

The Dark Knight

We ventured out to see the midnight showing of [The Dark Knight](#) last week, and I haven't written about it until now because I've been so busy, but I figured I better make some time for it before I forget, so here it goes...

It all began when we found out our little local theater would be showing it at midnight, and since we're usually up with the new baby at that time, we figured why not be in a movie feeding the baby instead of at home? So we got together a group who wanted to see it, and that's when we found out the movie was 2 hours and 40 minutes! Oops, the baby is never up THAT long but too late to back out now! Besides, after all the hype involved, I was actually looking forward to it.

Since almost a week has passed and I'm on little sleep, some of my memory of the details have faded, so this will be a very vague review. I'd have to say the movie was exactly what I was expecting. I was hoping it would be a little better, especially after all the media hype, but it was exactly what I thought it would be – and that's not anywhere NEAR the 9.6 people gave it on imdb.com. Since I'm not a huge fan of superhero / comic book movies (yet I keep going to see them; not sure what's up with that), I really wasn't expecting this to be one of my favorite movies ever. [Heath Ledger](#) did have a VERY good performance as the Joker, but was it Oscar-worthy? I personally don't think so. I do think he will win it though, but let's just wait and see if he is nominated and who he is up against. And it's not like I ever agree with who wins those things anyway; for me it's just a good excuse to throw a fun party ☐

But back to the movie... there was a lot of violence. I can't believe what they're allowed to call PG-13 these days. Although I suppose it wasn't really anything short of what you'd see on tv, and there was actually little to no blood and

gore, so maybe that explains it. The children I saw in the theater were all asleep by the time the movie was over anyway. And yes, I did think the movie went on too long – it wasn't a short 2 hours and 40 minutes, and it didn't really fly by. As my husband pointed out, way too much dialogue for a superhero movie; friends agreed and added that the Batman movies are like that. I've only seen the Tim Burton [Batman](#) from 1989, which I'm told is just a different take on the whole thing and doesn't really fit into the timeline anywhere, and I've also seen [Batman Forever](#), which I really enjoy. So that brings me to my 2nd favorite villian next to the Joker – Harvey "Two-Face" Dent. I just love what [Tommy Lee Jones](#) did with the character in Batman Forever, and I was pleased when I realized that Harvey Dent was going to turn into Two-Face in The Dark Knight, but overall I was disappointed because [Aaron Eckhart's](#) Two-Face was pretty lame compared to Jones'. The makeup was pretty good, although I actually enjoy the more comic book look that they gave Tommy Lee Jones versus the scary look they gave Eckhart for the newest film.

[Christian Bale's](#) Batman was alright, though I couldn't stand his gravelly Batman voice – it reminded me of the Friends episode where Joey is selling cologne at a department store... If you're a fan of the show and you know what episode I'm talking about, find it and listen to his cologne adversary say "Hombre?" – sounds just like Christian Bale's Batman and every time he spoke in the movie I was tempted to giggle as I thought of that hilarious Friends episode. [Maggie Gyllenhaal](#) was pretty good too; although in scenes with both her and Heath Ledger's Joker, it was weird for me to think that he played her brother's gay lover in [Brokeback Mountain](#), but that's Hollywood for you, it's cyclical.

And since we're on the subject of Heath Ledger's Joker, it was very impressive. Not the kind of movie or role I'd pick for being Oscar-worthy, but that's my personal opinion and like I said, we'll just see happens as Oscar time draws near. He was

pretty scary, and I'd have to say Hollywood can mourn him as a good actor because when I was in the hospital less than a week ago, I watched [10 Things I Hate About You](#) (the hospital's limited cable selections + baby up at night = what else do I watch but this bad movie?). Ledger was in that movie, and he couldn't even shed his Australian accent back then! Seeing where he was in that movie versus the Joker did give me appreciation for his work (as the Joker, not in 10 Things...).

And another reason I was excited to see this movie was that I had heard that 80% of it was shot in my former hometown (well, sort of, I grew up in the suburbs), Chicago. It was neat to see all the familiar landmarks, although they did try to anonymize the city so it could be recognized as Gotham City instead of Chicago. I was especially looking forward to the special effects involved in the Gotham City Hospital scene since I read an article about it ahead of time, but I have to say I was a little disappointed in how it actually looked on screen. I don't want to spoil anything for anyone who hasn't seen this movie yet, but I will say that the vacant Brach's Candy Factory on Chicago's west side doubled for the Gotham City Hospital. And seeing the Joker in a nurse's dress was pretty funny in itself...

Overall, I had a lot of fun seeing this movie. I think much of it had to do with the midnight showing and attending with a large group of friends. The movie was exactly what I expected, although I can say I was hoping for better... but again, I'm not a fan of comic books, and I've never read one in my life.

