THE FIRST WAR FOR THE WEST HISTORICAL DOCU-DRAMA

PRODUCTION COMPANY: WORRIGEE MULTIMEDIA

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KEY FACTS

Eight, 44-minute episodes + 30 minute "Making of", 5 years in the making (6 x 55" version – no commercial breaks – available also)

What was the real mission of Leonidas and the 300 Spartans?

Greece vs. Persia 2500 years ago

50 actors, 350 extras, 10 experts and 4 researchers

An event that has done more to shape the way the world is today than any other

For the first time on TV, the FULL story of the greatest war of all time

Presented by Dr Michael Scott of Cambridge University

Dispelling the myths and legends and revealing the full story

The latest research, satellite imagery, re-enactments and ballistic tests

The missing links from the ancient texts of Herodotus

Answering all the unanswered questions:

What was the real cause of the war?

How did the Greeks win, was it just legend and propaganda?

What really happened at the Battle of Marathon?

Were they always on a suicide mission?

The Legacy

No major detail left out

The actual battlefields, the tactics, the strategies, the weapons

INTRODUCTION

Tag Line: The First War for the West, a time when history became legend.

The first democracy in the world spawned a war 2500 years ago that shaped most of the world today (i.e., 9/11), particularly our politics, but it also gave us some of the most iconic moments and curious mysteries in history, a time when history really did become legend.

The Greco Persian War has given us some of the most iconic moments in history such as Leonidas and the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae, the Marathon Run and a huge legacy today (i.e., 9/11) in politics and many other areas. However, other than the 3 days of the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae, the rest of the 49 year war between Persia and Greece has been almost completely overlooked, and has *never appeared in full* as a documentary or drama. This TV docu-drama series (of eight 44 minute episodes) corrects that. It covers the full story from the Ionian Revolt (497BC) to the Peace of Callias (449BC) also known as the Peace of Kimon, and includes a detailed introduction, the birth of Democracy and the aftermath and the legacy of the period.

Presented by Dr Michael Scott of Cambridge University, with contributions from nine other experts and four researchers and using the latest research, satellite positioning, and imagery, the series gives complete coverage of the story. Included is a detailed analysis of two of the oldest mysteries in history itself, what really happened at the Battle of Marathon and what really happened to King Leonidas and his 300 Spartans at Thermopylae. Re-reading the 2500 year old text of Herodotus, the "Father of History", has revealed some missing links.

MORE ABOUT TFWFTW

The story is told through the life of Kimon, a real person whose heroic military life coincided with these world changing events. Kimon was the wealthy son of revered Athenian military leader Miltiades. Miltiades is credited with the victory of the Greeks over the Persians at Marathon, but died in an Athenian prison within a year. Kimon was a drunken womaniser in his early life, and his story includes his incestuous seduction by his sister (frowned on but not illegal at that time) and his love for the woman Isodice. Although his fortune is lost through no fault of his own, it is regained by an action which leaves him feeling guilty through his life, and, most of all, his courage and love for Athens and Greece, for which he sacrifices these other loves. He never sought political power but was the architect of the rise of Greek power to its greatest height.

The life of Kimon has remained in the shadow of other heroism during the period, but he came closest to uniting Greece, and humbled the mighty Persian Empire in the process.

While being historically accurate, research has produced an engaging story with all the dramatic elements, the loves and courage of Kimon, the treacheries of Histiaeus and Ephialtes, the ambition of Mardonius, the heroism of Leonidas, the arrogance of Xerxes, and more. Most of all, this production is detailed and informative, keeping

your interest while history unfolds. It shows the brilliant tactics and good fortune of the Greeks while defending their country against the Persian Kings Xerxes and Darius and their vast army and navy. It dispels many of the myths surrounding the story.

It is told as a docu-drama with narration and expert analysis. Every major event and battle is covered in detail and there is extensive use of satellite based maps. Most Historians include this period as the first major turning point in history, as a free Greece was the source of many ideas that influenced and changed the world. The fledgling Athenian democracy had to win to survive and is the basis for the most pervasive form of government in the world today. But Sparta has given us an equally important and different legacy.

Shot in Australia and Greece, and using actual back-plates from Greece, this production involved nearly **400 actors and extras**. Computer 3D modelling and special effects bring the ancient Greek and Persian cities and battlefields to life. It is shot on widescreen HD video.

No stone is left unturned. The six major battles are covered in detail with technical direction by Dr Chris Matthew, historian, and author of "A Storm of Spears". It includes a myth busting section to show how the Greeks actually turned the tables on the huge, all conquering Persian army.

