

MOVIES

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For every Batman, there must be an incarnation of The Joker. But who played his anarchic arch-enemy the best?



↑ | CESAR ROMERO

The style: camp

Golden-era Hollywood icon Cesar Romero was the first to bring the villain to life in 1965's *Batman* TV series, before transporting him to the big screen for his cinematic debut in *Batman: The Movie* in 1966. His pink tails, green hair, sharp laugh, wanton capering and unwillingness to shave off his iconic moustache made for a uniquely unsubtle take on Batman's arch nemesis.

Quotable quip "A joke a day keeps the gloom away!"



↑ | JACK NICHOLSON

The style: maniacal

Nicholson's Joker, introduced in Tim Burton's 1989 *Batman*, is famous for his prosthetic grin and uncanny ability to steal every scene from under the nose of Michael Keaton's Batman. Then there are his substance issues: do *not* accept his offer of a dose of "Smylex" or you'll be chuckling all the way to the morgue.

Quotable quip "Wait until they get a load of me..."



↑ | MARK HAMILL

The style: scathing

AKA Luke Skywalker, Hamill's dark and biting rendition of the villain is considered a defining portrayal. After joining *Batman: The Animated Series* in 1992, his cackling trickster was such a success he went on to voice the character in a number of animated TV, feature films and video games, even replacing the original voice artist in the LEGO DC: Super-Villains game.

Quotable quip "Without Batman, crime has no punchline."

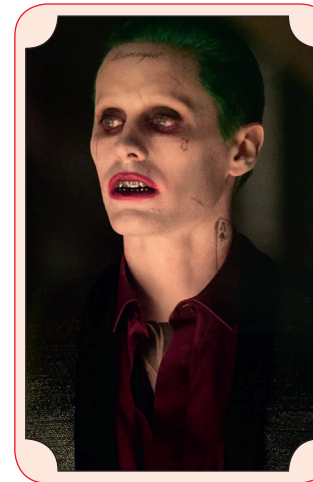


↑ | HEATH LEDGER

The style: shocking

Laughed at when first cast, the late great Ledger proved all his naysayers wrong as Christopher Nolan's anarchic clown prince of crime in *The Dark Knight*, the second in Nolan's now much lauded reboot trilogy. His brutal, unknowable edge makes every appearance a nerve-wracking experience and, if he brings up "magic tricks", back away and hide any nearby pencils.

Quotable quip "Why so serious?"



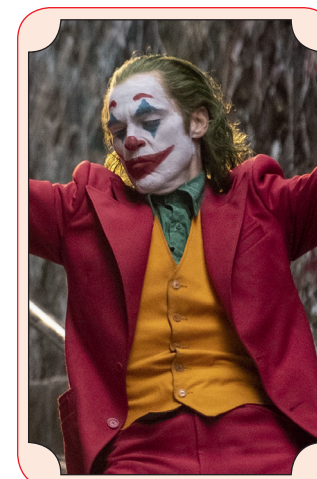
↑ | JARED LETO

The style: volatile

More of a cameo than a 'real' role, Leto's 'Mistah Jay' – as Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn calls him – amped his limited screen time in 2016's spin-off film *Suicide Squad* all the way up to 11 by sending his co-stars a live rat and a dead pig in the post (amongst other things). As a... joke?

Quotable quip "If you weren't so crazy, I'd think you were insane."

ONE TO WATCH
 Joker is showing on board now



↑ | JOAQUIN PHOENIX

The style: intense

Reinventing The Joker as troubled kids' entertainer Arthur Fleck in Todd Phillips' 2019 standalone film, Phoenix hypnotises as a mentally unwell man who's kicked when he's down, ignored by society and left to rot by his so-called friends. This version isn't here to make you laugh – he's here to make you cry.

Quotable quip "All I have are negative thoughts."

"Sometimes it's only madness that makes us what we are"
 BATMAN

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TV

BAD ROMANCE

'Love' stories with a side order of stalking, from the TV version of *You* to some creepy cat and mouse series

ONE TO WATCH
 You is showing on board



YOU

As love-stricken Joe, Penn Badgley seems just as charming as the *Gossip Girl* heartthrob we know him for, which makes

it all the more unsettling when his infatuation crosses the line from 'innocent' social media stalking to something far more frightening.



THE FALL

Casting Jamie Dornan as a stalking serial killer is a stroke of dark genius, but it is the mutual obsession that

develops between the pretty predator and the female detective on his trail that is the most gripping hunt in this psychological thriller.



Words: Ally Wybrew; Carrie Mitchell

LUTHER

Could a crusading detective really fall for a murderer? That's what John Luther (Idris Elba) has to ask himself when he

develops a relationship with the dangerously beguiling Alice (Ruth Wilson). One thing's for sure: wherever he goes, she's not far behind.



KILLING EVE

Bored MI5 security officer Eve finds herself falling in love with psychopathic assassin Villanelle, who she is charged

with hunting down in this sexy spy thriller. Chances are you'll be just as taken with this irresistible cold-blooded killer.



DOCTOR FOSTER

You'll be rooting for the scorned Dr Gemma (Suranne Jones) when she sets out to get revenge on her

cheating husband Simon – so much so that you'll even forgive her when her obsession starts to slip into stalking in the second series.