Mythic Symbols of Batman

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Abstract

Batman has become a fixture in the popular consciousness of America. Since his first publication in Detective Comics #27 in 1939, he has never ceased publication, appearing in multiple titles every month as well as successfully transitioning into other media such as film and television. A focused analysis of the character will reveal that Batman has achieved and maintained this cultural resonance for almost seventy years by virtue of attaining the status of a postmodern American mythology. In both theme and function, Batman has several direct connections to ancient mythology and has adapted that form into a distinctly American archetype. And as a popular cultural symbol, he has shown remarkable malleability to reflect the attitudes of his contemporary culture. An examination of Batman’s enduring and changing characteristics will reveal insights into American values, culture and history during the twentieth and into the twenty-first centuries.

Degree

MA

College and Department

Humanities; Humanities, Classics, and Comparative Literature

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https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd/1226

Date Submitted

2007-11-28

Document Type

Thesis

Handle

http://hdl.lib.byu.edu/1877/etd2158

Keywords

Batman, comic books, mythology

Language

English

On realizing the Christian mythic hero : exploring James Byron Huggins’ "Thor" in Leviathan /. John David. Kudrick. 1 copy in Archives, 1 copy in General Collection, and 1 microfiche copy in Microforms Room. Thesis (M.A.)—Regent University, 1998. Includes bibliographical references. Includes abstract. Snyder’s sequel, Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice adds politics, bringing to the fantasy some contemporary, real-world concerns. This is not conventional comic-book allegory; rather, Snyder uses the figures of Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill) walloping each other to give visible substance to social and moral issues, much as Greek tragedy does. Snyder’s opening sequences interweave the origin stories of these mythic heroes and their alter egos. What has become overly familiar through years of repetition acquires new dynamism — and new understanding — that particularizes and personalizes each wounded man’s suffering.