

Film News: Will Chicago Make 'The Dark Knight Rises' Cut as Third Filming City?

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CHICAGO – With shooting expected to begin in **May 2011** for "The Dark Knight Rises," Warner Bros. is currently busy scouting filming locations. While rumors have been running rampant for the last six months about which cities make the lucky cut, we now have two confirmed: **Los Angeles** and somewhere in the **United Kingdom**.



The Batpod in the "The Dark Knight". *Image credit: Warner Bros.*

This <u>news surfaced</u> [16] on Dec. 30, 2010 from *Scene* (Lousiana's entertainment magazine), which cited an exclusive interview with Warner Bros. senior vice president of production Ravi Mehta.

In further news, there will be a currently unknown third filming city, too. Will Chicago, which embodied the integral and iconic Gotham City in "Batman Begins" and "The Dark Knight," make the cut? Perhaps not. Of course, *Scene* wants and has some reason to believe that New Orleans is in the running as the project's third filming city.

While the magazine says "some scouting" has occurred in Louisiana, pre-certification with the state's film commission (a necessary step to earn film tax credits) currently hasn't be filed. *Scene* says Mehta is the Warner Bros. executive who brought "Jonah Hex" and the upcoming Zac Efron film "The Lucky One" to New Orleans.

While Chicago and New Orleans currently haven't been rumored as the project's third filming location, two others have: **New York City** and **Detroit**. As the script for "The Dark Knight Rises" was only turned in early Dec. 2010, though, much work remains before this film starts rolling.

"The Dark Knight Rises" will again star Christian Bale as Bruce Wayne, Gary Oldman as Jim Gordon, Morgan Freeman as Lucius Fox and Michael Caine as Alfred. Tom Hardy is currently rumored to play Dr. Hugo Strange. So far, "Black Swan" star Natalie Portman has denied rumors about her involvement in the film as Catwoman.



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The film, which is again directed by Christopher Nolan, is scheduled for release on July 20, 2012. "The Dark Knight Rises" is written by David S. Goyer (story), Bob Kane (characters), Christopher Nolan (screenplay), Christopher Nolan (story) and Jonathan Nolan (screenplay) with original music from Hans Zimmer and cinematography by Wally Pfister.



"Batman Begins," "The Dark Knight" and "The Dark Knight Rises" mastermind Christopher Nolan. Image credit: Los Angeles Times' Hero Complex

Along with "The Dark Knight" (2008), other major movies that have filmed in Chicago have included "Public Enemies" (2009) with Johnny Depp, "The Unborn" (2009) with Gary Oldman and "Little Fockers" (2010) with Ben Stiller. Upcoming films that have shot in Chicago include "The Dilemma" (2011) with Vince Vaughn, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" (2011) with Shia LaBeouf, "Contagion" (2011) with Matt Damon and "The Vow" (2012) with Rachel McAdams.



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