

Talking to Hollywood Chicago, executive producer Michael Uslan (who has served in that role for every single Batman movie since Tim Burton's way back in 1989) discussed how Christopher Nolan returned the franchise to greatness after the less than brilliant Batman and Robin, as well as how the reinvention of the Caped Crusader will continue after The Dark Knight Rises. In assessing the first set of Batman films, from 1989 through 1997, why did it devolve to a campy version again with the final 'Batman & Robin'? I'm going to answer that question not regarding Batman, but instead regarding the motion picture industry in general. Generally speaking, what used to be the studios are now largely international conglomerates. They own many businesses. Sometimes, generally speaking, these conglomerates become more fixated on other businesses like merchandising, like toys, games and Happy Meals. When the company becomes that fixated, the tail can wag the dog. If

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