

B A T M A N: The Animated Movie

"Masks"

CAST LIST

BATMAN / BRUCE WAYNE

NOTE: In the flashback sequences, Batman wears the old-style costume (no yellow spotlight around the bat insignia on his chest.)

ALFRED

COMMISSIONER GORDON

HARVEY BULLOCK

TALL MAN / JACK NAPIER / JOKER

Jack Napier (AKA Tall Man) as he was before the accident that transformed him into the Joker. Same voice, but younger, not as manic.

ANDREA BEAUMONT / PHANTASM / WOMAN

Batman's one true love, seen in her late teens / early twenties and early thirties. As the young Andrea, she is sprightly and full of optimism and love. The older woman is more hardened, verging on bitter. Her costumed identity, Phantasm, has a filtered and harmonized quality -- it could just as easily be a man's voice as a woman's. This is important, as her identity is not revealed until the end.

ARTHUR REEVES

A Gotham City councilman, ruthless and amoral. Little difference in his voice between flashback and present. In present time he's in his late 30's.

CARL BEAUMONT

Andrea's father. A strong-willed, no-nonsense businessman. Little difference in his voice between flashback and present.

SAL VALESTRA

A mob boss, 60's or 70's. Ten years make a lot of difference here; the younger Valestra is strong and vibrant; the older man is emphysemic, dependent on an oxygen bottle.

CHUCKIE SOL

Another gangster, an associate of Valestra's. 50's; short and squat.

EXT. FAIRGROUNDS - TRANSPORTATION EXHIBIT - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

The atrophied remains of an elevated monorail track swoops through the b.g. A giant automobile tire advertising Regal Tires has also seen better days. Other exhibits include a huge car battery and a giant turbine prop.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Andrea ENTERS SHOT cautiously, half enveloped in mist. She reacts as she hears:

JOKER (O.S.)

Well, if it isn't Smoky the Babe --
just in time to meet her biggest fan!

ANGLE INCLUDES TURBINE PROP

Which suddenly begins to TURN. It CRANKS UP RAPIDLY, quickly producing an intake suction of hurricane proportions (SFX).
(NOTE: The air is blown out a wind tunnel behind the prop.)

ON ANDREA

Bracing herself against the RISING GALE. Dust and small debris BLOW THROUGH SHOT. The WIND strips away her concealing fog, revealing her form-fitting costume.

ON JOKER

Crouching in the shadows of what was once a concession stand, behind the turbine, holding a portable control mechanism. He twists a dial on it.

JOKER

How 'bout a little pick-me-up!
(laughs)

ON ANDREA

Andrea is lifted from the floor by the WIND. She grabs one of the wires of the giant car battery to keep from being blown O.S. into the prop.

CLOSER ON HER

The WIND TEARS at her, RIPPING her cape from her. Debris PUMMELS her, causing her grip to slip until she's barely hanging onto the cable's end.

CLOSE ON HER HANDS

They lose their grip. REFIELD as she's blown several yards closer to the prop, only to STOP her FLIGHT by grabbing the fin of the jet car (seen in FLASHBACK).

ON ANDREA

As she tries to grip the fin, but it's too smooth. Her fingers slide along the edge of the fin, until she's hanging onto the end. All the while we hear...

JOKER (O.S.)
(rising laughter)

ON BATMAN

who suddenly appears in the far entrance. He sees...

ANDREA

barely holding on. Suddenly she loses her grip and flies through the air toward the turbine.

ON BATMAN

He SHOOTS the grappling gun.

ON THE TURBINE

as she is about to be sucked into the turbine, the grappling hook latches onto her belt and stops her in mid-air.

ON JOKER

looking at Batman in anger.

JOKER
What?!

ON BATMAN

bracing himself as he holds onto the grappling gun.

CLOSE ON GRAPPLING GUN

which begins to turn, drawing in the cable.

ON ANDREA

as she is pulled away from the turbine.

ON JOKER

Angry beyond words, he cranks the power to the max.

WIDE

as the turbine spins to a HIGHER PITCH. The pull is so strong that Andrea's body is doubled over by the wind.

ON BATMAN

who is literally sliding on his feet toward the WIND as he tries to hold on.

ON JOKER

Smiling maliciously. He may kill two birds with one stone.

ON BATMAN

As he slides up to a building support pillar, he steps around it to use it to help brace himself. The WIND is blowing furiously at him now.

CLOSE ON BATMAN

using all his strength, he holds onto the grappling device with one hand, while he pulls out a batarang with another.

ON THE BATARANG

It's red, folded in half. With a flip of his hand he opens it to reveal that it has tiny rocket thrusters.

ON BATMAN

looking over, he throws the jet-powered batarang.

ON THE BATARANG

which BURSTS with jet thrusters the second it's thrown and zooms O.S.