Key Personnel

Producer/Director Stanislaw Karpinski

Presented by Dr Michael Scott, Cambridge University

Narrated by Patrick Frost

Screenplay Dr Rie Natalenko and S Karpinski

Co Producer Christopher Collins **Executive Producer** Beverley Karpinski

Edit and Colour Grade Christopher Collins, Flikapolitan

Production and CGI Worrigee Multimedia **Historical and Tactical Consultant** Dr Chris Matthew

Action Choreography Mick Cutajar, Australian Commonwealth Judo

team

Directors of Photography Richard Jones and Christopher Collins

Kimon played by local actor, Lucas Reeves.

Additional Contributions Dr Ian Plant, Assoc. Prof. Paul Mackechnie,

Dr Blanche Menadier, Dr Doug Kelly.

Historians Anne Nixon, Fiona Stasiukynas, Shelley Grant

and Russel Granger

Guest Commentary Mr Rob de Castella, OBE,

former world champion marathon runner.

Structure and Episode Outline

And A "Making of" 22 minute Short

TFWFTW is structured in 8 episodes (each averaging 44 minutes), but is also available as a 6 x 55' version without commercial breaks.

Episode 1: THE BEGINNING:

Our modern connection to this period, the importance to us here and now. The three major players, Athens, Sparta and Persia. Greece & Persia, where each came from and what made them different to each other. A closer look at Athens and the beginnings of Democracy.

Episode 2. TREACHERY:

The Spartans and their unique position in Greece. How Greece & Persia came in to conflict. The disloyalty of Histiaeus. The Ionian Revolt, Kimon and Miltiades in Athens, meeting Isodice, Athenian betrayal, the first Persian Invasion. Events leading up to the Battle of Marathon including the mystery of Marathon.

Episode 3: MARATHON:

The Battle of Marathon, the Marathon Run, war heroes, the fall from grace of Kimon's family, prison, bankruptcy, incest, recovery and marriage. Why did the Athenians call for help, then attack the much larger Persian army at Marathon without waiting for that help? Athens builds the fleet.

Episode 4, RISE AND FALL:

Episode 5, THE GREAT INVASION:

The Great Persian Invasion of Greece by King Xerxes, the construction of the bridges over the sea at Hellespont and the canal at Athos, and the lead up to the Battle of Thermopylae, days 1 and 2. The betrayal of Leonidas.

Episode 6: THERMOPYLAE AND SALAMIS:

The disaster of Thermopylae and sacrifice of the lives of Leonidas, his 300 Spartans and other Greeks, trying to delay the enormous Persian forces of King Xerxes. What really happened there? Were the 300 Spartans always on a suicide mission? The evacuation of Athens, Spartan timidity and indecision. Victory at the naval battle of Salamis Themistocles brings on the naval battle. The lead up to the Battle of Plataea.

Episode 7: THE DECISION IN GREECE:

Stabilization and the lead up to the Battle of Plataea. The Battle of Plataea and the pledge made there. The new League of Greek Allies (Delian League), Kimon made commander in chief, Battle of Eurymedon (Kimon, the Conqueror of Persia), death of his wife Isodice, Ostracism (exile) of Kimon, his return to power, the death of Kimon and the Peace of Callias/Kimon.

Episode 8: THE AFTERMATH AND LEGACY:

Was it all worthwhile? Less than 50 years after the death of Kimon, why did the mighty hoplites of Kimon and Leonidas become the hirelings of Asia? Greece & Sparta legacies.

Target Audience

TFWFTW is targeted at the **widest possible audience** (in Australia and overseas) encompassing adults, young people, students, schools, libraries, by:

- The *subject* (this iconic period which is almost universally known, is taught in every **high school** in Australia and all around the world, even in African countries like Botswana), but this version has much new information and previously unseen elements.
- As part drama, it will have wider general appeal than a documentary.
- With *detailed action scenes*, that target will be broadened to include a **younger** audience.
- *Historical accuracy* combined with the above will broaden the appeal even further to include **those who love history**. The adherence to historical accuracy, the inclusion of all major events and new information, gives the production **very long term educational value** and adds **schools and libraries** to the target audience.

What makes this Production Different?

Expert commentary and narration, lots of action, but no major historical event is ignored or changed to accommodate a theme. Past drama productions of these events have tended to be **very one sided**, often glossing over the real story.

TFWFTW shows **the full story**, the failings and achievements of **both** sides and important new information.

What makes this Production Unique?

The full story of the conflict is told, rather than treating the 300 Spartans in isolation. Many aspects of the historical events are portrayed that have **never been seen before** in a visual production, including all the politics of the time. The world's largest sea battle (Salamis), the bridging of the Hellespont (Dardanelles) and the Persian canal at Mt Athos.

Expert-supervised battle scenes to give the real feel of Greek Hoplite fighting against all foes. Battlefield recreations and landscapes based on photos and film taken of the actual locations in Greece.

For the first time, audiences will see the real locations and the full story.

In addition, care has been taken to portray many events that have not been seen before, to show in some detail the course of events. This includes each of the major battles. Attention has been paid to the lead up, course and aftermath of each major battle. Detailed research has shed new light on some of the most iconic moments in history.

Website

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