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The Great Greek Myths Series
July 2016

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NEW

GREAT GREEK MYTHS (THE)

AUTHOR
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DIRECTOR
François BUSNEL
COPRODUCERS

ARTE FRANCE, ROSEBUD PRODUCTIONS

FORMAT
20 x 26', 2015

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VERSIONS
English - German - French
TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

HD

Tales of love, sex, power, betrayal, heinous crimes, unbearable separations, atrocious revenge, and metamorphoses - the poetic force of the myths has crossed the centuries.

"The Great Myths" documentary series sets out to recount these ancient stories using animations created especially for the occasion, and illustrations chosen from the entire history of art. This dynamic blend, a bridge between modernity and history, ancient narrative and contemporary dramatic art, is a new way to discover or re-discover this part of our universal heritage.



LIST OF EPISODES

ANTIGONE, THE WOMAN WHO SAID "NO"	NEW HD	APHRODITE - DICTATED BY DESIRE	NEW HD
APOLLO - SHADOW AND LIGHT	NEW HD	ATHENA - ARMED WISDOM	NEW HD
BELLEROPHON, THE MAN WHO WANTED TO BE A GOD	NEW HD	DEDALUS AND ICARUS - A SHATTERED DREAM	NEW HD
DIONYSUS - AN OUTSIDER IN THE CITY	NEW HD	HADES - A RELUCTANT KING	NEW HD
HERACLES, THE MAN WHO BECAME A GOD	NEW HD	HERMES - THE IMPENETRABLE MESSENGER	NEW HD
MEDEA, MURDEROUS LOVE	NEW HD	OEDIPUS, THE RIDDLE SOLVER	NEW HD
ORPHEUS - A HYMN OF IMPOSSIBLE LOVE	NEW HD	PERSEUS - THE LOOK OF DEATH	NEW HD
PROMETHEUS - THE REBEL OF OLYMPUS	NEW HD	PSYCHE - BEAUTY AND THE BEAST	NEW HD
TARTARUS - THE DAMNED OF THE EARTH	NEW HD	THESEUS - THE RAVAGES OF OVERSIGHT	NEW HD
ZEUS AND THE CONQUEST OF POWER	NEW HD	ZEUS IN LOVE	NEW HD

NEW

ANTIGONE, THE WOMAN WHO SAID "NO"

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VERSIONS

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Antigone was one of Oedipus' four children. She had two brothers, Eteocles and Polynices, as well as a sister, Ismene. One day, her sister informed her that her two brothers, who were heirs to the throne of Thebes, were fighting each other for power. They had agreed to take power alternately, but when the time came for Eteocles to hand his crown over to Polynices, he refused. An inevitable war ensued.

Antigone rushed to try to reason with them, but to no avail, and the combat ended with the death of both men. But Creon, Oedipus' brother, and regent of power, decided to impose the law. He refused Polynices a ritual burial, ordering his body to be abandoned on the battlefield. Antigone, who found Creon's decision unbearable, defied the ban: she said "No".

HD



NEW

APHRODITE - DICTATED BY DESIRE

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Kronos revolted against his father Uranus. He severed his father's genitals, and threw them into the sea, where they mingled with the foam and gave birth to Aphrodite.

Aphrodite was born from this highly unusual union. She inspired romantic love and physical attraction in equal measure. Aphrodite was a magnificent goddess. Zeus married her to Hephaestus, the lame god. But Aphrodite soon chose a lover - the god of war, Ares. Nobody could resist the goddess Aphrodite, who was the object of much jealousy on Olympus. One day, Eris, the goddess of discord, threw an apple between Athena, Aphrodite and Hera. On it was written "To the most beautiful". The task of choosing between the three goddesses was entrusted to a young shepherd, Paris. His decision led to a war that lasted for ten years: the infamous Trojan War.

HD



NEW

APOLLO - SHADOW AND LIGHT

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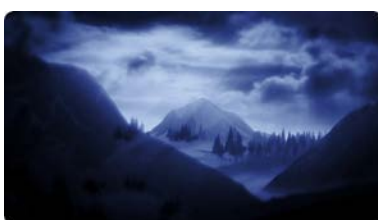
TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Although they were the son and daughter of Zeus, Apollo and his twin sister Artemis were born under threats from the goddess Hera. Zeus' wife Hera never forgave the twins' mother - the nymph Leto - for her union with the King of Mount Olympus, and she forced Leto into exile.

As a result, Apollo was a wandering god, who did not grow up on Olympus. He was a musician and an excellent archer, and was both gentle and cruel. He was also very handsome, but this did not spare him from being disappointed in love. At the service of his father, he created the first sacred site in Delphi, where mortals from all over the world came to question Pythia. But Apollo also incurred Zeus' wrath several times, even endangering himself in the process, and almost found himself in the depths of Tartarus.

