

Greek epic satisfies action adventure cravings of mortals



DALTON CARVER

Amazing action visuals and inspiring moments are what make the Greek mythology based film Immortals entertaining and easy to watch. On the same note, a weak storyline, occasional over the top violence, and ridiculous headwear kept me from really taking this movie seriously.

The film, directed by Tarsem Singh, is loosely based on the classical Greek myths of Theseus and the Minotaur and the Titanomachy, or the war between the gods and the Titans. When I say loosely based, think of a pair of sweats compared to a pair of skinny jeans. Singh gives

a new spin on many traditionally known myths, leading to confusion by those who don't know them very well.

The movie begins by flashing forward to an important scene later on in the movie in which the main evildoer, Hyperion, portrayed by Mickey Rourke, releases the Titans from their imprisonment under Mount Tartarus. The movie continues in the same fashion that the 2010 film, Clash of the Titans did by introducing Theseus and his home, and what the hero must fight for.

The conflict is introduced when Hyperion, the King of Crete, declares war on the gods for letting his family die. He starts to invade various holy places in Greece, looking for the mythical and elusive Epirus bow, a weapon used by Ares in the battle where the gods imprisoned the Titans.

Theseus, fatherless, lived with his mother, but was often seen with an elderly man that lived in

the village.

Later, this old man is revealed to be Zeus in disguise, indirectly influencing Theseus. Theseus' village, which is unnamed, happens to be in the way of Hyperion's insane quest for conquering the gods, and the residents are told to evacuate.

In the process of doing so, Theseus, played by Henry Cavill, and his mother are accosted by another citizen of the village, claiming that the peasants are to leave the next day, while the rest escape in a timely manner. This leads to Theseus starting a scuffle between the citizen and the soldiers leading the evacuation.

Theseus disarms and disgraces a guard named Lysander, who later decides to defect to Hyperion's cause. Lysander is similar to the deformed Ephialtes character in the 2006 movie 300, who betrays his brethren and then later regrets it.

Lysander informs Hyperion

that the village is fleeing and unprotected, a perfect opportunity for an attack. In the ensuing slaughter, Theseus' mother is killed by Hyperion himself, leading to his main grudge with the Heraklion king. Theseus is then captured and made a slave for the cause of Hyperion. However, unknown to Hyperion, Theseus has been indirectly influenced and trained by Zeus, making him a fearsome and skilled warrior.

While a slave, he meets with an Oracle, played by Frieda Pinto, who recognizes that he's been influenced by the gods. The Oracle receives a vision that shows Theseus embracing Hyperion and his cause. Upon learning of this vision, Theseus is bound and determined to do the exact opposite.

The Oracle then leads Theseus to the one thing that Hyperion desires, the Epirus bow. The plot follows a path you would expect from this point

on, not throwing any unexpected punches. A lot of people die and the conclusion comes as expected.

The most enticing and refined portion in the film is the combat, which rivals that of 300. The action scenes are just something that really makes you go, "Whoa." The scene where the gods fight the newly released Titans is especially satisfying.

However, it's difficult to make a movie of this type without doing things similar to the movies that have already been made about the subject. For example, Hyperion has a massive army, while the Greeks have a very, very small opposing force. The Greeks, who have barricaded themselves in a large fortress, must use the small tunnel access to funnel Hyperion's forces through.

Does this sound like 300 to anyone else? On another note, it's difficult to take the Gods seriously simply because of the things they decide to wear.

Poseidon's helmet is especially ridiculous, and it really offsets the fact that the gods are characters to be taken seriously by characters in the film and the audience alike. Hyperion's head gear is just as poorly designed, having rabbit ears and looking like it could pick up at least four channels with decent reception.

Overall, Immortals is an immensely satisfying watch and will immediately fulfill anyone's craving for action.

Its themes are decent, explaining that immortality comes through deeds, not through literally living forever. The action scenes are nearly unmatched by any recent films that come to mind and will literally drop your jaw with how cool everything looks.

Despite some minor setbacks, Immortals is a decent film of its genre, though it certainly won't be winning any awards.

Dalton Carver is a freshman majoring in communication. You can email him at dalton.carver@स्कans.edu.

Mass communication biases leave journalists with bad reputation

JONATHAN WOON

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. Please take a seat and make yourself comfortable. I'm glad you made it to your very first class in journalism. Let me start off by posing a question to warm up your brains. To the best of your knowledge, what do you think the primary duty of a journalist is?

When I was a kid, I always believed that journalists were the go-to people for instant fame. There is no doubt that a journalist makes people known, but the foundation of a journalist's craft is not in any way aimed to make one famous. Besides that cliché ideology, I was also made to believe that as much as a reporter can make

you famous, they could also blotch your reputation overnight. Some call it the power of mass communication and the journalist is viewed as the culprit.

Sadly, most of us have been educated with the wrong principle of journalism. We have misunderstood the function of journalism and what it contends for in our society. I vividly recall the day I stepped into the very first journalism class of my life last year. Like any other regular student, I didn't really know what I was supposed to do, but I still made up something to turn in.

My first assignment was an epic fail, a report with the wrong motive in mind. Many of you out there without much exposure to this field of study

would do the same.

We always think that the newspaper and other forms of media and mass communication are outlets of propaganda and a mean to spread ideologies. You are wrong. Let me tell you why.

