

TABOO OPINIONS #58

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7-5-05 TROY, TROY AGAIN

I saw the movie, TROY, a few days ago on HBO. A good sandals-and-sword adventure portraying the stealing of beautiful Helen by Paris, the ensuing war between Greece and Troy, the Trojan Horse trick, the sacking of Troy...and the death of invincible Achilles.

Brad Pitt as Achilles, pumped up with bulging muscles, recited his cynical warrior lines with a modicum of acting ability and did a lot of battle scenes, killing enemy soldiers left and right, including the gallant Hector.

But Peter O'Toole playing King Priam of Troy stole the film with one long transfixing expression of grief-stricken horror as he sees his city burn. A wonderful actor.

The 'thousand ships' sailing to Troy and the massive thousands of warriors charging each other were very realistic. Wonderful computer work. And fine (plastic) body armor.

There is a strong anti-religious flavor to the film, as 'the gods' seem to want mere mortals to do this or that (according to the positive priests who are experts at reading the 'signs') and always bring disaster and/or death to those who obey. Take my word for it, do not give faith and loyalty to Apollo or Zeus. They are False Gods! Stick with the First Church of Blissful Cowardice.

The producers and writers of this movie also seem to have present-day history somewhat in mind:

The idea that King Agamemnon could build a huge fleet, mobilize a 'coalition' of city states and tribes, attack another, powerful city state, spend vast treasure, kill thousands and thousands of people...all for personal revenge for the humiliating desertion by his lovely wife, and for the more important geo-political reasons of power and greed...seems absurd.

Until you consider present history and our present war in which our "king", perhaps seeking revenge for a planned assassination of his father, seeking to surpass and outdo his father, seeking vast oil

treasure, maybe following a perceived 'God's Plan,' used the excuses of "terrorism" and supposed weapons of mass destruction to create a 'coalition' of client & bribed states, mount a huge expeditionary force and unleash an unmatched bombing campaign of terrible ferocity and death, invade and devastate Iraq...

Be it noted that Agamemnon returned to Greece and was killed by his new wife.

Our "king", President Bush, may be "killed" by politicians in this country striving to save themselves by sacrificing his reputation to the mobs of citizens and voters enraged by the sour ending of this war and the oncoming grinding collapse of our economy.

But (to return to the movie) my greatest disappointment in TROY is the lack of any bare breasts or naked women, which left me feeling cheated. Brad Pitt's naked ass doesn't count.

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