HD



NEW

ATHENA - ARMED WISDOM

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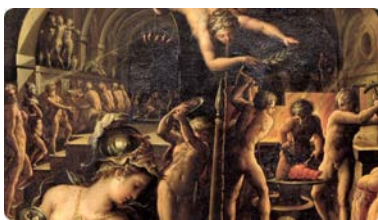
TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The Goddess of War Athena was the wisest, most level headed and rational deity.

She was born out of Zeus' skull, wearing a helmet and holding a spear. She was the protector of heroes, the State, and mankind, to whom she passed on many inventions. She was also a very beautiful woman, who attracted a great deal of attention, including that of the lame god Hephaestus. She regularly clashed with her arch-rival Poseidon. At Poseidon's expense, she won the vote of the people of Athens. Athena experienced jealousy on just the one occasion: the young woman Arachne, an expert weaver, claimed she could weave better than anybody else - including Athena. For a God, even the highly reasonable Athena, this proved difficult to bear.

HD



NEW

BELLEROPHON, THE MAN WHO WANTED TO BE A GOD

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Bellerophon, the grandson of Sisyphus, one of the Greek world's worst criminals, dreamt of becoming a hero, of being equal to the Gods. But his plans got off to a bad start with the accidental murder of his brother. Forced into exile, he took refuge in Tyrins.

But there too, nothing went according to plan: accused of rape by Queen Stheneboea, he left to visit the King of Lycia, who in a bid to get rid of him, imposed fearsome challenges on him. Bellerophon was victorious, thanks to Pegasus the horse, but he subsequently committed the sin of pride, boasting to the priests that he was singlehandedly responsible for his own success. For Zeus, claiming to be equal to the Gods was an unpardonable error, so he caused Bellerophon to fall, which resulted in him going blind.

HD



NEW

DEDALUS AND ICARUS - A SHATTERED DREAM

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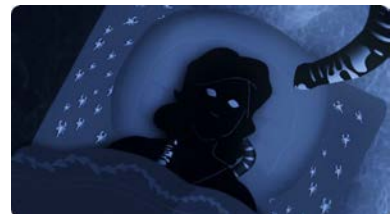
TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Dedalus, a prominent Greek inventor, settled in Crete among King Minos' court. Queen Pasiphaë, who had an all-consuming passion for a white bull, called upon his services. The Sea God Poseidon had given the bull to her husband King Minos as a present, and King Minos had refused to sacrifice it for him.

To take his revenge, Poseidon cast a spell on the poor Pasiphaë. Following orders, Dedalus found a solution to enable the queen to mate with the animal. Their union produced the Minotaur, a monster that King Minos shut away in a labyrinth built by Dedalus. Unfortunately, when King Minos found out that Dedalus had helped the young Theseus to find a way out of the labyrinth, he shut Dedalus and his son Icarus inside it. The shrewd Dedalus found a way to escape - but his method put his own son's life in peril.

HD



NEW

DIONYSUS - AN OUTSIDER IN THE CITY

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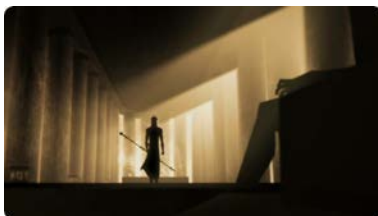
TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Zeus had a reputation for being a seducer of women. One day he lay with a mortal - Semele, the daughter of the king of Thebes. Their son Dionysos did not immediately join Olympus on account of his dual identity.

Dionysos was brought up by nymphs. One day he discovered the vine, and decided to travel the world teaching mankind the art of making wine out of it. He was an errant, wandering God, and was often considered marginal. He left for Thrace, and then for India, accompanied by a noisy procession of Maenads and Silenus. He often aroused the suspicion of the people he encountered, and they sometimes rejected him. In Thebes, his birth city, he wanted to make his voice heard, that of the "Other", the different one. His message of tolerance and openness, his encouragement of poetry, theatre, cross-dressing, and festivities, all slowly but surely became a cult - that of the God Dionysos.

HD



NEW

HADES - A RELUCTANT KING

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Having become organiser of the world, Zeus entrusted the world of the sea to his brother Poseidon, and the underworld, or the kingdom of the dead, to Hades.

Alone, in a place he had not chosen himself, Hades reigned over the people of the shadows and over the grimacing creatures that surrounded him. One day, having left his kingdom to breath a little air on the surface, he crossed paths with the beautiful Persephone, with whom he fell in love - and abducted her. Her mother, Demeter, the Goddess of Agriculture and Harvest, was beside herself with grief. When she heard her daughter had been abducted, she threatened to render the earth barren and the fields impossible to cultivate. Caught between Hades' desire and love for the young girl, and Demeter's resolution and sadness, Zeus had to settle the dilemma swiftly.

