A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTERIZATION IN
ZACK SNYDER’S FILM 300

A PAPER

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ABSTRAK

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Deddy Lesmana: A Brief Description Of Characterization In Zack Snyder's Film 300, 2010.
TABLE OF CONTENT

AUTHOR’S DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT ............................................................................................... i

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS........................................................................... ii

TABLE OF CONTENTS ........................................................................... iii

1. INTRODUCTION
   1.1 The Background of the study .................................................. 1
   1.2 The Scope of the Study ........................................................... 3
   1.3 The Purpose of the Study ........................................................ 3
   1.4 The Significance of the Study ................................................. 3

2. THEORITICAL BACKGROUND
   2.1 Characters and Characterization .............................................. 4
   2.2 Main Character and Peripheral Characters .............................. 6
   2.3 Protagonist And Antagonist .................................................... 7

3. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF FILM 300
   3.1 Main Character ....................................................................... 9
       3.1.1 King Leonidas ............................................................. 9
   3.2 Peripheral Characters ............................................................ 12
       3.2.1 Queen Gorgo ............................................................. 12
       3.2.2 Theron ...................................................................... 15
       3.2.3 Dilios ........................................................................ 15
3.2.4 King Xerxes ......................................................... 18
3.2.5 Stelios ................................................................. 20
3.2.6 Captain Artemis ..................................................... 21
3.2.7 Ephialtes ............................................................... 22
3.2.8 Astinos ................................................................. 23

4. THE CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion ............................................................ 24
4.2 Suggestion ............................................................. 27

REFERENCES

APPENDIX

1. The Summary of film 300
2. The Biography of Director
1. INTRODUCTION

Background of study

A film does not only just preset voice and picture. The film is a part of art of human creation which give meaningful message. There are many kinds of film. Kingdom film is one of its kind. _300_ is a kingdom film. _300_ is a 2007 film adopted from the graphic novel of the same name by Frank Miller, and is a fictionalized retelling of the Battle of Thermopylae. The film was directed by Zack Snyder while Miller served as executive producer and consultant.

The _300_ is one of the most famous legendary picture. The story itself is very fantastic, because it is different, not like another kingdom film that always ends with winningful.

The Zack Snyder’s film _300_ is very interesting. The writer was interested in watching this film and he found the characters in the film are very interesting. So that the writer chooses this topic as the title of his paper.

**A Brief Description of Characterization in Zack Snyder’s film _300_**

The film tells about the existence of the kingdom at the old Greece time which consist of Spartan. The kingdom was lead by a great king. Because his age had been old so he bequeath throne of the kingdom to his one of children and his name was Leonidas.
Since childhood he had got lesson about the ways or strategy of war by his father and he also got a hard education so that he becomes a great leader.

Leonidas was getting adult and finally he was crowned as a king of the kingdom. He only had 300 war forces, with total of war forces just little, he was able to defeat more kingdoms that its war force reach thousand. Leonidas was a figure of explicit leader, brave, never give up, and had a good strategy for war. He also a figure of the leader that be amazed by his people

Finally by writing this paper, I want to share about morality messages and knowledge to the readers about the analysis of the film to make myself and the readers become more well understood about the characterization in the film.
Scope of the study

I believe there are so many important aspects of film that can be discussed, but in this paper I told one of them that was a characterization of the actors and actresses in the Zack Snyder film *300*. I concentrate on the analysis of characterization in two parts they are the main character and the peripheral characters, and I also include some critical comments of the film.

Purpose of the study

In this paper, I want to analyse the characters that can be found in Zack Snyder *300*. I want to find out how they speak and how they behave.

1.4 Significance of the study

By writing this paper, I know well the characterization of the film, because it is one of the most important things in developing a shape and developing as the figure in the story. Since the characterization include the problem who are the figures, how is the characterization, and how its describe in the story, so it is able to give a clear description to the watchers. I also realize that characterization take a strategy position as the bearer and giving the messages, advice and morality.
2. THE THEORITICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Characters and Characterization

We absolutely know that characters are the most important element in a film. In this chapter, I give the definition and explain about the characters and characterization theoretically. But first, I will discuss the differences between characters and characterization.

