated. Jack Nicholson deserves an Oscar; however, without him, the movie falters. More dialogue between Batman and the Joker would have made the film more dramatic. A little nudity from Kim Basinger would certainly have been enjoyable!!! \*\*\*

Phelan Ebenhack, Photographer

I haven't seen the movie; I'm boycotting the thing because the producers didn't cast my personal hero and mentor, Adam West, in the title role that he earned fair and square. Slaving away for three years on the TV series with the scripts he was given should have earned The Big Guy some respect.

Hal Hammons, Makeup Editor

I thought the characterizations were really good. And seeing Michael Keaton in that black turtle-neck was worth the five bucks. Too bad about the half-hearted ending, though. \*\*\*

Ellen Hobbs, Editor

The movie version of "Batman" was a mixture of the 1939 sinister comic book hero, and the TV version of the happy-go-lucky half of the "Dynamic Duo." However, Michael Keaton's Batman was not nearly as dramatic as Jack Nicholson's the Joker. The movie did not live up to the months of hype that preceded its showing. \*\*\*

Michael Kelley, Clerk

Has anyone noticed the resemblance between Madonna's "Express Yourself" video set and Gotham City in "Batman"? The movie doesn't live up to its horrendous hype, but Burton deserves a "B+" for effort. Jack Nicholson is perfect, but I have to wonder if he was acting or just acting crazy. \*\*\*

Chuck Lovejoy, Entertainment Writer

If you feel like you must see this movie, I suggest you wait until it goes to the dollar movie and save yourself four bucks. \*\*1/2

Melissa Naumann, Asst. City Editor

Holy movie critic madness! It's a thumbs up for "Batman" and a thumbs down for the critics' poor ratings of the film. \*\*\*1/2

Juliette Rizzo, Opinion Page Editor

Once again, preview hype ruins the movie. Good, but not that good. Keaton simply had too much to live up to. Nicholson, however, makes it worthwhile. \*\*\*

Fiona Soltes, City Editor

I haven't seen it, but I heard Kim Basinger is HOT — fabulous — extraordinary. Oh yeah, I also heard Jack Nicholson and Michael Keaton are in the movie, too.

Keith Spera, Entertainment Writer

## AROUND TOWN

### Live Music

Information is provided by the clubs and is subject to change.

#### The Bistro

In the College Station Ramada at 1502 S. Texas. 18 and older admitted. For more information, call 693-9891.

Thurs, Fri and Sat — D. A. McDowell. Variety. Starts at 8 p.m. No cover.

#### Brazos Landing

At Northgate at 103 Boyett. Everyone admitted. For more information, call 846-3497.

Thurs — Shake Russell. Original acoustic. Starts at 10 p.m. \$5 cover.

Fri — Suzanna Sharpe & the Samba Police. Brazilian dance. Starts at 10 p.m. \$5 cover.

Sat — The Solid Senders. Blues from Austin. Starts at 10 p.m. \$5 cover.

#### Cow Hop Annex

Next to the Cow Hop at Northgate. 18 and older admitted. Call

696-5522 for more information. Thurs — Subculture. Top 40. Starts at 10 p.m. \$2 cover.

Fri — Agent Orange. Top 40. Starts at 10 p.m. \$2 cover.

Sat — The Band with No Sleep. Classic rock. Starts at 10 p.m. \$2 cover.

#### Emiliano's

In Bryan at 502 W. 25th St. Call 775-9539 for more information.

Sat — Selena y Los Dilos. Spanish variety. Starts at 8 p.m. No cover.

#### Excaltre Club

In Bryan at 1803 Greenfield Plaza (behind Dairy Queen). 18 and over admitted. For more information call 846-6262.

Fri — Sundown. Easy listening. Starts at 9:00 p.m. No cover.

#### Flying Tomato

At Northgate at 303 University Dr. All ages admitted. For more information call 846-1616.

Wed — Sneaky Pete. Sing-along with '60s and '70s music. Starts at 9 p.m. \$1 cover.

#### Frank's Bar and Grill

In College Station at 503 E. University Drive. All ages are ad-

mitted. Call 846-5388 for more information.

Sat — Robert Boston and Hair. Jazz. Starts at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Gallery Bar

In the College Station Hilton at 801 East University Drive. Only 21 and older are admitted. Call 693-7500 for more information.

