



Gods of Egypt Review

Jacob Keller, Junior
Reporter

When I was trying to decide which movie to see for the weekend, a thought came into my mind: "Hey, I heard that *Gods of Egypt* movie was a huge flop, not to mention that it has controversy... Why not see it?" And so I headed to the theater, low expectations set, excited to see a predominantly white cast in a movie set in ancient Egypt.

This suggests that I wasn't remotely transported back to ancient Egypt. You'd be right thinking that, and not just because of the cast. For starters, the special effects were sub-par, sometimes painful to watch. One of the scenes actually looked like the creators took a screen saver from a ten year old computer and plopped it into the film.

The choices in dialogue were also questionable. The movie was fictional: it featured the gods of Egypt as characters. Problematically, the gods couldn't be taken seriously. They acted like celebrities more than anything else, winking at people during important ceremonies and making jokes with each other and their worshippers, even when they were fighting, as in trying-to-kill-each-other fighting. Nothing godly or intimidating about that.

The plot was simplistic. The writers had an outline of what they wanted to be the plot, and didn't think hard to try to connect major points together. They came up with half-witted ways to make the plot make sense or push forward, like saying that a character got the short end of the stick because he was being tested, or having confidential information accessible enough for a civilian to sneak into a palace and read it. At one point they even forgot that they foreshadowed an event, failing to put it into the plot. The list goes on...

The writers also tried to draw lessons from the plot, yet were half-hearted in their approach. They wanted to make a lesson about believing in god, in this case believing in the many Egyptian gods, yet the gods actively use their powers and are clearly capable rulers. There was no reason for one of the main characters to not believe in their capabilities in the first place. They try to make the god Horus out to be lazy, and want to suggest at the end of the movie that he's a changed man, yet there's nothing to suggest that he changed. He has no epiphany. They try to teach a lesson about the importance of caring for one another, yet Horus does nothing to indicate he has truly changed. He just ends up being a nice guy in the last minutes of the movie. They try to teach a lesson about the value of character over money, but simply say that character is better than money again. The list goes on...

The conflict was one of pure good versus pure evil. Osiris, one ruler, is cheerful and well-loved. He donates to the poor and lets them bury their dead at one of his temples. Set is a brat and likes to make people suffer. He makes everyone into slaves, and wants to destroy the world - Oh no! Looking at the movie overall, I wouldn't be surprised if one of the writers was a young child.

Limited thought was put into this movie. If that's what you're looking for, then by all means *Gods of Egypt* is a movie for you.

Marblehead High School Mock Trial

Jack Krivit, Junior
Reporter

Despite the lack of attention the club has been getting, the Marblehead High School Mock Trial team has gone undefeated, securing three consecutive victories against formidable opponents hailing from high schools in HamiltonWenham, Danvers and Lynnfield. Buoyed by the leadership of captains Susie Mace and Olivia Indelicato, the ten team members have been preparing since early November, meeting six days a week to practice - the same frequency as organized sports teams at Marblehead High School.

When the season began, the ten members received the details of a fictional case provided to them for the purpose of the competition: a world-renowned cardiologist was being accused of medical malpractice. Parts were assigned for each team member to serve both on the plaintiff side and defense, with some members assuming additional roles. Students were provided affidavits, each witness's story, and spent considerable time drawing out their own ideas about how legal arguments should be pursued. Additional coaching has been provided by local attorneys Terence Reilly and Michael Greenberg, who have assisted the team with their professional analysis of the student work.

"We practice a lot and get super in depth," says senior captain Mace, "but the hard work shows come trial time. The questions, as well as our opening statements and closing arguments, are constantly changing the more we do run-throughs of the trial and discover applicable objections and case law. We prepare for every possibility for months until we are finally trial ready and polished. This year's case has been a tough one, with a lot of medical jargon and twists and turns that don't make it a cut and dry guilty or not guilty case."

Henry Jalbert, the team's only freshman, is excited to be part of the group. "I'm very grateful for everyone supporting me. We have a great team and I've learned a lot throughout the season."

The Marblehead High School Mock Trial team moves on to the semifinals in Worcester this Sunday, March 6, where they will compete against 31 other high school teams vying for the Massachusetts State Mock Trial Championship.



From left to right:
Front row: Nash Guyre, Susie Mace, Paris Tully, Olivia Indelicato, Sophia Vener
Back row: Ameer Ragheb, Charlie Bushman, Jake Abrams, Jack Krivit, Henry Jalbert, Jacob Keller

The Finest Hours Review

Emma Szalewicz, Sophomore
Reporter

The drama film, *The Finest Hours* directed by Craig Gillespie, hit theatres in early February of 2016. The cast includes Chris Pine as Bernie Webber, Holliday Grainger as Miriam Webber, Ben Foster as Richard, Casey Affleck as Ray, Eric Bana as Daniel, Graham McTavish as Frank, Abraham Benrubi as George, Keinyan Lonsdale as Eldon and many more great actors and actresses. The film has an IMDb rating of 7.1 out of 10. It also has a Rotten Tomatoes rating of 61%, saying, "Old-fashioned to a fault, *The Finest Hours* will satisfy those seeking a traditional rescue drama - but may leave more adventurous viewers wanting more." Metacritic rates it slightly higher at 6.8 out of 10. *The Finest Hours* also won the Heartland Film "Truly Moving Picture Award." It is a great date night movie for adults and teenagers; I highly recommend the film, although it is rated PG-13 and may be scary for younger kids.