ON BATMAN

Andrea is reeled INTO SHOT; Batman grabs her up and leaps O.S.

ON GIANT TIRE

The batarang jets INTO SHOT against the wind and EXPLODES at the base of the tire. The tire is jolted free of its anchorage and begins to ROLL O.S.

ON JOKER

He reacts to this, turns and takes to his heels.

WIDE ANGLE

The huge tire, aided by the turbine suction, rolls into the huge turbine, which shatters and EXPLODES.

ON BATMAN AND ANDREA

As the final pieces of debris fall down (SFX), they both rise, regaining their bearing.

CLOSER

They regard each other against an apocalyptic flaming b.g.

BATMAN

Your father's dead, isn't he? You came into town early to get Chuckie Sol so you could shift the blame to your father if you had to.

ANDREA

They took everything, Bruce. My Dad. My life. You.

(beat)

I'm not saying it's right, or even sane, but it's all I've got left. So either help me or get out of the way.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Batman takes a few steps toward her.

BATMAN

You know I can't do that.

ANDREA

(anguished cry)

Look what they did to us! What we could have had! They had to pay.

FAVOR BATMAN

Torn, hurting. He takes her by the shoulders tenderly.

BATMAN

But, Andi -- what will vengeance solve?

She looks at him, eyes dry and empty.

ANDREA

If anyone knows the answer to that, Bruce -- it's you.

Stung, he lets go of her. The sadness deepens if possible.

BATMAN

Leave, Andi. Now. Please.

She looks at him hard for a beat, then steps back.

WIDER

As she backs into the shadows, Batman turns away. Mustering up whatever resolve he has left, he heads for the Joker.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER OF FAIRGROUNDS - NIGHT

The Joker's near the main exposition area of the fair. He runs to a set of lockers and yanks one open. Inside is a large, cumbersome jet pack harness; we're talking Bell Labs here, rather than the Rocketeer.

ANOTHER ANGLE

He straps it on, then steps over to a power pole and opens a circuit cabinet on it.

CLOSER

Inside is a large knife switch. The Joker throws it. There's a CRACKLE OF ELECTRICITY. As the Joker steps back, a batarang whirls INTO SHOT and SMASHES the circuit cabinet, which ERUPTS SPARKS.

ANGLE INCLUDES BATMAN

Approaching.

BATMAN

(a curse)

Joker.

FAVOR JOKER

He grins sardonically.

JOKER

You're too late, Batman. There are twenty miles of tunnels under this place -- and they're all filled with high explosives!

(beat)

In five minutes, everything goes up in the biggest blast since the Arkham Christmas party.

(laughs)

WIDE ANGLE

The Joker FIRES UP the rocket pack and rises into the air on a column of flame. APPROPRIATE SFX.

JOKER (CONT'D)

(mad laughter)

ON BATMAN - TRAVELING

Running, leaping over debris. He whips out his grappling gun and FIRES it up O.S.

ON GRAPPLING HOOK - TRAVELING

Shooting up against a blurred b.g., the hook's tines opening. It runs out of cable, stops just short of the Joker's leg and falls back O.S.

REACTION SHOT - BATMAN

Tight-lipped with fury. He tosses the grappling gun aside, not waiting for the cable to rewind, and dashes O.S.

LONG SHOT - BATMAN

Running, hurdling over broken remnants of railings. He leaps onto a semi-demolished building that was once a giant computer display, climbs it like a cat.

CLOSER - ON TOP OF BUILDING

Batman climbs to the top, stands silhouetted against the moon. He hurls a batarang with line attached up O.S.

ON JOKER - MOVING

PAN DOWN to his leg, where the batarang wraps about it.

RESUME JOKER

He reacts, looks down.

JOKER

Huh?

ON BATMAN

He leaps into the air and begins to climb the cable.

ON JOKER

He loses some altitude as Batman's weight is added to his.

JOKER

You just don't know when to quit, do you?

HIS POV - BATMAN

Climbing doggedly up the rope. He can only go so far, however, because the ROCKET EXHAUST is between him and the Joker.

ON JOKER

He glances to one side O.S., works the controls and veers in that direction.

TRAVELING SHOT - JOKER AND BATMAN

Batman dangling beneath the Joker as they move over the dismantled fairgrounds.

WIDE ANGLE

The Joker approaches the center of the fair, where the starship and moon structures tower over everything else.

ON BATMAN - MOVING

He's dragged brutally across the rough cratered surface of the moon (APPROPRIATE SFX). His costume is ripped, his body scraped.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Joker ROCKETS up the side of the spaceship structure, pulling Batman with him.

ON OBSERVATION DECK

A narrow railed ring that surrounds the spaceship just below the needle nose. The Joker rises up past it.

CLOSER

As Batman is dragged up he manages to hook one leg around the railing, stopping his upward flight.

