

BEYOND THE PROTAGONIST: SUPPORTING CHARACTERS IN BIG SCREEN GREECE AND ROME

SPEAKERS

Christos Argyropoulos is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Philology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece), specializing in classical reception. His dissertation examines the portrayal of Livia Drusilla in twentieth- and twenty-first-century literature and television. In Spring 2025, he was awarded the inaugural Cincinnati–Athens Fellowship, thanks to which he was able to conduct research at the Burnam Classical Library of the University of Cincinnati.

Djoymi Baker is Senior Lecturer in Media and Cinema Studies at RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia). Her research interests include television and film genres (especially epics and sword-and-sandal films) and their audiences. She is the co-author of *The Encyclopedia of Epic Films* (2014) and *Netflix, Dark Fantastic Genres and Intergenerational Viewing* (2023).

Anastasia Bakogianni is Senior Lecturer in Classical Studies at Massey University (Auckland, New Zealand). Her research specialty is the reception of Greek tragedy on stage and screen. She is the author of *Electra Ancient and Modern: Aspects of the Tragic Heroine's Reception* (2012). Her most recent volume is *Classical Reception: New Challenges in a Changing World* (2024, co-edited).

Lee L. Brice is Distinguished University Professor of History at Western Illinois University (USA). He has published ten volumes on ancient history, including the most recently co-edited *Women and the Army in the Roman Empire* (2024) and *Boundaries of War* (2024). He has also published articles and chapters on ancient military history, the Roman army on film, Corinthian coinage, historiography, teaching history, and ancient technology. He is senior editor of the series *Research Perspectives: Ancient History* and of the new series *Global Ancient Military History*. He is presently working on a monograph study of mutiny and indiscipline in the Roman military of the late Republic and early Empire.

Kirsten Day is Professor and Chair of Classics at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois (USA), where she also directs the Study in Greece program and contributes to the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Augustana Prison Education programs. Her primary research focus is classical receptions on film and television, on which she has published the monograph *Cowboy Classics: The Roots of the American Western in the Epic Tradition* (Edinburgh University Press, 2016), as well as a number of book chapters and articles.

Kaiti (Ekaterini) Diamantakou is Professor in the Department of Theater Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece) and Director of the University's Laboratory of Ancient Drama and Theater Research. She is the author of numerous articles, chapters, and monographs on ancient theater and its modern reception. Her most recent major publications include *Θεατρικές Ιστορίες του Παππού Αριστοφάνη: Σκηνές Πρόσληψης* (*Theatrical*

Stories of Grandpa Aristophanes: Scenes of Reception, 2021) and *Αρχαίο Ελληνικό Θέατρο Στιχομυθίες Κειμένων* (*Ancient Greek Theater: Stichomythies of Texts*, 2025).

Christopher M. McDonough holds the Alderson-Tillinghast Chair in the Humanities at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee (USA), where he has taught in the Department of Classics since 2002. He previously held teaching appointments at Boston College, Harvard Divinity School, and Princeton. He has published widely on Roman religion, Etruscan mirrors, classical reception in film, and American literature. His recent book is *Pontius Pilate on Screen: Sinner, Soldier, Superstar* (Edinburgh UP, 2022). He has also produced the award-winning documentary *Mine 21* about a 1980s Tennessee coal mine disaster. With Monica Cyrino, he is the founding co-editor of CAMWS' new journal, *The American Journal of Classical Reception*.

Konstantinos P. Nikoloutsos is Professor in the Department of History at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia (USA). He has published numerous articles and chapters on classical reception, as well as three volumes: *Ancient Greek Women in Film* (2013), *Greeks and Romans on the Latin American Stage* (2020, co-edited), and *Brill's Companion to Ancient Greek and Roman Warfare on Film* (2023). He is currently writing a monograph entitled *Ancient Greece in Cold War Hollywood: History and the Politics of Filmmaking* under contract with Edinburgh University Press (Screening Antiquity Series).

Amanda Potter is a Visiting Fellow at the Open University in the UK. She has published widely on the ancient world and gender in film, television, comics, and fanfiction. She is the co-editor of *Ancient Epic in Film and Television* (2021) and *Classical Reception and Impact of Xena: Warrior Princess* (2025). Her forthcoming co-edited volume, *Classical Reception and Impact of Wonder Woman in Comics and Film*, is scheduled for publication in May 2026.

Jennifer A. Rea is Professor of Classics and Affiliate Faculty in the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Florida (Gainesville, USA). She has written numerous articles and book chapters on classical reception in modern science fiction and fantasy. She is the author of *Legendary Rome: Myth, Monuments and Memory on the Palatine and Capitoline* (Duckworth Academic, 2008) and *Perpetua's Journey: Faith, Gender, and Power in the Roman Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Nuno Simões Rodrigues is Associate Professor at the University of Lisbon (Portugal) and researcher at the University's Centre for History and the Centre for Classical Studies, as well as at the Centre for Classical and Humanistic Studies of the University of Coimbra. He has translated into Portuguese works by Herodotus, Euripides, and Plutarch, as well as biographies from the *Historia Augusta* (Heliogabalus). His most recent publications include the co-edited volume *Graeco-Roman Horror and its Modern Reception: Unleashing Classical Dread* (Routledge, 2026) and an essay entitled "Poppaea's Eroticization in Cinema" in the co-edited collection *Audio Visual Roman Women: Gender, History and Screen Media* (Bloomsbury, 2026).

Patricia Salzman-Mitchell is Professor in the Department of Classics and Humanities at Montclair State University, NJ (USA). She is the author of *A Web of Fantasies. Gaze, Image and Gender in Ovid's Metamorphoses* (Ohio State University Press, 2005) and co-author of *Classical Myth and Film in the New Millennium* (Oxford University Press, 2017). She has co-edited

Mothering and Motherhood in Ancient Greece and Rome (University of Texas Press, 2012) and *Latin Elegy and Narratology: Fragments of Story* (Ohio State UP, 2008).

Jesse Weiner is an Associate Professor of Classics at Hamilton College (Clinton, NY, USA). He publishes broadly in Greek and Latin literature, sexuality and gender studies, and classical reception studies. He is co-editor of *Frankenstein and Its Classics: The Modern Prometheus from Antiquity to Science Fiction* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2018) and *Searching for the Cinaedus in Ancient Rome* (Brill, 2023).

RESPONDENT

Monica Silveira Cyrino is Professor of Classics and Chair of the Department of Languages, Cultures, and Literatures at the University of New Mexico. She is the author of *In Pandora's Jar: Lovesickness in Early Greek Poetry* (1995) and *Aphrodite* (2010), as well as of numerous articles on Greek lyric, tragedy, and myth. Professor Cyrino is a leading scholar of classical antiquity on screen. Her book *Big Screen Rome* (2005) surveys milestone cinematic revivals of ancient Rome. She is the editor of *Screening Love and Sex in the Ancient World* (2013) and co-editor of *Classical Myth on Screen* (2015). Her work on television includes two edited volumes on HBO's *Rome: Season One: History Makes Television* (2008) and *Season Two: Trial and Triumph* (2015). She is also co-editor of *STARZ Spartacus: Reimagining an Icon on Screen* (2017). Professor Cyrino received the American Philological Association's Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Classics (1999) and has served as a consultant for numerous film and television productions.