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Batman's (Christian Bale) Screen-Matched Light-Up Hero Batpod M
The Dark Knight (2008)/Dark Knight Rises (2012)

Batman's (Christian Bale) screen-matched light-up hero Batpod vehicle from Christopher Nolan's superhero sequels The Dark Knight and The Dark Knight Rises. In The Dark Knight, Batman (Christian Bale) used the Batpod to escape the wrecked Tumbler vehicle during his pursuit of the Joker (Heath Ledger). He later used the Batpod in his unsuccessful attempt to save Rachel Dawes (Maggie Gyllenhaal), and in his hunt for Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart). In The Dark Knight Rises, Batman and Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway) used the vehicle while confronting Bane (Tom Hardy) and the new League of Shadows. The Batpod screen-matches The Dark Knight's Joker chase through several distinctive marks and scratches along the vehicle's right-hand side.

Conceived by Nolan and production designer Nathan Crowley, the two-wheeled Batpod was intended as a nimbler alternative to Batman's trusty Tumbler. The design was completed by Crowley and brought to life by special-effects supervisor Chris Corbould, who built six versions of the vehicle for The Dark Knight. Its unusual shape made engineering a challenge, especially with such unconventionally wide tyres. The Batpod is designed for a rider in a prone position who steers the vehicle with their arms and shoulders, and features advanced design elements such as an exhaust system integrated within the framework. The vehicle was driven by stunt rider Jean-Pierre Goy during filming, and was used for numerous events promoting The Dark Knight and The Dark Knight Rises. Crowley received Academy Award and BAFTA nominations for his work on The Dark Knight.

This incredible practical vehicle features a custom-made chassis with 31" Hoosier racing tyres and a Honda 750 engine. Fibreglass body panels finished in metallic grey paint cover the bike's engine and handlebars. A pair of cannon barrels made of plastic, resin and fibreglass are secured at the front of the vehicle, and a light-up laser-targeting unit is fitted above the right-hand grip. A radiator and hydraulics are fitted behind the saddle, and the braking system is operated by controls on the left handle and the right pedal. Black foam padding is installed on the body, saddle and knee rests for comfort while riding.

Well-used during both productions and in the promotion of the films as part of the Warner Bros. archive, the Batpod shows some wear on the body panels and light corrosion on the chassis, with damage to the left gun mount from on-set use. The vehicle remains in very good condition and is supplied with a metal support stand for display purposes. Dimensions: 380 cm x 120 cm x 107 cm (149.5" x 47.25" x 42.25")

Additional Provenance:

This lot was originally sold by Warner Bros. via Propstore in our Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction on 27 September 2016. It is supplied with a Warner Bros. certificate of authenticity.

This vehicle is sold in a non-functional "rolling only" condition. It is drained of all fluids, and the battery, fuel tank and throttle controls have been removed.

Contains electronics; see electronics notice in the Terms and Conditions.

Special shipping required; see special shipping notice in the Terms and Conditions.

Estimate: £450,000 - 900,000



AJ Pics / Alamy