HD



NEW

HERACLES, THE MAN WHO BECAME A GOD

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

We all know about Heracles' unequalled strength, and the twelve labours he had to carry out, but we know a great deal less about the way in which his life was turned upside down by a series of terrible curses.

Born from the union between Zeus and Alcmene, Heracles was a target for Zeus' wife Hera's jealousy, and she sent snakes to kill him while he was still in his cradle. Hera manipulated Heracles once again when he killed his wife Megara and their children. To redeem himself, he handed himself over to his cousin, the terrible Eurystheus, who imposed twelve tasks on him. These ranged from slaying the Lernaean Hydra, a gigantic seven-headed serpent, to capturing the Cerberus, the fearsome, three-headed dog that guarded the underworld.

HD



NEW

HERMES - THE IMPENETRABLE MESSENGER

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Hermes was the youngest of the Gods of Olympus. Right from birth, he was an insolent, thieving, trickster God. While still a baby, he escaped from the cave in which his mother Maia gave birth to him, and stole Apollo's herd. He subsequently invented the first lyre, which he offered him as a sign of reconciliation.

Zeus admired the young God Hermes, and entrusted him with several missions: to become a messenger, to become an intercessor between the living and the dead, to promote trade and to encourage the circulation of travellers. But he was also his father's best ally, and helped him carry out numerous attempts at seduction. He was a difficult God to fathom, and one could never be sure he was not trying to trick them. Hermes was well liked on Olympus, but sometimes also aggravated the Gods by making objects disappear or by playing tricks!

HD



NEW

MEDEA, MURDEROUS LOVE

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

On his quest to find the Golden Fleece, Jason asked the cruel King of Colchis and his daughter Medea, a powerful sorceress, for help. Medea fell in love with Jason, helped him to find the precious Fleece, and fled with him.

Numerous adventures and misfortunes stemmed from this passionate encounter, and poor Medea seemed to be at the origin of them. The two young lovers took refuge in Greece, got married, and Medea gave birth to two children. But one day, Jason succumbed to the call of power. He rejected Medea, and married the daughter of the King of Corinth. Alone and sorrowful, Medea planned a terrible revenge that devastated the man she loved with a destructive passion.

HD



NEW

OEDIPUS, THE RIDDLE SOLVER

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

No mortal endured more terrible a tragedy than Oedipus. He was the son of King Laius, King of Thebes, who, as a young man, having abused King Pelops' son, caused his death. The Gods forbade him to have offspring, and decreed that if Laius gave birth to a son, that son would kill him. However his wife Jocasta did give birth to a son, Oedipus. Laius removed Oedipus from Thebes, and he grew up far away from the city, without knowing his true identity or the curse that weighed upon on him.

Once Oedipus had reached adulthood, he met a man on a chariot, who threatened him. Oedipus killed him. He then went to Thebes, and prepared to tackle the Sphinx, because he had heard that whoever managed to slay the terrible animal threatening the city could marry the recently widowed Queen Jocasta, and become King of Thebes...

HD



NEW

ORPHEUS - A HYMN OF IMPOSSIBLE LOVE

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

On certain evenings, the constellation of Lyra is visible in the skies. Following Orpheus' death, Zeus placed the constellation in the sky, as a tribute to the greatest poet and musician in Greek mythology.

Watched over by the muses from birth, Orpheus' talent enchanted nature, both trees and animals alike. A brave young man, Orpheus left with Jason's crew on board the Argo, to conquer the Golden Fleece. But what poets and artists remembered most about the myth of Orpheus was his passionate love story with the beautiful Eurydice. Having been bitten by a snake, Eurydice was condemned to join the kingdom of the dead. A distraught Orpheus followed her, and thanks to his lyre, managed to convince the Couple of the Underworld, Hades and Persephone, to give him back his wife. They accepted on one condition: that Orpheus should leave the Underworld followed by Eurydice, but that on no account should he turn round to look at her. An ordeal like no other.

HD



NEW

PERSEUS - THE LOOK OF DEATH

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Perseus was not meant to come into the world. Fearing the fulfilment of the prediction according to which his grandson would kill him, King Acrisius shut his daughter Danaë away in a fortified tower.

But Zeus fell in love with Danaë, and in order to conquer her, metamorphosed into a golden shower. Perseus was born from this union. Once he had become a man, Perseus was given the challenge of bringing the head of the Gorgon to the tyrant King Polydectes, who was holding his mother captive. This was the start of Perseus' great adventure, which became a veritable legend for all the Greek heroes that came after him, because taking on Medusa was an act of madness, as whoever set eyes on her would turn to stone. The young Perseus set out in search of the Gorgon - the most terrifying of creatures - with the help of the God Hermes and the Goddess Athena.