Character and characterization are closely related but essentially has different concept. Character refer to one of the person in the story or a fictional personality that create by the author. On the other hand, characterization refers to the sum of strait, thoughts and action that constitute with the character.

Characters are people who are presented in narrative or dramatic works who are interpreted by the readers that have moral qualities that are expressed in what they say in dialogue and they do in action (Nurgiyanto, 1998:165). Whereas, characterization in a play or film, like the structuring of action, it is very similar to the narrative fiction with a few exception. Normally, there is no narrator to intervention and enter into the consciousness of characters, it is often necessary to manage situations so that the audience is sure that figure is speaking his or her innermost thoughts (Taylor, Richard, 1981:120).

Using the term “characters” in several literaty works refers to two different meanings, featuring the story that involves attitude, attraction, desire,
emotion, and moral principles that is featured in the character. So, characters can mean a figure and also can mean characterization (in Nurgiyanto, 1998:165).

From that quotation we know that the characters figure with their personal quality have relation with the audiences response. The characters do not appear the audiences suddenly. They need “means” that make them possibility to attend. As a literary works that has characteristic and solid, and has persist purpose, attending and appearing the characters have to consider the purpose. A problem in a fiction is not only related with choosing about kinds and characterization of every character, but also how to describe intends in accurately, so it can create and support the purpose.

The most important things to remember is that you only can learn about characterization from the words of the play that is formed from the dialogue (Gill, 1985:172)

Characters and characterization are closely related to the plot because characters mean actions, while action form the plot of literature work. An author may present his characters in two general ways, there are :

Directly

Most author find it necessary to tell their readers directly something about the characters that they are created. An author might tell us the readers that a character has black hair, he or she is twenty years old, and ect. The authors do not need to tell their readers directly about their chararacter. Most authors use direct telling to convey something about their characters.

Indirectly
When an author shows a reader something, it is done indirectly something about character can emerge from the way he or she speak, react, or thinks.

2.2 Main characters and Peripheral characters

A character in a story or movie is not a real human being and has no life outside the literary composition, however the direction has created the illusion of reality. Based on the level and classified characters as important character, there are essential characters appeared continuously in the story. So, they are so dominant in a story. Another characters only a few times in the short time and relatively. The first characters are called main characters and the second characters are called peripheral characters.

The main characters is character which is prioritized in the story. This character appears in most of the story and always related with another character. So, the main character determines the plot in the whole story. The personalities of the main character in a story become familiar to us. If the story seems “true to life”, we generally find the characters act in reasonably consistent manner, and that the author has provided them with motivation, sufficient reason to behave as they do (X.J Kennedy, 1991: 47-50). And Bardwell (2003:79) states that the main character is called the hero or protagonist.

The term “hero” does not mean someone who is brave or noble, even most of them like that. Heroes can be good or bad, law or high born. However, it is more
common to say the main character as the protagonist, even if the protagonist’s action is not heroic, they are vital to progress the story.

Peripheral character is only complement of the character in the story or film. It is the supporting part, the function is as the variation of the story or film. Although it is not important but has a meaning of the whole story. On the other hand, the appearance of peripheral characters is only a few minutes in whole story. They appear when they have related to the main character directly or indirectly. It is not easy to differentiate between the main character and peripheral character, we can not do it in exact. The diction is more gradation and will make the people have the different opinion to determine the main character in the story.

2.3 Protagonist Character and Antagonist Character

Based on the study of this film, character could be differentiated into protagonist and antagonist.

Protagonist is a character that we are admired or we call it hero, a character that appropriate with the ideal for many people. Protagonist is a great character, he or she can influence the viewers with his or her performing. He or she looks like, very kind, popularly and ect. The protagonist is central to one action, moves against the antagonist. A protagonist present something which is recognizing him or her because he or she has a similiarity with us, “the problem which happened is like what I feel”, some that we can take from. Other words, every thing, felt, thought and act that is done by the character represent us.
self-identification toward the character is an empathy given by the audiences or the readers. The protagonist, there is maybe also have more than one antagonist in a story.

On the other hand, antagonist is a character of a story that represents the opposition against the heroes or the protagonist that must be contend. Antagonist is different from the protagonist, the antagonist causes conflict for the protagonist character, but it is not only always, but sometimes, it causes by other factor outside someone’s individuality, such as disaster, accident, neighborhood and the others high power. In the classic style of the story where the actions consist of the hero fighting a villain, which can be regarded as protagonist and antagonist. However, author has often created the situation more complex. In some instances, the story told from the villain’s point of view, in some story, the hero is regarded as the chief of the antagonist in the story.

