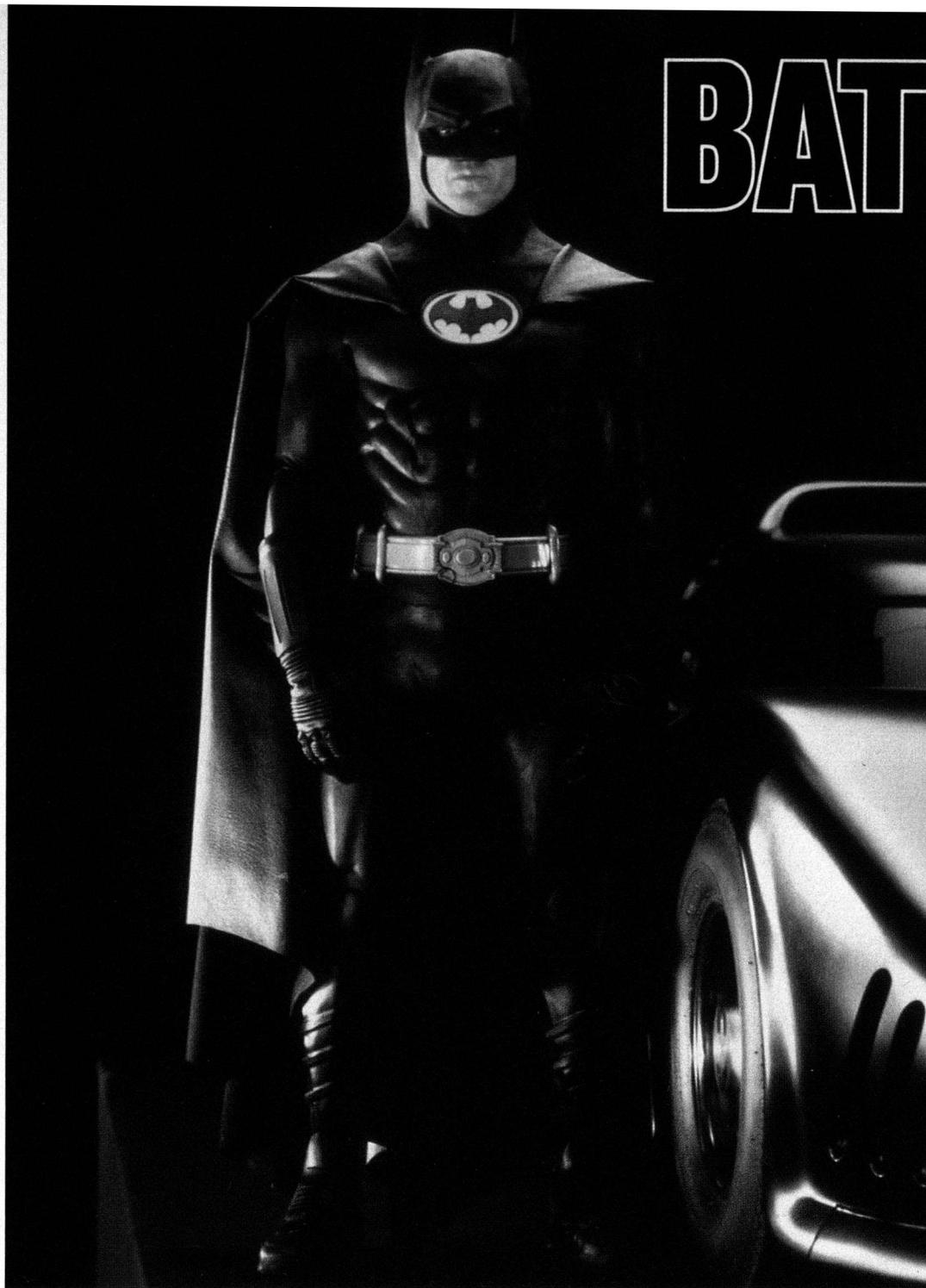
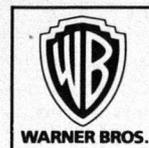


BATMAN



Wee's Big Adventure. And even Burton admits that, physically, Keaton is not your average concept of a super-hero.

"The character is a split personality who has some interesting problems" Burton told *Newsweek*, seriously defending his casting call. "It's not about how square his jaw is".

And for love interest, we've got the sizzling Kim Basinger (WOW!) as a combat-trained photo-journalist, laboring under the auspices of *The Gotham Globe* when she falls under Wayne's magnetic spell.

But for the dead giveaway as to just how serious the approach to this movie is, one need only look at who's playing the principal villain of all time - The Joker.

Hollywood is full of actors who'd like to tackle the person of the Prince of Mayhem given flesh. But there's only one actor who could do it justice - as anyone who saw *The Witches of Eastwick* can attest.

Of course, we're talking the King of Hollywood himself, Jack Nicholson.

And that's a casting call nobody's questioning. Nicholson's box office draw grows straight from his ability to make infallible choices in the roles he tackles - and then to play them infallibly.

And for Nicholson as well, **Batman** is a reunion - with producers Jon Peters and Peter Guber, the production team behind *Witches*.

And just to ensure Batman and Robin don't get lost in the glitter of all these sterling credentials, **Batman's** creator, Bob Kane, has served as the film's technical consultant, just to keep things on the up and up.

Holy Hitmakers! It looks like a great summer for **Batman**.

— John Coulbourn



After 50 years, it's time to take America's main man seriously. And this is very serious stuff.

Batman, the crime crusader who started life on the pulp pages of a DC comic book some 50 years ago as North America was struggling out of the great depression, has been given a new lease on life.

You mean it's time to dust off all the POP! ZAP! KAZOW! again for one more trot around the super-hero fasttrack?

No, that was covered in *Batman's* TV incarnation, a fun-filled cult

master's dream that kept Bruce Wayne and his young side-kick in the mainstream of the North American consciousness, while *Superman* was changing from a man of steel into a man of solid box office gold.

And now, the time is right for *Batman* - not just **Batman: a** movie, but rather **Batman: the** movie.

No over-the-top high camp; no tongue-in-cheek treatment.

We're talking a young man, who as a nine year old, witnessed his parents' murder and pledged his entire life, then and there, to combating evil wherever he finds it. And that, as we know, is deadly

serious business.

Just how serious, you ask? Well, judge for yourself.

For openers, Michael Keaton, fresh from the divergent success of last summer's *Beetlejuice* and *Clean And Sober* is tackling the title role, charged with carrying Batman and Bruce Wayne from the two dimensions of comic book and TV fame. He'll be working in the three dimensions of a reel Gotham created by an all-star collection of the film world's leading special effects wizards, technicians, designers and artists.

It marks a reunion of sorts for Keaton with *Beetlejuice* director Tim Burton, who also helmed *Pee*