



Weird Christmas at Gotham City

Deconstruction and Reconstruction in Tim Burton's *Batman Returns*

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Abstract: Tim Burton chose to situate the action of *Batman Returns* (1992) during the Christmas season, in the gigantic fictional metropolis of Gotham City. Throughout a film marked by duality and ambiguity, the director works to deconstruct and even destroy the conventional image of Christmas in order to better recreate symbols, a spirit and even a magic of Christmas according to his own narrative and aesthetic criteria. It is therefore a profoundly nonconformist vision, but not a hopeless one.

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