The antagonist is describing as an opponent to protagonist. An antagonist is the character who opposes the protagonist, the person who causes conflict to the protagonist. The antagonist is not only human; it can be animal, nature, the environmental, or the self internal/psychological. Antagonist is the character which always hate by the viewers because he, she or it always do something make the viewers get mad.
3. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF 300

It is not easy to analyze a film or movie, we need to do some steps to get a good analysis. We have to watch the film over and over again, it will help us to understand the story of the film easily. We start to analyze each scene of the film. And the last, we make the conclusion of our analysis to get them of the film.

300 is a 2007 film adopted from the graphic novel of the same name by Frank Miller, and is a fictionalized retelling of the Battle of Thermopylae. The film is directed by Zack Snyder and acted by some famous and talented actors and actress to play the characters in this story. In this chapter, the writer divided the characters into two parts. They are main character and peripheral character.

The main character in this story is King Leonidas. The peripheral characters are Queen Gorgo, Theron, Dilios, King Xerxes, Stelios, Captain Artemis, Ephialtes, and Astinos.

3.1 Main character

There is one main character in this film, King Leonidas

1. King Leonidas

Leonidas was a king of Sparta. He was on three brothers and he had an older brother, Dorieus and a younger brother cleombrotus. Leonidas as a Spartan military king bravely led a small force of Greeks, commonly known as the 300 Spartans,
against the overwhelming numbers of the Persian Empire, and their leader Xerxes at the battle. It can be seen in this quotation:

“ The world will know that free men stood against a tyrant “
“ That few stood against many “
“ And before this battle was over, even a good-king can bleed “
“ Persian cowards “
“ You have many slaves, Xerxes “
“ But few warriors “

(300. DVD.)

He was a good king that have high confidence in himself and he also never surrender and never retreat. It can be seen in this quotation:

“ My good king! My good king! the oracle has spoken “
“ Spartans! Prepare for glory! “
“ Well, that’s an easy choice for us “
“ Spartans never retreat! “
“ Spartans never surrender! “
“ Go spread the word “
“ Let every Greek assembled know the truth of this “
“ Let each among them search his own soul “
“And while you are at it, search your own”

(*300. DVD.*)

Leonidas was a king who able to coordinate with warriors of Spartans and he able to give the great spirit to his warriors. And he loves his kingdom, lore, and citizenry very much. It can be seen in this quotation:

“Children, gather round!“

“No retreat“

“No surrender“

“That is Spartan lore“

“And by Spartan lore we will stand and fight… and die“

“A new age has begun“

“An age of freedom“

“And all will know, that 300 Spartans gave their last breath to defend it!“

“And I would die for any one of mine“

(*300. DVD.*)

The other hand, besides a king of Spartans, Leonidas also a kind husband and loves his queen or wife so much. It can be seen in this quotation:

“Clearly you do not know our women!“

“I might as well have marched them up here, judging by what I
Finally, a king that very courageous, prosperous life his citizenry, protect the women and child was die and leaved his citizenry, kingdom and beloved wife and children.

3.2 Peripheral character

There are many peripheral characters in this film, they are Queen Gorgo, Theron, Dilios, King Xerxes, Stelios, Captain Artemis, Ephialtes, and Astinos.

1. Queen Gorgo

Gorgo was a Queen of Sparta. Gorgo was Leonidas’s advisers, his confident and his equal he turns to her again when considering whether to go to war without the oracle’s permission. Prior to parting, we witness their passionate love-making. Gorgo sheds no tears when her husband leaves to fight. In fact, she tells Leonidas either to return with his shield (victorious in battle) or on it. It can be seen in this quotation:
“Spartan!”

“Yes, my lady?”

“Come back with your shield, or on it”

“Yes my lady”

( Gorgo waking up from Leonidas stroking her back )

“Your lips can finish what your finger have started…or has the Oracle robbed you of your desire as well?“

(300. DVD.)

