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SUPERMAN

F L I E S A G A I N



WORDS
AISA VALENZUELA

UPERHERO MOVIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY RULED THE ROOST FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, but there is one Man of Steel who's been conspicuously absent all throughout. Which is quite ironic, because he's the guy who started it all.

You know who I'm talking about. He's not a bird; he's not a plane... He's Superman.



Preview footage is said to feature plenty of “building-smashing, train-slinging, heat-vision-blasting battles,” although visual effects supervisor Joe Letteri also says that the film is going for a more natural and realistic tone.

TIME FOR A REBOOT

We briefly saw him back on the big screen in 2006’s *Superman Returns*, an installment which did well at the box office but left many fans cold. Directors and producers could not find a storyline angle with which to do a sequel—so it’s time for a reboot.

Enter Christopher Nolan and screenwriter David Goyer from *The Dark Knight* trilogy—coincidentally, a successful franchise reboot of DC Comics’ other signature superhero. While stuck on the script of *The Dark Knight Rises*, Goyer was suddenly struck with some ideas for how to do a Superman flick. Within a few weeks, he and Nolan were pitching their ideas to Warner Brothers studio head Jeff Robinov, and the rest was history.

“We weren’t trying to do [*Man of Steel*],” Goyer explains. “It just happened.”

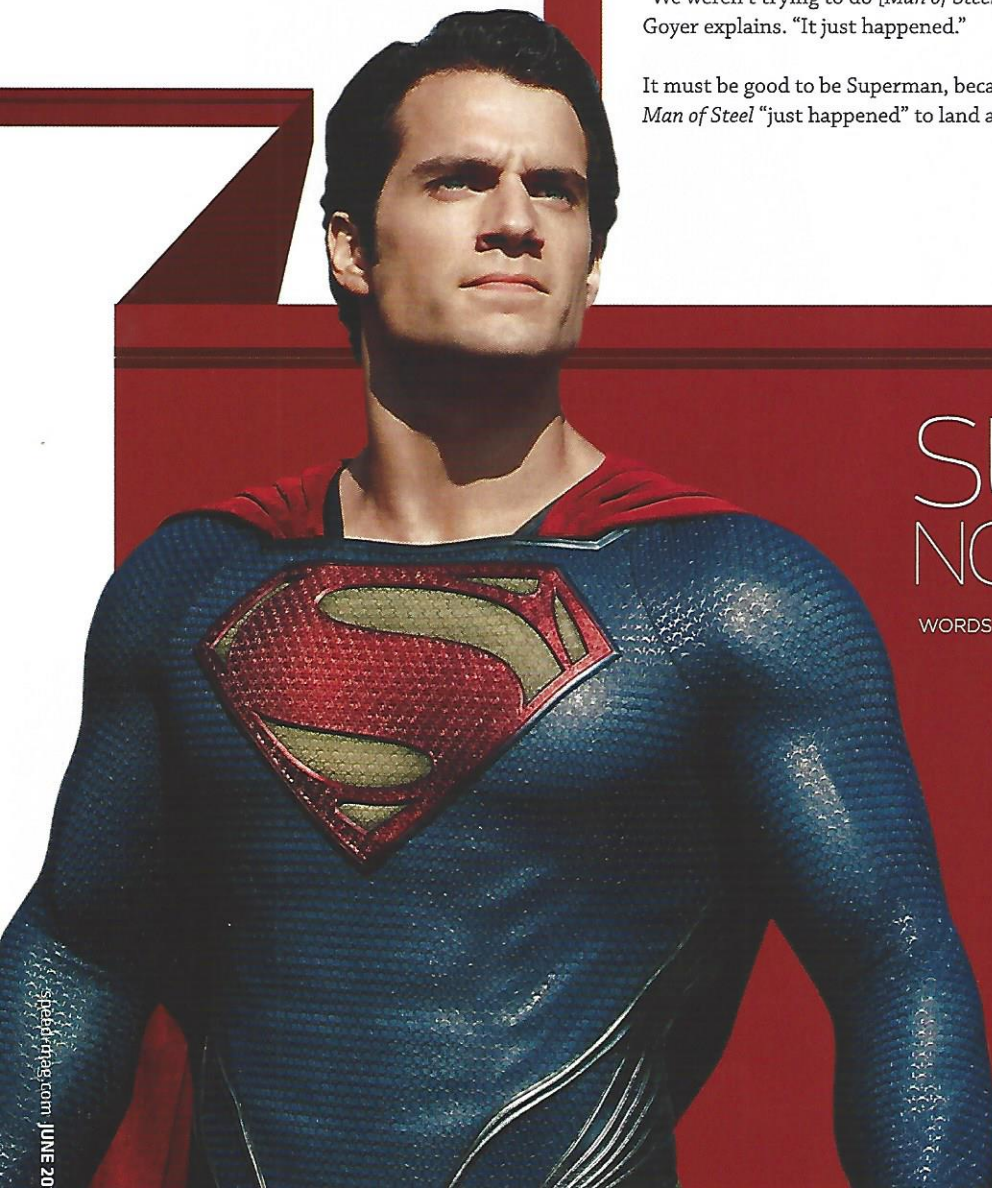
It must be good to be Superman, because *Man of Steel* “just happened” to land an all-

star cast and crew as well. Comic book fans will appreciate having Zack Snyder (*300* and *Watchmen*) sitting in the director’s chair, while Chris Nolan stays on as producer.