ON JOKER

His movement comes to an abrupt halt. He looks down O.S., reacts.

HIS POV - BATMAN

Anchored to the railing, pulling on the rope.

WIDE ANGLE

The Joker has drifted somewhat, so he and the rope are now at a slight angle to the vertical thrust of the ROCKET EXHAUST -- which means Batman can reel him in without winding up barbequed. The Joker reacts in horror to this.

JOKER

What are you doing?!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Joker frantically maneuvers, trying to aim the EXHAUST so as to fry Batman. This is not easy, since he has to keep himself upright so as to remain aloft.

FAVOR BATMAN

He dodges the FLAMES, doggedly pulling the Joker closer and closer.

JOKER

In another minute this whole place
will be toast!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Batman has pulled the Joker as close as he can without being roasted by the ROCKET EXHAUST. Now he climbs onto the railing and leaps for the Joker.

DRAMATIC ANGLE

Batman grabs the Joker, ripping at the latter's rocket harness as the two weave above the fairgrounds far below, drifting away from the spaceship sculpture. The Joker fights back, trying to push Batman off.

JOKER

You're crazy! I'm your only chance
to get out of here! Let me go or
we'll both die!

BATMAN

That's the idea.

CLOSER

He manages to KICK one of the twin jets of the rocket pack, causing it to go askew and FIRE at an angle, causing the Joker to go into a spin.

JOKER

(cry of fear)

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Joker goes into a nose dive, spiraling down spectacularly as Batman leaps from him for the railing.

JOKER

(trailing cry)

ON BATMAN

He barely manages to grab the railing. He looks down O.S.

ON JOKER - FALLING

As he plummets, he manages to free himself of the out-of-control rocket, which JETS OFF at an angle.

ON MOON STRUCTURE

The Joker falls and HITS the rusted arc of the moon structure, BREAKING through it.

JOKER
(cry of pain)

Most of the covering CRACKS and falls in with him, revealing the skeletal frame of the structure.

ON BASE OF SPACESHIP STRUCTURE

The rocket pack HITS the base of the structure and EXPLODES.

LONG SHOT - SPACESHIP STRUCTURE

For an instant it looks like we have ignition as FLAMES BILLOW from the base of the spaceship structure. But the structure, instead of lifting off, begins to COLLAPSE as the weakened fins give way.

ON OBSERVATION DECK - BATMAN

The Dark Knight leaps from the deck once again as the structure COLLAPSES.

LONG SHOT - SPACESHIP AND MOON

The spaceship topples onto the moon structure, CRUSHING it.

ON BATMAN - FALLING

Out of batarangs and grappling guns. He grabs the protruding horizontal spire of another sculpture and swings around it, partially breaking the force of his fall.

ANOTHER ANGLE

It's still a punishing drop to the pavement. He lands hard, twisting one leg beneath him.

BATMAN
(cry of pain)

ON JOKER

Still alive, but trapped beneath the rubble. He shields himself as best he can as more wreckage RAINS INTO SHOT.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Batman staggers INTO SHOT not far from where the Joker lies, presumably with multiple injuries. Batman's not looking much better himself: Costume torn and ragged, blood streaking his face and body, one leg injured or broken. He limps forward. The Joker looks up and sees him. He grins, a ghastly rictus.

JOKER
(chuckling; fearful)
Okay. I give up.

FAVOR BATMAN

He hobbles toward the Joker; whether to help or finish it is hard to say at this point. Pieces of FLAMING RUBBLE are still FALLING from the spaceship structure.

ANGLE INCLUDES JOKER

As Andrea suddenly materializes out of the night beside him. He reacts, looks up at her.

JOKER
Too late. I surrendered. Tell her,
Batman.

ON BATMAN

He starts forward, surprise and fear on his face.

BATMAN
Andrea! You've got to get out of
here! The place is wired to explode!

As if to underscore his words, a SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS begin in the distance, growing closer.

ANGLE INCLUDES ANDREA AND JOKER

A large piece of the structure CRASHES down between them, the FLAMES driving Batman back. Through the dancing heat we can see Andrea. She is calm as only one who embraces death can be. If there is an emotion in her face and voice, it is sadness. During the next few shots we can hear the STRING OF EXPLOSIONS GROWING LOUDER, even see them in the distance.

ANDREA
No. One way or another, it ends
tonight.

CLOSER ON HER

She holds up one of the gas canisters.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
Goodbye, my love.

ON JOKER

Squirming. Trying to pull himself out.

JOKER
(as he struggles)
For once I'm stuck without a punchline.
(weak laughter)

WIDE ANGLE

Andrea TRIGGERS the canister. Black mist obliterates our view of her and the Joker.

JOKER (O.S.)
(laughter grows stronger, more manic)

ON BATMAN

He realizes what she plans to do. He tries to reach her.