Besides as a Queen and adviser of Sparta, Gorgo was a wife who hold in high her love to her husband. She was a smart Queen because she could know whose the traitor of Sparta, and he stabbed that traitor. And also Gorgo always give some advices and always support what king Leonidas do. It can be seen in this quotation:

“Freedom is not free at all, that it comes with the highest of cost. The cost of blood”

“(Having stabbed Theron or the traitor and while holding sword into his body) This will not be over quickly. You will not enjoy this. I am not your Queen!“

“Then what must a king do to save his world when the very laws he has sworn to protect force him to do nothing? Leonidas said
“It is not a question of what a Spartan citizen should do, nor a husband, nor a king. Instead, ask yourself, my dearest love, what should a free man do?“

“I am not here to represent Leonidas; his actions speak louder than words ever could. I am here for all those voices which cannot be heard: mothers, daughters, fathers, sons - three hundred families that bleed for our rights, and for the very principles this room was built upon. We are at war, gentlemen. We must send the entire Spartan army to aid our king in the preservation of not just ourselves, but of our children. Send the army for the preservation of liberty. Send it for justice. Send it for law and order. Send it for reason. But most importantly, send our army for hope - hope that a king and his men have not been wasted to the pages of history - that their courage bonds us together, that we are made stronger by their actions, and that your choices today reflect their bravery. “

” There's only one woman's words that should affect the mood of my husband. “

(300. DVD.)
2. Theron

Theron was a corrupt (fictional) Spartan politician. He was a traitor which looking for fissure to slaughter the authority of Leonidas and Theron prevent to give the troops aid to Leonidas. He also like to pleaded Leonidas’s wife, Queen Gorgo. Finally, when the council meeting where Queen Gorgo give a argumentation so that the council deliver troops to help Leonidas, a debate happen with Theron and at the time Queen Gorgo with coolheart stabbed Theron by a sword. In the room proven that Theron is really a traitor, by founded pieces of gold that spread from his pocket. Piece of gold is Persian Property. It can be seen in this quotation:

“(Before raping Queen Gorgo) This will not be over quickly. You will not enjoy this. I'm not your King. “

(300. DVD.)

3. Dilios

Dilios was a narrator and Spartan soldier. He was a brave Spartan soldier and full of spirit to defend the kingdom of Sparta. When Dilios was not ordered home because of infection, although he lost an eye in combat. But he can use his oratorical skills to tell the story of the Three Hundred to his fellow Spartans in order to inspire them. As such, he faces no prejudice from his comrades on his
return and was later seen leading the Spartan army into battle at Platea. It can be seen in this quotation:

“Immortals... we put their name to the test. “

“When the boy was born, like all Spartans, he was inspected. “

“And so my king died, and my brothers died, barely a year ago. Long I pondered my king's cryptic talk of victory. Time has proven him wise, for from free Greek to free Greek, the word was spread that bold Leonidas and his three hundred, so far from home, laid down their lives. Not just for Sparta, but for all Greece and the promise this country holds. “

[takes his spear from a soldier]

“Now, here on this ragged patch of earth called Plataea, Xerxes’s hordes face obliteration!

Spartan Army: HA-OOH! “

“Just there the barbarians huddle, sheer terror gripping tight their hearts with icy fingers... knowing full well what merciless horrors they suffered at the swords and spears of three hundred. Yet they stare now across the plain at *ten thousand* Spartans commanding thirty thousand free Greeks! HA-OOH!

Spartan Army: HA-OOH! HA-OOH! HA-OOH! “

“The enemy outnumber us a paltry three to one, good odds for any Greek. This day we rescue a world from mysticism and tyranny
and usher in a future brighter than anything we can imagine. “

[puts on his helmet]

“ Give thanks, men, to Leonidas and the brave 300! TO

VICTORY! “

[the Greek army roars and charges]

“ "Remember us." As simple an order as a king can give.

