

**THE SMILE**

A Batman fan film  
Written by Brent Birdsinger

Based off of characters created by Bob Kane  
Special thanks to DC Comics

OPENING - PITCH BLACK

JOKER (VO)

You can have all the toys in the world, but in this war  
there is no weapon more powerful than laughter.

(Evil laugh)

OPENING TITLE - FADE IN/FADE OUT

CUT TO: INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE- NIGHT

ROBIN sits duct taped to a chair in the middle of a large empty room. An anger fueled by fear can be read through his eyes. Sweat drips from his forehead. His fists clench the tip of the arm rests as he glares at his captor, JOKER.

ROBIN

Scum like you shouldn't be allowed to run free Joker.

JOKER

And children such as your self shouldn't be trick or  
treating on Christmas Eve.

JOKER shoves a candy cane in ROBINS mouth. ROBIN bites down on the candy cane, crunching it between his teeth and breaking it. The candy falls into his lap and he spits out the remainder.

ROBIN

This isn't another one of your sick Jokes. When Batman  
shows up he will send you back to Arkham for good.

JOKER

Joke? Did you think there was something funny about this?

JOKERS seemingly joyful expressions fade into a harsh realism.

ROBIN

Do I look amused?

JOKER

No. Confused perhaps...You see, boy wonder, the world is the joke. I just prefer to think that I'm the punch line.

There is a brief moment of silence as the two stare at each other. JOKER pulls back his hand, balls up his fist, and delivers a wild bar room punch landing it directly on ROBINS jaw. He Laughs as ROBIN shows signs of stinging pain. JOKER begins spinning the chair around, and then stops.

JOKER

Oh what a glorious evening your old uncle J has planned for you bird boy.

ROBIN

If it's all the same to you I'd rather skip the festivities.

ROBIN spits a tooth out. Blood runs out the side of his mouth.

JOKER

What? And ruin the X-Mas party I've planned for you and Batsy? Never!

ROBIN

What do you have up your sleeve?

JOKER whips his trademark playing card from his sleeve and shows it to ROBIN.

ROBIN

Typical

JOKER holds the card high in the air, then spins around on one foot and takes a bow towards ROBIN. As he thrusts his arms out extended as far as he can reach, hundreds of joker cards fly from his sleeves. ROBIN stares blankly.

JOKER

Tough Crowd

ROBIN

Rotten act

JOKER backhands ROBIN, grinning devilishly.

JOKER

Spoiled child

ROBIN

Get to the point

JOKER

Jesus saves sanity, its all business with you. Why rush to the plot, the show has hardly begun!

ROBIN

What do you want with me Joker?

JOKER

I'm here to help you see the merry side of Christmas. I figured you're always so serious; you could use a little vacation from your harsh reality.

JOKER claps his hands, and the door in the far corner opens. Two men dressed in clown outfits wheel in a giant Christmas present wrapped with a purple bow. They place the gift beside ROBIN.

JOKER

If you and I have anything in common it's the fact that the two of us have a very close relationship with Batman. You are his staff wielding, crime fighting side kick. I on the other hand am the cancer that eats away his quest for a better tomorrow. HIS better tomorrow.

ROBIN

And what's wrong with his Idea of tomorrow?

JOKER

It's so boring, and that alone should be a crime.

ROBIN

Give up the clown gimmick Joker. You try to make everything so complex, but at the end of the day you're nothing more than a lunatic on a killing spree.

JOKER

Complex? Gimmick? Make no mistake young Robin, the only gimmick here is a man and his loyal lap dog dressing up in costumes to fight crime. Sound simple enough to me.....

JOKER steps closer to ROBIN and grabs him by the chin. He makes intimidating eye contact.

JOKER

Look at me. This is no gimmick. This is me, the real me. Thanks to your nocturnal friend I am what I am, and that's all I can be. But I've come to consider it a blessing, and you shall as well. We will soon share a smile.

ROBIN

What the h.....

ROBIN'S words are cut off as JOKER reaches back and pulls the purple ribbon from the giant gift. The four sides of

the box falls apart, and confetti explodes, revealing some sort of breathing tank with a mask attached to it. JOKER never breaks eye contact with ROBIN.

JOKER

Remember that merry side of Christmas I spoke of? Allow me to elaborate. This is a special compound of gas I call "the smile"

JOKER pulls the gas mask attached to the tank toward ROBINS face, attaching it as robin protests.

ROBIN

What the hell are you doing? What is this stuff?

JOKER

If I told you that it would ruin the surprise! Have a merry Christmas!

Glass can be heard shattering from another room nearby. Gunfire is heard over ROBINS muffled cry for help. JOKER pauses, and listens to the chaos with a grin.

JOKER

Boys, I believe he have company. Sick em'

JOKERS thugs take off in the direction they entered from. The second slams the door shut behind him. More gunfire.

JOKER

Smile little robin, the bat is here to save you.

(Evil laughter)

JOKER pats ROBIN on the shoulder and tip toes over to a window. He slides it open, and crawls out, slowly shutting it behind him.

The camera cuts to ROBINS point of view. Sounds begin to muffle. The world around becomes blurry and starts to spin. A Dark figure with a cape slowly runs toward the camera.

FADE TO BLACK

CUT TO: INT - BAT CAVE

BRUCE sits behind computer panels analyzing TIMS vital statistics. BRUCE is still in the bat suit, but the mask sits on the desk beside a few key boards. His phone rings. He flips it open.

BRUCE

Alfred.

He is in stable condition.

All I found was the gas tank labeled "the smile"

It has taken some effect on the chemicals in his brain. It's caused some sort of unusual chemical imbalance, but nothing fatal.

BRUCE spins around and glances at a medical table across the room. TIM is passed out, laying on the table with and IV and oxygen tank.

BRUCE

I don't think Joker wants him dead. He has something else planned this Christmas.....and I intend on finding out what it is.

No Alfred, he's not smiling, neither am I.

BRUCE flips the phone closed, continuing to glance at ROBIN. He puts his mask on, and then exits the scene, burying all emotion deep within the pit of his stomach.

CLOSE UP: ROBINS FACE

ROBINS eyes slowly open. His eyes are blood shot, and distant. His face is expressionless. He sits up and begins yanking IVs and medical readers off of his body. he stares blankly at the Gigantic computer screen across the room. He stands up from the table and glances around the room emotionless. He begins pacing back and fourth slowly. He fumbles around the room and heads over to the weapons case, twisting the combination locks. Failure. He places his palm on the safe and braces his self, closing his eyes.

TIM

Broken wings.....

Again he plays with the combination lock. Success, it opens slowly revealing baterangs, spare utility belts, cables, the works. TIM reaches in the safe and grabs a baterang. He turns and approaches a mirror on the wall and stares emotionless at his reflection.

TIM

I'm... Batman?

TIM begins to chuckle slightly as a smile grows on his face. He takes the sharp end of the baterang and begins to cut a smile in his face. As he cuts the flesh he laughs more manically.

TIM

I'm Batman!  
(Hysterical Laughter)

FADE TO BLACK

The words TO BE CONTINUED appear

FADE TO BLACK

END





