



## Classics on Screen: Ancient Greece and Rome on Film

*By Alastair J. L. Blanshard, Kim Shahabudin*

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Cinema loves Greece and Rome. Hollywood epics, animated movies, avant-garde features - all have turned to classical antiquity for inspiration. On the silver screen, we see a world of virtuous Christians, depraved pagans, gladiators, charioteers, Spartan warriors, and muscle-bound demigods - a potent mix of sex, violence and art. So pervasive are these images that this cinematic output dominates the public understanding of the ancient world. Through analysis of ten influential films, this book examines the representation of Greece and Rome in both popular and art-house cinema, arranged by cinematic genre. Key scenes are discussed and each film is located in its historical context.

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#### About the Author

Alastair Blanshard is Senior Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History at the University of Sydney. He is the author of *Sex, Vice, and Love from Antiquity to Modernity* (2010) and *Hercules: A Heroic Life* (2005).

Kim Shahabudin gives occasional guest lectures in the Department of Classics, University of Reading, on classical reception in popular culture. She is the co-editor of *Classics for All: Reworking Antiquity in Mass Culture* (2009).

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