Henry Cavill dons the eyeglasses and red cape this time as Clark Kent/Superman, while Amy Adams is intrepid reporter Lois Lane and Michael Shannon is nemesis General Zod. Rounding out the cast are Russell Crowe as Jor-El, Kevin Costner as Jonathan Kent, Diane Lane as Martha Kent, and Laurence Fishburne as Perry White. Talk about bulletproof casting!

THE “MAN” IN SUPERMAN

Still, the general consensus regarding Superman is that it’s hard to relate to such a perfect, indestructible, *alien* super being. Explains Goyer, “He is a tough character because he is invulnerable so you have to give him emotional vulnerabilities and hopefully that way he can become more accessible to the audience.”



SUPERMAN: NOW AND THEN

WORDS JULIUS TABIOS

ANY SELF-RESPECTING FAN KNOWS HOW LITTLE FARM BOY CLARK KENT FROM SMALLVILLE, Kansas grew up to be a Daily Planet reporter-cum-thwarter of evil deeds. Most people don’t know, however, how Superman was really born. So here’s a quick history lesson that goes all the way back to the 1930s:



Just watching the trailers gives you a sense that this is a Superman trying to find himself and his purpose in the world. There's a lot more soul-searching and existential angst. With the title *Man of Steel*, "man" may be the most operative word.

Rest assured, though, that amidst all this introspection, the movie will have plenty of what *Superman Returns* lacked: action. Preview footage is said to feature plenty of "building-smashing, train-slinging, heat-vision-blasting battles," although visual effects supervisor Joe Letteri also says that the film is going for a more natural and realistic tone.

A STORY ABOUT HOPE

If this makes you worry that *Man of Steel* will look like a clone of *The Dark Knight* movies, Nolan and Goyer are quick to set the record straight.

"Relatable and realistic doesn't necessarily mean dark," Goyer states. "The Batman films are a lot more nihilistic; Superman has always been a story about hope."

And what about studio hopes for *Man of Steel*? Rumors say the possibility of a new Superman trilogy—and even Justice League—will live or die based on the box office success of this movie. Says Goyer, "My hope is that we establish him and that he's a viable, awesome character that everyone is interested in seeing continue. He's the biggest superhero in the world. Or should be. He's Superman, for God's sake!" **S**

BUZZ FEED

Aside from being the first Superman movie not to feature Kryptonite, *Man of Steel* is also the first Superman feature film that doesn't incorporate the word "Superman" in its title.



1930s



✓ Superman was the brainchild of writers **Jerry Siegel** and **Joe Shuster**. They created a villainous character who used his powers to terrorize criminals, but later changed him into a hero instead.

✓ The concept was rejected by 17 publishers before **DC Comics** picked it up for first publication under Action Comics.

✓ Superman couldn't fly in his comic book debut as he *only* possessed super speed, strength, and jumping powers.

✓ **Lex Luthor**, a master strategist who found his enemies' weaknesses and exploited them was introduced as Superman's archenemy.

1940s

✓ Superman got an upgrade—he can now fly! He also got X-ray, microscopic, telescopic, and heat vision; time-traveling ability; and an indestructible body.

✓ An adolescent **Superboy** was introduced. The boy of steel was shown tackling problems in high school and young love. His sidekick? **Krypto** the dog.



1950s

✓ More enemies! **Branian**, the green robotic villain from the planet Colu, and **Bizarro**, Superman's evil doppelganger, were introduced in this era.

✓ To even the playing field, Superman's cousin, **Supergirl** (Linda Dee Denver), was created.

1960s

✓ It was revealed that Superman's **source of power is the sun**.

✓ Superman and **Luthor's** hostility dates back to their adolescent years.



1970s

✓ Writer **Danny O'Neil** began writing the Superman comic series and changed his job to that of a TV news reporter.

✓ Clark Kent's career choice gave him a budding love triangle with reporter **Lois Lane** and co-anchor **Lana Lang**.

✓ The TV series "**Super Friends**" was born, featuring **Batman**, **Aquaman**, **Wonder Woman**, and others.

✓ The first Superman movie starring **Christopher Reeve** was released.

1980s

✓ The second, third, and fourth Superman movies starring Christopher Reeve were shown between 1980 and 1987.

✓ **Supergirl** was killed off in **Crisis on Infinite Earths**.

✓ Writer **Alan Moore** ended the Superman comic book series, but was brought back to life by **John Byrne**.

1990s

✓ Superman was killed at the hands of **Doomsday**, the regenerative brute bioengineered for Kryptonian destruction.

✓ **Lois and Clark got married** after the hero revealed his true identity to her.



2000s TO PRESENT

✓ **Smallville**, the TV series about a young Clark Kent's life before becoming Superman, premiered. It was also here that we found out that Superman's "S" shield is a symbol of hope back in Krypton.

✓ **Lex Luthor transitions from simple mad scientist** to a manipulative businessman. In a major storyline, he even became **President of the United States**.



✓ In 2006, **Superman Returns**, starring **Brandon Routh** and **Kevin Spacey**, was released.

✓ June 2013: The much-anticipated **Superman** reboot helmed by director **Zack Snyder** of 300 and producer **Christopher Nolan** of the *Dark Knight* Trilogy is shown.