

# THE GREAT DETECTIVES



## ON SCREEN

Week Nine

The World's Greatest Detective

## Welcome to *The Great Detectives*

### Week Nine

Batman (and, by extension, his alter ego Bruce Wayne) might not seem the most obvious choice for inclusion in a course about television and film detectives. Few of our other featured players play poker at the weekends with the Last Son of Krypton, after all. Or, indeed, dress as a giant bat.

But not only has Batman been known, from his earliest days, as the World's Greatest Detective, that is, in fact, the lineage from which he first sprung in the 1930s. He is a character from pulp fiction. A costumed crimefighter more than a superhero.

He owes more, if you consider it, to Philip Marlowe and the like than he does to many of his comics stablemates.

In his earliest stories, he, yes, dresses as a bat. But he also investigates. Foils crimes. Takes down syndicates. Deals with gangsters and thugs, long before maniacal clowns.

On screen, the detective side of Batman has often been sublimated, in search of action movie energy, but it does rear its head. Most notably in the most recent film incarnation *The Batman*.

The core of Batman is a clever man (albeit a crazy rich clever man) using his brains *and* his brawn to fight the criminal element. In the comics, he solves riddles to catch his prey. He follows and analyses evidence.

He catches those criminals the police force cannot.

It's worth noting that DC stands for Detective Comics. And Batman is one of its tentpole characters.

*The Detective.*

## FILMS WEEK NINE

Batman (1943)

*Dir. Lambert Hillyer*

Batman and Robin (1949)

*Dir. Spencer Gordon Bennet*

Batman (1966)

*Dir. Leslie H. Martinson*

Batman (1989)

*Dir. Tim Burton*

Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993)

*Dir. Eric Radomski & Bruce Timm*

Batman Begins (2005)

*Dir. Christopher Nolan*

The Dark Knight (2008)

*Dir. Christopher Nolan*

Batman Vs Superman (2016)

*Dir. Zack Snyder*

Batman: The Killing Joke (2016)

*Dir. Sam Liu*

Lego Batman Movie (2017)

*Dir. Chris McKay*

The Batman (2022)

*Dir. Matt Reeves*