

# Going batty

Caped crusader's fans have huge week on DVD

By MICHAEL GILTZ

**T**HREE new Batman DVD sets hit stores Tuesday. Here's a breakdown of the Bat-facts.

## THE BATMAN: THE COMPLETE 1943 MOVIE SERIAL

★ 1/2 stars  
(Sony; \$29.95)

**The Batman:** journeyman actor Lewis Wilson  
**The Batmobile:** doesn't exist  
**The Batsuit:** just droopy ears and a glittery utility belt  
**The Bat-villains:** evil Dr. Daka is a Japanese mastermind.  
**Who's Robin?** tow-headed Douglas Croft  
**The Batcave:** pretty shabby  
**The Girl:** Shirley Patterson is professional gal Linda Page  
**The Extras:** none

## BATMAN: THE MOTION PICTURE ANTHOLOGY 1989-1997

★★ 1/2 stars  
(Warner Bros.; \$79.92)

### ■ BATMAN (1989)/BATMAN RETURNS (1992)

**The Batman:** Michael Keaton  
**The Batmobile:** remote-controlled and heavily armored  
**The Batsuit:** razor-sharp ears  
**The Bat-villains:** Jack Nicholson is the Joker; Danny DeVito can't compare as the Penguin  
**Who's Robin?** can't find him  
**The Batcave:** very high-tech; all business  
**The Girl:** in "Batman," it's Kim Basinger as photographer Vicky Vale; for "Batman Returns," it's Catwoman, a.k.a. Michelle Pfeiffer  
**The Extras:** commentary from director Tim Burton and loads of documentaries

### ■ BATMAN FOREVER (1995)

**The Batman:** Val Kilmer  
**The Batmobile:** lots flashier, with a huge tail fin

**NICE TIGHTS:** The 1943 serial (below); and "Batman Begins"

**The Batsuit:** a tad snazzier  
**The Bat-villains:** Tommy Lee Jones is Two-Face; Jim Carrey's the Riddler  
**Who's Robin?** Chris O'Donnell lounges around Wayne Manor as Batman's sidekick  
**The Batcave:** seems more like a men's locker room  
**The Girl:** Nicole Kidman is the sexually aggressive Dr. Chase Meridian  
**The Extras:** commentary from director Joel Schumacher

### ■ BATMAN & ROBIN (1997)

**The Batman:** George Clooney, complete with furrowed brow  
**The Batmobile:** looks like a kid's toy  
**The Batsuit:** Batnipples  
**The Bat-villains:** Arnold Schwarzenegger as Mr. Freeze; Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy  
**The Batcave:** overstuffed with people and gadgets  
**The Girl:** Elle Macpherson has a blink-and-you-miss-it cameo  
**Where's Robin?** off ogling Alicia Silverstone as Batgirl  
**The Extras:** more commentary and deleted scenes

## BATMAN BEGINS (2005)

★★★ stars  
(Warner Bros.; \$30.97)

**The Batman:** Christian Bale brings gravitas, acting chops  
**The Batmobile:** a Humvee on steroids  
**The Bat-villains:** Cillian Murphy is the creepy Scarecrow  
**The Batcave:** rough-hewn and back to basics  
**The Girl:** Katie Holmes is definitely a girl — and not a woman — as Rachel Dawes  
**Where's Robin?** this Batman works alone  
**The Extras:** loaded, including a comic book and numerous making-of films