No Country For Old Men... When There's Yet ANOTHER Fog Day!!!

We stayed up late watching the Oscar winning movie, ["No Country for Old Men"](#) last night, so when the phone rang at 6 am this morning, my husband was overjoyed about the fog delay. I did not hear the phone at 6, nor did I hear the follow-up call at 8 saying school was cancelled for the day. I was up by 8:30, since that is the time we have our alarm set and my biological clock won't let me sleep past then for fear the alarm won't work and we'll be late for school. My husband was shutting off the alarm when I said, "We can't sleep too long cuz Disney has a doctor appointment at 9:30. Look at all those delays on the tv for Toledo. Wonder how we got spared?" Turns out, we did not, I just didn't hear the phone ringing and Hubby was wondering why I was taking it so well that we couldn't sleep in after all. I don't understand why it is that every time we have a doctor appointment scheduled for the morning, we have either a school delay or cancellation, meaning we can't sleep in even if we wanted to. And of course on these days, the kids always sleep in, whereas on the weekends, they're up at their usual 7am wake-up-for-school time. So now, they have yet ANOTHER day they have to make up in the summer, which brings them to July by now? Dunno, I've lost track.

And today's fog cancellation means we had to drag the entire family into the doctor's office for our 18 month-old's checkup – which did not go well. Remember how I said the kids were going to sleep in today? That means our 3-year-old, who is a stinker anyway, was not ready to get up, so she screamed from the time she was dragged out of bed until we got called into the doctor's office. So of course, the chain reaction was set into motion. Seeing big sis so upset made Disney upset, and

now she was screaming about everything the poor nurse and doctor were doing to her. All painless stuff too that normally would not have been a problem – SCREAM, measure her head (46.7 cm), SCREAM, measure her length (32.5 in. – tall for her age), SCREAM, weigh her (22 lbs. 14 oz. – normal for her age, but a little on the skinny side because she is long), SCREAM, look into her ears, SCREAM, have her walk across the room to Mom and Dad... well, actually, walk to big sis Taylor since she was upset with Mom and Dad for being accomplices to all the other horrors in the doctor's office. When it was finally over, she was better, and in the end, she didn't want to leave because she was really happy with a toy they had in the waiting room she was playing with while I was making her next torture date, err appointment. The good news is that Disney is exhausted from being so upset all morning, so I should get my nap today while she takes one... hopefully.

Also, staying up late last night to watch the Oscar winning movie was regrettable. I just didn't get it. I think I understood the movie, but not why it won 4 academy awards and got nominated for a bunch more. I liked other Coen Brothers movies too – [Fargo](#) is really good, but this one was not very good in my opinion, and my husband agreed. Just a story about a man who stumbles upon a crime scene and finds a ton of money, then he spends the rest of the movie trying to outrun the psychopath who is chasing him down for the money. I was pleasantly surprised to see [Tommy Lee Jones](#) in this movie, because I didn't know he was going to be in it and I always enjoy his work – from Two-Face in the 3rd Batman movie, [Batman Forever](#) to [Men in Black](#), to [Volcano](#) and [The Fugitive](#), he's a pretty good actor and always fun to watch – even in this movie, which I would officially classify as a waste of time. Sure, it wasn't nearly as bad as the other stinkers I've seen lately, like [the Night Listener](#) or [Doomsday](#), the standard bad movies that I judge all bad movies by, but that's only because it wasn't as boring as the former and not as gory as the latter. Academy award winning movies are always a hit-or-miss

as far as I'm concerned. I used to write them off, but when I started giving them a chance, I've actually enjoyed some, such as the aforementioned Fargo and [As Good as it Gets](#), to name a few. Now that I think of it, Coen brothers' movies are kind of hit and miss also. [Ladykillers](#) was just ok, Fargo was very good, [Big Lebowski](#) was average, I didn't care much for [O Brother Where Art Thou](#), and I'll have to see [Raising Arizona](#) again since it's been awhile, and I didn't realize it was a Coen brothers movie.

I think I will skip the other Oscar winners from 2007 – seemed like a slow year. I might be more open to nominees from other years past though... a friend borrowed us [Walk the Line](#), the Johnny Cash biopic. I'm not a huge [Reese Witherspoon](#) fan, but I do like Johnny Cash. Been trying to get Hubby to watch it with me, though I'm as yet unsuccessful even though he admitted we should have watched it last night instead of No Country for Old Men. Oh, well, now we have some Oscar-winning-film watching experience under our belt for future reference. YES – the baby is down for a nap, think I'll join her... and a side effect of the fog day, actually a GOOD one – no need to wake from my nap by 3:30 to pick up kids! Now if only the older 2 can settle down for an hour or more to give me peace and quiet...