Thurs, Fri and Sat — Clyde Dove. Jazz. No cover.

#### Kay's Cabaret

At Post Oak Mall. 18 and over are admitted. For more information, call 696-9191.

Fri — For Cryin' Out Loud. Rock-n-roll. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$2 cover.

Sat — Starvin' Marvin and the Dextrims. Rock-n-roll. Begins at 9:30 p.m. \$2 cover.

#### Parthenon

At 815 Harvey. 18 and older admitted. For more information call 764-8575.

Thurs — Killer Bees. Reggae. Starts at 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Wed — Lippman Jam. 9 p.m. No cover.

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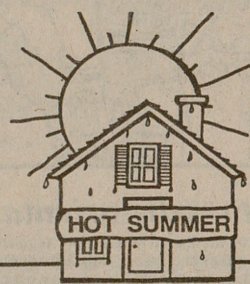
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# LOUPOT'S OFF CAMPUS CENTER CONNECTION OFF CAMPUS AGGIES



### Summer Utility Costs on the Rise

In the next few months utility costs will rise significantly. For off campus students this will mean paying a higher bill each month. If you are on a tight budget, that extra amount can make a big difference. The following tips can help reduce energy consumption and keep those monthly utility bills down.

#### When using air conditioner

\*Set your thermostat at 78 degrees. The difference between 72 and 78 degrees can save as much as 47 percent on cooling costs.

\*Put the fan setting on automatic. It will help to remove humidity.

\*Clean or replace the air conditioning filter at least once a month. When the filter is dirty, air movement is restricted, reducing the efficiency of the air conditioner and increasing the operating costs.

\*If your apartment is unoccupied during the day, turn your air conditioner off.

\*Consider using a fan with your air conditioner.

\*Do not place lamps or a television near your thermostat. The thermostat senses the heat produced by these appliances and causes the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

\*Keep lights on low settings or off. Lights generate heat and add to the load on your air conditioner.

#### With or without air conditioning

\*Draw draperies, blinds, and shades on windows that receive direct sun.

\*Turn the lights off when leaving a room

\*On cooler days, open the windows and use fans instead of using your air conditioner.

\*Dress for the warmer indoor temperatures. Lightweight clothes like cotton are most comfortable.

**In the kitchen**  
\*Never boil water in an open pan. Water will come to a boil faster and use less energy in a kettle or covered pan.

\*When using the oven, make the most of the heat from that single source. Cook as many foods as you can at one time.

\*Use an electric skillet or toaster oven for small meals rather than the kitchen range or oven. The smaller appliances use less energy.

\*If you have a gas stove, make sure the pilot light is burning efficiently with a blue flame. A yellowish flame indicates that an adjustment is needed.

As electricity cost rise in the summer, conserving energy is important to everyone. These tips are simple ways to save money and keep you within your budget.

### LIVING OFF CAMPUS AT A&M

Wednesday, August 30: Helpful Hints on Security, Managing Your Money and Enjoying College

Monday, September 4: Living Off Campus with Roommates

Both at: MSC 226 5:00-6:15 P.M.

Sponsored by the Off Campus Center and the Off Campus Aggies

### OFF CAMPUS CENTER: NEW SUMMER HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
All Saturdays in August 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Sundays, August 20 & 27 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

### STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE (S.O.T.A.)

...a student organization for Aggies over 25... will host several social gatherings this summer.

#### Upcoming S.O.T.A. events:

Friday, June 30 5:00 p.m.  
Happy Hour at The Flying Tomato (Northgate)

Friday, July 4  
Picnic - Millikin Falls  
Meet at Olson Field Parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, July 7 5:00 p.m.  
Happy Hour at Dudley's Draw (Northgate)

Wednesday, July 12 8:15 p.m.  
S.O.T.A. monthly meeting, call the Off Campus Center, 845-1741, for more information.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LOUPOT'S BOOKSTORES at Northgate, Southgate, and Redmond Terrace sponsored the Off Campus Connection.

From Mr. Loupot: "Thank you Aggies for your patronage. My new stores have parking facilities for your convenience. Remember that we buy \$\$\$ used books."

Stories and artwork are provided by the Off Campus Center. Editor: Erika Gonzalez-Lima. June 29, 1989

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