After a year and a half of studying journalism, it becomes clear to me that the backbone of journalism is truth. Yes, truth that makes you delight in yourself and even the ugly side of truth that hurts and breaks you down.

In a way, journalism blemishes your reputation, but one must come to an understanding that a journalist's goal is truth and transparency, not the downgrading of your name and reputation. Shame comes as a result of one's very own wrong doing. You

make the mistake, the journalist tells the story and you get the shame. There is no such thing as the journalist being the one that creates shame for you. Maybe being responsible for your own actions could help eliminate all this drama.

There are those who count the journalist responsible for depicting a negative impression on a story about them. A lack of professionalism by the audience is seen as the poor journalist is only doing his or her job. I know the picture or story hurts you but the truth is still the truth. We don't take sweet cream and pink icing to patch up a bad black story. We tell them how bad and how black it is.

Every time I go out on an as-

ignment, it is apparent that people still have a misconception about journalism. "You work for the paper? Can you take a picture of me and put it on the front page?" and "You're not going to publish that, I'm not going to let you do that," are the universal responses I get from people when conducting interviews or when I am doing on-site investigation. Things get worse when people get in the way by stopping me from doing my job.

The whole situation is now heated up as the security guard tried to stop me from entering that auditorium as they are skeptical that I would run a bad report about the musical that's about to start inside the auditorium.

At a small school like Southwestern College, I don't see

why there should be such issues.

One thing is for sure- the next time I go out on an assignment, I will never try to promote something in my news report ever again.

As a journalist, I have one plea, whenever you see journalists doing their job can you please leave them alone? Don't try to stop them from doing their work. If you ever remember anything I said today, it should be this: Journalists are defenders of truth and we do not need anyone to manipulate what should or should not go on the headlines.

Thank you for your time and you are dismissed from class.

Jonathan Woon is a sophomore majoring in communication. You can contact him at jonathan.woon@स्कans.edu

Coal to socks, some gifts don't keep on giving during holiday season



RICHARD GOULD

When Black Friday hit the public after Thanksgiving, the things on everyone's mind were gifts. Whether those gifts are for your parents or for someone you like, there are multiple of choices out there.

One thing that happens every

year is you receive a gift from a relative where you think to yourself, "What were they thinking!"

The gift that seems to happen this way is the hand knitted sweater. No matter what is on the sweater or what the sweater is made out of, there is always the cringing feeling when you open the wrapping paper.

To make the matter worse, they even ask you to wear the sweater in your own humiliation. A commercial that really highlights this matter is by Walmart of all places. In the commercial, the family just bought an LG television. As the Christmas party is going on, the husband

of the household explains to his friend all the things the TV can do. He can look at different websites and even look up Facebook. His wife tells him not to check Facebook but the damage is done. The person sees that his wife said his sweater is horrible. However, his friend comes in and says his sweater rocks.

I for one have never had the gift of getting a sweater that looked like it was made back in the 1950s with a horrible picture of Santa Claus on it. The only sweater I was given was a high quality one from my dad's friend living in New Hampshire.

What does crack me up the most about the holidays are the sweaters. When you see people on campus with their different clothes on, you can tell who still has connections with their family.

When you see those handmade sweaters, you know that they still care for the ones that they have been with their entire lives. Even if the sweater looks like something from a horror film, no one really tells them it looks bad unless they really want to be plain mean.

Most people that get sweat-

ers as gifts will agree that you don't say anything in front of the person that made it. Not only do they care about the person's feelings, but also they do not want to feel the consequences of their actions later.

My family, for instance, is quite large and everyone gets together for the holidays. When I was younger, we had gift giving for us kids and two times in a row, I got the same board game. The first time I was not too worried about it, but when I got the same thing the second year I was disappointed. I did not say anything. I think the game is still boxed in the original plastic

wrap.

As the semester comes to a close and the holidays come rolling in, just remember what is made available to you for gifts for others. You do not want to end up being the despised person in your family because you did not want to make the effort of getting a gift that was meaningful for who you bought it for. The thing that sticks out the most should be to question what exactly the person needs instead of wants.

Richard Gould is a senior majoring in business administration. You may email him at richard.gould@स्कans.edu.

Word on the Hill

What is the worst Christmas present you have ever received?

By Erin Morris



"The worst Christmas gift I ever got was a piece of coal."

David Leonard
business administration
freshman



"Worst gift I ever got... probably some socks."

Jovan Wilson
psychology
junior



"A pack of underwear."

Jacey Cullop
biology
senior



"My worst Christmas present I ever received, at the tender age of 18, was a set of Lincoln Logs."

Justin Tinker
theatre
junior



"The worst Christmas gift I ever received was a pair reindeer wool socks from my great grandmother."

Joshua Sapp
biology
sophomore



"Old Spice soap. It made me feel like I was dirty or something."

Patrick Hardiman
sports management
sophomore

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The Collegian is the official student newspaper of Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. It is published and distributed during the fall and spring semesters.

News contributions will be accepted by sending an e-mail to collegian@स्कans.edu or campus mail addressed to: The Collegian, Southwestern College, 100 College Street, Winfield, KS 67156.

Editorials are written by the Collegian staff members and do not necessarily represent the views of The Collegian or Southwestern College.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters are subject to editing.

Subscription rates: first copy free to students, faculty and visitors to Southwestern College and \$35 per school year mailed.

The Collegian is also available in electronic version at scupdate.org.

