"Before the rise of ethnology, myth was studied mostly by classical scholars, and in particular by Hellenists. It is still difficult to define myth satisfactorily, for all the intense scholarly attention that the problem of definition has received in the course of two and a half centuries. ...The most banal and least controversial of these may serve as a starting point: myths are traditional tales" (Graf, 1993)

⇨ Myths are passed on from one generation to the next and usually no one actually realizes who the creators of these stories are

The influence of Greek mythology on the modern film industry

- Introduction
- Overview of Greek mythology
- Greek mythology in modern films
- Conclusion

Wrath of the Titans traces the story of Perseus and his journey to save his father, Zeus from his brother and uncle, Ares and Hades. The battle involves other Titans that have partnered with Hades and Ares (Seddon et al., 2012)

Although the Greek gods did not specifically fight each other in such a way, the movie portrays how Greek gods suffer because people do not worship them

Young people used to worship gods through songs that the Greek gods took pleasure in listening to (Lattimore and Lattimore, 1961)

Greek mythology has influenced this movie to a great extent, and the issue addressed in Wrath of the Titans is the same as that in Theogony by Hesiod (Most, 2006)

Most of Greek mythology contains narratives about ancient gods and other heroes or supernatural beings representing ancient Greek religion and transcending human bounds (Rose, 2004)

This might benefit Hollywood producers and directors in that the process of movie making requires high imagination and improvisation (Bittarello, 2008)

"Troy" was adapted from the Homer's epic poem "Iliad"

Unlike in Iliad, Agamemnon as portrayed in the movie was more explicit in his motive when invading Troy, which is to enrich him and expand his empire (Winkler, 2009)

Homer also concurs, stating that "there is no king here so hateful to me as you are, for you are ever quarrelsome and ill affected" (Lattimore and Lattimore, 1961)

Greek mythology also conveys lessons about human behavior and lessons on moral values and virtues (Bremmer, 2014)

Filmmakers always try to convey the message of the fight against evil, commend good deeds as well as show efforts to create a harmonious life between people and gods, who represent nature and supernatural phenomena.

Albeit the minimized roles of gods noted by critics (Winkler, 2009), the film copies all of its characters from Iliad, proving that Greek mythology still plays a critical part in Troy

Several studies reveal that most of Greek mythology was based on ethics and morality issues similar to how modern religions base their beliefs on morality (Graf, 1993)

⇨ We can gain valuable insights on the mindset and cultural development of the early people

Greek myths have always been the endless inspiration of filmmakers in Hollywood, and they rely on variations of these myths to build screen heroes in major blockbusters inspired by Greek mythology, namely Clash of the Titans, Hercules, Crimes and Misdemeanors, Troy and Wrath of the Titans.

The use of Greek mythology in children's television shows is credited with helping to bring "the great symbols of world literature and art" to a mass audience of children who would otherwise have limited exposure (Singer, 2014)

Children's programming has included items such as a recurring segment on CKLW-TV where Don Kolke would be dressed up as Hercules and discuss fitness and Greek mythology (Kiska and Golick, 2010)

In the series, the god Ares (played by Kevin Tod Smith) makes several appearances attempting to lure Xena back to a life of spreading chaos and destruction (Westfahl, 2005)

The characters in Greek mythology are often portrayed to have great stature with extraordinary strength (Dowden, 2002)

Filmmakers understand that movie fans are always fascinated by characters with extraordinary powers or superheroes that save the world and bring a better life (Indick, 2004)

The influence of Greek mythology on modern films can be found in such movies as Clash of the Titans, Crimes and Misdemeanors, Troy, Hercules and Wrath of the Titans where most of the characters are based on ancient sources including tragedies of Aeschylus, Homeric epic, Euripides and Sophocles

The Battlestar Galactica franchise (particularly the 2004 television series) developed from concepts that utilized Greek mythology and the series Heroes, played on the concept of the new generation of gods overthrowing the old (Lopez, 2008; Perlich and Whitt, 2010)

During its six-season run, the television series Xena: Warrior Princess is set in a fantasy world "dominated by Greek gods and mythological creatures", but it also "plays with Greek legends" re-writing the historical stories

All of the believes and actions in Greek mythology revolves around how people could enjoy their lives and live in harmony with one another and the godly beings as well as how their deeds and behavior would influence their lives (Vernant et al., 1988)

Jean Cocteau regarded Orpheus as "his myth", and used it as the basis for many projects, including Orphee. The film Orfeu Negro is Marcel Camus' reworking of the Cocteau film. The 2001 film Moulin Rouge! is also based on the Orpheus story but set in 1899, and containing modern pop music (Hart, 2004; Kremm, 2013)

It should be noted that there can be mistakes about Greek mythology in those films due to the modification of myths to adapt to the contemporary culture (Dowden, 2002)

Amazons, prior to their appearance in American Hollywood films where they have been presented in "swimsuit-style costume without armor" and "Western lingerie combined with various styles of 'tough', male" clothing, had been traditionally depicted in classical Greek warrior armor (Schubart,

The 1997 Disney production of Hercules was inspired by Greek myths, but it "greatly modernizes the narrative, ... going to great lengths to spice up its mythic materials with wacky comedy and cheerfully anachronistic dialogue," which, Keith Booker says, is playing a part in the "slow erosion of historical sense." (Booker, 2010)

Academic sources   Own thoughts   Irrelevant sources

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