HD



NEW

PROMETHEUS - THE REBEL OF OLYMPUS

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Taking revenge against Prometheus, Zeus created the first woman - the beautiful Pandora. He gave her a manipulative and deceptive character, and subjected Prometheus to terrible torture.

Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus were the sons of a Titan, Japetus. Japetus clashed with Zeus in the Battle of the Titans, whereas Prometheus - which means "forethought" - guessing that Zeus would be the victor, sided with him. But although Zeus and Prometheus both shared a shrewd and cunning nature, they clashed fiercely. Prometheus wanted to be of help to mankind, and managed to convince Zeus to give them fire. But when Zeus decided to relegate humans to their place, and to create a hierarchy between the gods and man, Prometheus opposed him...

HD



NEW

PSYCHE - BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

In this myth, many versions of which have been passed down through the ages, Psyche is the Beauty. Concerned that his daughter did not have a suitor, Psyche's father consulted Pythia, who announced grave news: Psyche's father must leave her on a hilltop, from where a monster would come take her away.

In fact, Psyche was welcomed into a magnificent castle. Instead of being a monster, her husband was reassuring and tender. His only request was that she should not attempt to look at his face. Of course Psyche tried to find out who this unknown person was, and jeopardised the highly unusual, budding romance in the process. Jealous of Psyche's beauty, the Goddess Aphrodite was at work in the wings. Psyche must carry out many tasks and avoid many traps in order to find the man she loves, whose real identity she has still to find out...

HD



NEW

TARTARUS - THE DAMNED OF THE EARTH

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Located in the bowels of the Earth, Tartarus was the prison of the Underworld, the place where fallen Gods and banished heroes ended up. The Gods also sent three men there...

The first was Sisyphus. A roguish trader, Sisyphus dared denounce Zeus for taking away a young woman he was intending to seduce. His punishment was to roll a boulder up a mountain for evermore. The second man to be sent to Tartarus was Tantalus. Close to the Gods, King Tantalus committed an unforgiveable act: having no food to eat, he killed his own son to give him to the Gods to eat. As for the dishonest and cruel Ixion, he was reckless enough to try and seduce Zeus' wife Hera. All three men were condemned to eternal suffering for believing they were invincible in the face of the Gods.

HD



NEW

THESEUS - THE RAVAGES OF OVERSIGHT

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Theseus was the fruit of dual paternity: Aegeus King of Athens slept with Aethra when she had just been raped by Poseidon, God of the Sea. Theseus, who grew into a strong, brave young man, therefore had a double lineage - both divine and royal.

Unsurprisingly, once he was old enough to fight, he decided to leave for Crete to take on the terrible Minotaur, which devoured 14 young Athenians a year, delivered to Minos, King of Crete. The Minotaur, one of the best known figures in Greek mythology, was a veritable Monster, born from the forbidden union of Minos' wife Pasiphaë and a white bull. He was enclosed in a labyrinth built by the inventor Daedalus. Theseus killed the Minotaur thanks to his courage - but also thanks to Ariadne, King Minos' daughter, who gave him the means to leave the labyrinth in the form of a ball of thread. But Theseus' great courage did not stop him from neglecting his duties. Carried along by his victory, he committed a few irreversible oversights, which led to tragedy.

HD



NEW

ZEUS AND THE CONQUEST OF POWER

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TERRITORY(IES)

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To earn the title of Master of Olympus, Zeus took many important steps, and overcame many challenges.

His story is one of an incredible conquest of power, dating back to time immemorial, when the world began. Born from Chaos, Gaia - Mother Earth - mated with Uranus, the sky. Many children were born from their union, notably the Titans and the Cyclops. The youngest of the Titans, Kronos, revolted against his father, who had suffocated his mother and their children. Having beaten his father, he decided to swallow all his own children to avoid the risk of one of them stealing power from him. Yet the youngest child survived, and waged a war against Kronos, the Titans, and many other creatures. This God was none other than Zeus.

HD



NEW

ZEUS IN LOVE

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TERRITORY(IES)

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The Master of Olympus succumbed to the pleasures of seduction, because just like for a simple mortal, it was no easy task for him to overcome his desires.

Having become Master of Olympus, the great seducer Zeus embarked upon many a romantic conquest, thereby reinforcing his power, through the many children he engendered. His first wife was Metis. His second, who was known as his wife on Olympus, was the jealous Hera. But there was also Themis, the goddess of Justice, with whom he produced the Hours, the Fates and the Mnemosyne - meaning "memory" - who gave birth to nine Muses. In order to achieve his aims, Zeus metamorphosed. He was an expert at changing shape and form. He turned into a charming prince in order to seduce Semele, the king of Thebes' daughter, who gave birth to the god Dionysos. He also turned into a golden shower, a bull and even into another God. In order to seduce the nymph Callisto, who was a follower of Artemis, the Goddess of Hunting, Zeus turned into Artemis herself.











































HD



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