"Remember why we died." For he did not wish tribute, nor song,
nor monuments nor poems of war and valor. His wish was
simple. "Remember us," he said to me. That was his hope, should
any free soul come across that place, in all the countless centuries
yet to be. May all our voices whisper to you from the ageless
stones, "Go tell the Spartans, passerby, that here by Spartan law,
we lie." “

“ Xerxes dispatches his monsters from half the world away.
They're clumsy beasts, and the piled Persian dead are slippery. “

“ Immortals... they fail our king’s test. And a man who fancies
himself a god feels a very human chill crawl up his spine. “

“ The old ones say we Spartans are descended from Hercules
himself. Bold Leonidas gives testament to our bloodline. His roar
is long and loud. “

“ It's been more than thirty years since the wolf and the winter
cold. And now, as then, it is not fear that grips him, only
restlessness. A heightened sense of things. The seaborne breeze,
coolly, kissing the sweat at his chest and neck. Gulls cawing,
complaining, even as they feast on the thousands of floating dead. The steady breathing of the 300 at his back, ready to die for him without a moment's pause. Everyone of them ready, to die. “

“ His helmet was stifling, it narrowed his vision. And he must see far. His shield was heavy. It threw him off balance. And his target is far away. “

[Leonidas throws his spear and hits the side of Xerxes' face, ripping off his face piercings]

“ They have served the dark will of Persian kings for five hundred years. Eyes as dark as night... teeth filed to fangs... soulless. The personal guard to King Xerxes himself; the Persian warrior elite. The deadliest fighting force in all of Asia... the Immortals. “

“ We did what we were trained to do, what we were bred to do, what we were born to do! “

“ Hundreds leave, a handful stay. Only one looks back. “

( 300. DVD. )

By spiritfully, Dilios with his oratorical skills, he was spoke loudly to give the spirit for Spartan army. He did it, because he loves his country and his king, Leonidas.

4. King Xerxes

Xerxes was not the oldest son of Darius and according to old Iranian traditions should have not succeeded the King. Xerxes was however the oldest son
of Darius and Atossa hence descendent of Cyrus. This made Xerxes the chosen King of Persia. Xerxes was crowned and succeeded his father when he was about 36 years old. The transition of power to Xerxes was smooth due again in part to great authority of Atossa and his accession of royal power was not challenged by any person at court or in the Achaemenian family, or any subject nation. In this story, Xerxes is a cruel king. He has many warriors for against of Spartan. Even he want to kill the king of Spartans until die. It can be seen in this quotation:

“There will be no glory in your sacrifice. I will erase even the memory of Sparta from the histories! Every piece of Greek parchment shall be burned. Every Greek historian, and every scribe shall have their eyes pulled out, and their tongues cut from their mouths. Why, uttering the very name of Sparta, or Leonidas, will be punishable by death! The world will never know you existed at all! “

(300. DVD.)

Xerxes really a tricky king. He did many ways to trick Leonidas with give his a duty warlord of all Greece so that the king of Sparta, Leonidas wants to join to him. It can be seen in this quotation:
“But I am a generous god. I can make you rich beyond all measure. I will make you warlord of all Greece. You will carry my battle standard to the heart of Europa. Your Athenian rivals will kneel at your feet if you will but kneel at mine.”

(300. DVD.)

5. Stelios

Stelios was a young and spirited Spartan soldier. Stelios was the favourite Spartan. He always grin that sexy wicked smile and he was a total badass to boot. It can be see in this quotation:

“I saw ……”

“We saw but a fraction of the monster that is Xerxes' army.”

“There can be no victory here. Why do you smile?” Daxos said

“Arcadian, I've fought countless times, yet I've never met an adversary who could offer me what we Spartans call "A Beautiful Death." I can only hope, with all the world's warriors gathered against us, there might be one down there who's up to the task.

“We are with you, sire! For Sparta, for freedom, to the death!”

(300. DVD.)
Stelios was Astinos best friends and they like to joke even when in combat. It can be seen in this quotation:

“What the hell are you laughing at?” Stelios said

“Well, you had to say it!” Astinos said

“What?” Stelios said

“'Fight in the shade'! Astinos said, and (both laugh)

(300. DVD.)

6. Captain Artemis

Captain Artemis was the leader of Spartan army. He was brave to die in combat. Together with his king, Leonidas at once his best friend, they often exchange ideas another. Captain Artemis was very obedient to king order. He always support what the king did. It can be seen in this quotation:

“[on being told the Persians are coming to parley] Captain, I leave you in charge.” Leonidas said

“But, sire...” Captain said

“Relax, old friend. If they assassinate me, all of Sparta goes war. Pray they're that stupid. Pray we're that lucky.

