

JOKER

OCTOBER 2019

BURNOUT SOCIETY

What type of society are we
currently living in?

JOAQUIN PHOENIX

BEATRIZ SOLINO

BBC
NEWS

Joker film: 'Daring' yet 'pernicious' origin story divides critics

Taken and adapted from <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-49549633>

BEATRIZ SOLINO

A new film exploring the origins of DC comic book villain *The Joker* has left many critics grinning from ear to ear - but not all of them are amused. *The Guardian* called *Joker* "gloriously daring", while Total Film said it was "challenging [and] subversive". Joaquin Phoenix's lead performance has been variously described as "fearsome", "astonishing" and "mesmerising". According to another reviewer, though, the film is guilty of "aggressive and possibly irresponsible idiocy".

"Director Todd Phillip's, writes *Time magazine's* Stephanie Zacharek, "may want us to think he's giving us a movie all about the emptiness of our culture". "But really," she continues, "he's just offering a prime example of it".

According to *Time Out's* Phil De Semlyen, *Joker* is an "unrelenting, grimly funny and brilliantly visceral reinvention of the DC supervillain". Yet the film is dismissed as "pernicious garbage" by online critic Glenn Kenny, who accuses it of being self-important and "chicken-livered".

The Wrap, meanwhile, says *Joker* is "comic book nihilism wrapped up in a convincing but ultimately hollow simulacra of better, smarter movies". Speaking on Saturday at the Venice Film Festival, Phoenix said he did not "refer to past iterations" when crafting his own. "The attraction... was that we were going to approach it in our own way," he told reporters ahead of the film's world premiere.