The Finest Hours is a film based on real life about one of the most horrible storms in New England's history. This storm took place in Chatham, Massachusetts, not too far from Marblehead. According to history, "In February of 1952, one of the worst storms to ever hit the East Coast struck New England, damaging an oil tanker [*The Pendleton*] off the coast of Cape Cod and literally ripping it in half. On a small lifeboat, faced with frigid temperatures and 70-foot high waves, four members of the Coast Guard set out to rescue the more than 30 stranded sailors trapped aboard the rapidly-sinking vessel." It is action-packed, with a touch of romance.

The Finest Hours was filmed in the Massachusetts towns of Quincy, Norwell, Cohasset, and Chatham. The street scenes were filmed in Marshfield, Massachusetts and the bridge scenes were filmed at the Powder Point Bridge in Duxbury, Massachusetts.

Because this film is based on a true story, there are still many connections that this tragic event has with the U.S. today. The original Coast Guard lifeboat used to rescue *The Pendleton* still exists. It is located at Rock Harbor in Orleans, Massachusetts. Also, in 2011, the United States Coast Guard named its first 153 foot fast-response cutter after Bernie Webber.

The Finest Hours is definitely worth both your time and money. People who like action films with romance and drama thrown in will love it. If there are any *Titanic* lovers out there, then this is definitely for you as well. *The Finest Hours* is a well made production.

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Drop off at Crazy Candy Lady at 123 Pleasant Street
or A Dancer's Dream at 222 Beacon Street.

Contact Emma Szalewicz at egs413@gmail.com for other drop off locations. Thank you so much and remember that everything counts!

Deadpool Review

Kyra Veprek, Junior
Reporter

When hearing the title "Deadpool," the last word that comes to mind is "superhero." Most superheroes herald names that reflect their greatness or power. The names "Superman," "Batman," and "Spiderman" bring to mind a tall muscular man in a jumpsuit with a graphic symbol plastered across his chest; the name "Deadpool" only brings to mind images of gambling and fights. Not being familiar with Marvel or any of the X-Men, I was therefore more than intrigued to see the title "*Deadpool*" plastered on a billboard next to an image of a man in a classic superhero jumpsuit.

An opening scene can say a lot about a movie; for *Deadpool* it says it all. Going into the opening credits of an action movie, one expects nothing more than guns, buff men, and flipped cars. *Deadpool* delivers just that, but instead of beginning the film with the typical list of credits, it goes on to display all the characters with titles such as "Produced by Asshats" and "Featuring a CGI Character." This sense of dry humor is what sets *Deadpool* apart from other action or superhero movies (which I assure you *Deadpool* is). Although the crude humor is almost unsettling at points, it's what brings the film full circle and makes it enjoyable during the most cringe-worthy of scenes.

Following the opening, *Deadpool* proves to be nothing less than a great superhero movie. Deadpool, played by Ryan Reynolds, narrates the film between stills of an ongoing battle through flashbacks, which tell the watcher about how young Wade Winston Wilson is transformed into Deadpool, a street fighting superhero with the mutant power of self-healing. *Deadpool* follows our hero on his quest to defeat his transformer Ajax and win back the love of his life. Although Deadpool has no fighting side kicks, he goes through his journey with the aid of Weasel, his bartender and best friend. We also meet some of the X-Men who wish to recruit Deadpool; however, only two of the X-men appear in the film and the joke is made that it's for budgeting purposes.

Overall, *Deadpool* proves to be one of the greatest anti-heroes to appear. It becomes clear from early on that Deadpool has no heroic motives; although he spends a brief period of time defending cyber-stalked college girls, all of his actions end up being about personal gain. It is by Deadpool's own fault that he becomes a mutant and alone in life in the first place. This selfishness is the defining factor of *Deadpool* that makes the movie so enjoyable to watch. He's sarcastic, cynical, and puts his feelings of frustration into the most relatable and entertaining way possible. *Deadpool* shows the personality and humanity that superheroes have lacked for so many years. In this way, *Deadpool* is more of a comedy than anything. However, it's the action, romance, and goofy sidekicks that make *Deadpool* a solid superhero movie.

Would I recommend *Deadpool*? Absolutely. It's fun, uncomfortable, exciting, and a great watch for a group of friends on a Friday night. I would, however, caution against watching it with kids younger than high school students. *Deadpool* is similar to *Guardians of the Galaxy* in that it's a humorous take on a classic style of movie; however, the humor is too mature for younger kids and would be most enjoyed by adults. And, what sort of name is "Deadpool" for a superhero? You'll have to watch to find out.

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