(He takes another bite of apple, as the Captain notices a Persian soldier, still alive) “Leonidas said
“Besides, there's no reason we can't be civil, is there?”

Leonidas said

“(stabs the Persian) None, sire.” Captain said

“My heart is broken for your loss.” Leonidas said

“Heart? I have filled my heart with hate.” Captain said

“This is where we hold them! This is where we fight! This is where they die!” Leonidas said

“On these shields, boys!” Captain said

(Spartans cheer)

(300. DVD.)

7. Ephialthes

The character of Ephialtes was portrayed as some sort of evil sellout traitor. The makers of 300 clearly want to bend the public opinion against the current trend of making all of public spaces hadicapped accessible. Just because Ephialtes could not hold up a shield did not make him a lesser member of society as shown in 300.

Ephialtes was a hunchbacked Spartan. When he was born, severely disfigured, his parents fled Sparta to spare him certain infanticide. This is Ephialtes great shame, and he wishes to redeem his father's name by joining Leonidas in battle against the Persians. Leonidas, however, rejects him as Ephialtes cannot even hold a shield properly, which would compromise the Spartans' phalanx. Embittered
Ephialtes defects to Xerxes and reveals to him the location of a goat path that the Persians could use to outflank and surround Leonidas...

8. Astinos

Astinos was the son of Leonides's best captain. A Spartan warrior who thought to had been too young to had felt a woman's warmth, but proved himself as fierce a warrior as his father. Midbattle, he recieved approval for his fighting skills from his father. It can be seen in this quotation:

\[
\text{(in the midst of the battle)}
\]

“ You still here? “ Astinos said

“ Somebody's gotta watch your back. “ Stelios said

“ Not now, I'm a little busy “ Astinos said

\[
(300. DVD.)
\]

He did not see the guy on the horse coming up behind him, and he was given a death on the battlefield like a true Spartan.
4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the characterization of film 300, I come to a conclusion that Zack Snyder has been successful in creating this film. It seems that all of actors and actress have a good performance which can build strong character. Zack Snyder makes a beautiful imaginative design setting which can help influence each character and also has a good story.

I also draw conclusion of each character in this film, they are main character and peripheral character. The main character is King Leonidas. And the peripheral characters are Queen Gorgo, Theron, Dilios, King Xerxes, Stelios, Captain Artemis, Ephialtes, and Astinos.

The conclusions are:

1. The main character
   1.1 King Leonidas:
   Leonidas was a king of Sparta. He was a good king that have high confidence in himself and he also never surrender and never retreat. Leonidas was a king who able to coordinate with warriors of Spartans and he able to give the great spirit to his warriors. And he loves his kingdom, lore, and citizenry very much. The other hand, besides a king of Spartans, Leonidas is also a kind husband and loves his queen or wife.
2. The peripheral character

2.1 Queen Gorgo:

Gorgo was a Queen of Sparta. Gorgo is Leonidas’s advisers. Besides as a Queen and adviser of Sparta, Gorgo was a wife who hold in high her love to her husband. She is a smart Queen because she can know whose the traitor of Sparta, and he stabbed that traitor. And also Gorgo always give some advices and always support what king Leonidas did.

2.2 Theron:

Theron was a corrupt (fictional) Spartan politian. He was a traitor which looking for fissure to slaughter the authority of Leonidas and Theron prevent to give the troops aid to Leonidas. He also like to pleaded Leonidas’s wife, Queen Gorgo.

2.3 Dilios:

Dilios was a narrator and Spartan soldier. He was a brave Spartan soldier and full of spirit to defend the kingdom of Sparta.

2.4 King Xerxes:

Xerxes was a king Persia. Xerxes is a cruel king. He had many warriors for against of Spartan. Even he wants to kill the king of Spartans until die. Xerxes really a tricky king. He did many ways to trick Leonidas with give his a duty warlord of all Greece so that the king of Sparta, Leonidas wants to join to him.
2.5 Stelios:
Stelios was a young and spirited Spartan soldier. Stelios was the favourite Spartan. He is always grin that sexy wicked smile and he was a total badass to boot. He like to take a joking to his friend.