BATMAN
(primal anguish)
NOOO --!!!

ANOTHER ANGLE

An EXPLOSION close by hurls him O.S.

ON STREET

Batman is hurled INTO SHOT next to a grating that is partially askew. FLAMING DEBRIS RAINS down around him. He can barely move, but he tries to crawl back through the flames to the only woman he ever really loved. If he can't save her, at least he can die with her.

JOKER (O.S.)
(crazy laughter)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Another O.S. EXPLOSION -- really close -- causes the street to COLLAPSE beneath him. Batman tumbles into the abyss.

BATMAN
(startled cry)

INT. SEWER

Batman, along with a SHOWER OF DEBRIS, falls into the swiftly RUNNING WATER and is carried into darkness. A moment later another EXPLOSION causes the street to completely COLLAPSE, burying the sewer.

CUT TO:

PANORAMIC ANGLE - THE FAIRGROUNDS

The whole place is going UP IN FLAMES as the EXPLOSIONS tear the grounds apart. The Joker's WILD LAUGHTER CONTINUES.

JOKER (O.S.)
(mad laughter)

In the center, at the base of the moon structure, is a small blot of black mist. But not for long -- the MOTHER OF ALL EXPLOSIONS turns the blackness white hot, CUTTING OFF the Joker's LAUGHTER at its peak, and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. AQUEDUCT - NIGHT

Batman, battered and broken, pulls himself from the drainage pipe. He climbs onto the aqueduct and stares back at the CONFLAGRATION. His shoulders sag in a defeat unbearable.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE BATCAVE - ON THRONE CHAIR

Batman sits, shell-shocked. His costume is ripped and blackened -- we can see bandages beneath it. His cowl and cape is off -- this is necessary, as will be seen. One leg is in a splint where his legging has been ripped away. Alfred steps IN with a tray of bandages and medicinals.

FAVOR BRUCE

He looks at his fist, clinches it, then lets it fall limply. He looks up at Alfred.

BRUCE
I couldn't save her, Alfred.

ALFRED
(gently)
I don't think she wanted to be saved, sir.

FAVOR ALFRED

He hurts for him. He puts a hand on Bruce's shoulder.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
Vengeance blackens the soul, Bruce. I always feared you would become that which you fought against. You walk the edge of that abyss every night, but you haven't fallen in. And I thank heaven for that.
(beat)
But Andrea fell into that pit years ago. And no one -- not even you -- could have pulled her back.

FAVOR BRUCE

He knows the truth of what Alfred says, but it's of small comfort. As he looks away in sad reflection...

CLOSE ON BRUCE

A sparkle of light cast from O.S. dances on his eye, interrupting him. He looks O.S. to find the source.

ANOTHER ANGLE

He stands, walks forward. Alfred watches him, puzzled.

ALFRED

What is it, Master Bruce?

ON STALACTITE

A limestone fang descending from the ceiling, narrowing to a point in f.g. Bruce steps up to it. RACK FOCUS to show Andrea's locket hanging from the tip of the formation.

ON BRUCE

He lifts the dangling trinket gently in his hand, as though afraid of bursting it like a bubble. His face is filled with wonder.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GOTHAM HARBOR - CRUISE SHIP - NIGHT

A cruise ship leaves the harbor. The city's skyline blazes in the b.g. The ship is passing under the Gotham Bay Bridge; the prow is already in shadow.

CLOSER - PROMENADE DECK

PARTY NOISES can be heard in b.g. A WOMAN IN BLACK, whom we see from the back with a scarf around her head, steps up to the rail to gaze at the city she's leaving behind.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Still not showing us the Woman's face. A lively MIDDLE-AGED PASSENGER, (think Ned Beatty) not unlike the salesman we met in the plane, crosses behind her with a drink in his hand. He sees the Woman and sidles up to the rail beside her.

PASSENGER

Hey, you're missing the party.
(re: the skyline)
Quite a sight.

WOMAN
(distantly)
Yes.

FAVOR PASSENGER

It percolates through the haze of several drinks that she's not happy. He takes in the basic black garb, says:

PASSENGER
I'm sorry.
(awkwardly)
Have you -- lost someone?

ON WOMAN

Except for her wistful eyes, her face is in shadows.

WOMAN
...Yes.

HOLD ON HER for a beat. The bridge's shadow engulfs her, plunging her into darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOTHAM CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

PANNING SLOWLY the Dark Deco metropolis, until we come to the Dark Knight, standing on a concrete precipice, overlooking the city. It's all he has now -- perhaps all he ever had.

CLOSE ON BATMAN

The eternal guardian. Without love, without pity.

DRAMATIC ANGLE

The Bat Signal suddenly lights up the sky behind him. Batman turns, FIRES his grappling gun and swings, cape flaring dramatically, toward the light.

FADE OUT.

THE END