

# The Batman is a fantastic watch

By TJ REID  
For the *Keizertimes*

When the Comics Code Authority was established in the 1950s to appease those who thought the funny books were corrupting the minds of children with questionable themes, inherently dark characters like Batman entered an era of lighthearted camp. It was not until the 1980s that Batman would permanently reclaim his throne as the prototypical dark-and-troubled king of angst, despite LEGO and George Clooney-with-bat-nipples iterations. Before now, the darkest version of Batman to ever glide onto the silver screen was in Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* trilogy, a series that helped elevate comic book movies to more "serious" cinema. But just when I thought the Caped Crusader couldn't get any darker, Warner Brothers decided to double down with *The Batman*, an extremely well-made, intense film that, much like a black hole, does not let a single photon of light escape its inky depths.

Directed by Matt Reeves and led by Robert Pattinson's almost uncomfortably unhinged, brilliantly subtle, and undoubtedly Kurt Cobain-inspired rendition of the titular hero, *The Batman* is not for the faint of heart. There is no comic relief to be found, the violence is regularly even more brutal than *The Dark Knight* at its bloodiest (it is still, somehow, PG-13), and the mystery at the center of it all demands your full attention and brainpower for the entire 176-minute run time if you expect to understand everything that's happening. If these things don't turn you off you will find *The Batman* to be a fantastic watch. The supporting cast, which includes Zoë Kravitz as Catwoman, Jeffrey Wright as Jim Gordon, and Paul Dano as the startlingly creepy Riddler,



Robert Pattinson dons the cape in *The Batman*.

PHOTO/Courtesy of DC Comics

## Review

is perfectly cast and act the heck out of a script that is sharp if not always compelling. Some of it feels like a horror movie (who imagined the Batmobile could be so scary?), some of it feels like a David Fincher-esque psychological thriller in the vein of *Se7en* or *Zodiac*, and none of it is what I would describe as "fun." *The Batman* is not a movie you

want to see if you want to escape the horribleness of the real world and watch a superhero bam, smash, and pow their way through a colorful rogues gallery for a few hours. "Colorful" is the very last word I would use to describe *The Batman*—black, dark red, and various shades of gray seem to be the only colors that exist in this version of Gotham City.

This limited and dreary color palette is one of a few nitpicks I had that kept *The Batman* from reaching loftier heights in my estimation. I had other issues as well, such as the soundtrack, which is overly bombastic, far too

intrusive, and has a fixation on a certain two-note refrain that will drive you absolutely insane by the time it is played for the millionth time, as well as the script's occasional dip into melodrama and self-importance (some of Batman's brooding voiceovers come uncomfortably close to self-parody at some points). Yet despite these flaws, *The Batman* is a thrilling, well-crafted film that is well worth your time if you don't mind your movies having a whole lot of dark and not a lot of fun.

*The Batman* is now available exclusively in theaters.

# One school club is coloring the world

By BEE FLINT  
Of the *Keizertimes*

At the beginning of the year, McNary High School switched to having clubs during school hours instead of having them after school. The clubs are either 6, 9 or 18 weeks long.

One of those clubs is The Art Club which is led by Mark Kohley, an art teacher at McNary. The Art Club, along with the other clubs at McNary, meet every Wednesday from 2:25-3:20 p.m.. The switch to having clubs during school rather than after is to get students more involved in activities.

"We really emphasize trying to have every student involved in one sport, one activity or one club throughout the year," Kohley said.

In the art club, students can work on their own projects or work together on murals around the school. "Our goals in the art club is to come up with mural ideas to strengthen educational ideas and to simply beautify and kind of connect different parts of the building together," he said.

Teachers reach out to the art club with their mural ideas, from which

students can then choose. Kohley suggests that members only pick the murals that interest them.

A group of students in the club are working on a mural of the world that will be in the school cafeteria. Another group is doing a nature themed mural above a teacher's classroom door.

Kohley has also noticed that the art club has given members a chance to meet new people while working on projects.

"I think they've [the students] become not just interested in the type of subject matter in a club, but the people themselves," he said. "What we're trying to accomplish is to create a culture where students are



Art Club members paint a mural in the McNary High School cafeteria.

PHOTO/Bee Flint of the *Keizertimes*

getting involved with each other and the educational process, and this is kind of a different direction to take it."

Kohley encourages students who are

interested in joining the art club to talk to him and learn more about it.