2.6 Captain Artemis:
Captain Artemis was the leader of Spartan army. He was brave to die in combat. Together with his king, Leonidas at once his best friend, they often exchange ideas another. Captain Artemis was very obedient to king order. He always support what the king do.

2.7 Ephialthes:
Ephialthes was portrayed as some sort of evil sellout traitor. Ephialthes was a hunchbacked Spartan. When he was born, severely disfigured, his parents fled Sparta to spare him certain infanticide.

2.8 Astinos:
Astinos was the son of Leonides's best captain. A Spartan warrior who was thought to had been too young to had felt a woman's warmth, but proved himself as fierce a warrior as his father. Midbattle, he recieved approval for his fighting skills from his father.
4.2 Suggestion

After watching the film 300, I hope that the readers can understand what I have analyzed. By reading this paper, I hope that they get more knowledge about the topic and can make them know more about human character whether they are good or evil. This paper also given by me, especially to the readers, moral lesson to contribute in our future.
REFERENCES


Snyder, Zack. 2007. *300 DVD disc*. 

http://www.google.com

http://www.imdb.com

http://www.Yahoo.com
APPENDIX

1. The Elements of Film

Title : 300

Genre : Action | History | War

Runtime : 117 min

Country : USA

Language : English

Color : Color

Sound Mix : Sonics-DDP (IMAX version) | DTS | SDDS | Dolby Digital


Filming Locations : Icestorm Studios, Montréal, Québec, Canada, Los Angeles, California, USA

Director : Zack Snyder

Writer ( WGA ) : Zack Snyder, Kurt Johnstad, Michael Gordon, Frank Miller, Lynn Varley

Release Date : 16 March 2007 (Indonesia)
1. The Summary of 300

In the Battle of Thermopylae of 480 BC an alliance of Greek city-states fought the invading Persian army in the mountain pass of Thermopylae. Vastly outnumbered, the Greeks held back the enemy in one of the most famous last stands of history. Persian King Xerxes lead a Army of well over 100,000 (Persian king Xerxes before war has about 170,000 army) men to Greece and was confronted by 300 Spartans, 700 Thespians and other Slave soldiers. Xerxes waited for 10 days for King Leonidas to surrender or withdraw left with no options he moved. The battle lasted for about 3 days and after which all 300 Spartans were killed. The Spartan defeat was not the one expected, as a local shepherd, named Ephialtes, defected to the Persians and informed Xerxes of a separate path through Thermopylae, which the Persians could use to outflank the Greeks. Written by cyberian2005

300 tells the story of the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C. Persians under the rule of King Xerxes have already taken over some of the Hellenic city-states, and now threaten Sparta and Athens. King Leonidas of Sparta is left with two options: he will either have to sacrifice himself for the well-being of Sparta or watch it burn to the ground. Choosing the former, Leonidas forms an army of 300 Spartan warriors to block the narrow passage of Thermopylae where Xerxes intends to reach Hellas. The 300 are accompanied by about 700 Thespians who protect the flanks of the passage, and combined, the forces manage to slay tens of thousands of Persians and prevent their entry into Hellas for several days. However, Ephialtes, a reject of the Spartan Army gets his revenge by showing Xerxes a secret goat passage up the flanks of the passage. The story depicts the epic last stand of the finest Spartan soldiers who are aware of their fate, but motivated by "honor and glory", see the battle as their duty to protect the rest of Greece for as long as possible. Written by Ryan Sharif

In 480 BC, the Persian king Xerxes sends his massive army to conquer Greece. The Greek city of Sparta houses its finest warriors, and 300 of these soldiers are chosen to meet the Persians at Thermopylae, engaging the soldiers in a narrow canyon where they cannot take full advantage of their numbers. The battle is a suicide mission, meant to buy time for the rest of the Greek forces to prepare for the invasion. However, that doesn't stop the Spartans from throwing their hearts into the fray, determined to take as many Persians as possible with them. Written by rmlohner

When the ambitious King Xerxes of Persia invades Greece with his huge army to extend his vast slave empire, the brave Ling Leonidas brings his personal body guard army composed of three hundred warriors to defend the passage of Thermopylae, the only way by land to reach Greece. Using courage and the great battle skill of his men, he defends Thermopylae until a treacherous Greek citizen tells King Xerxes a secret goat passage leading to the back of Leonidas's army. Meanwhile, his wife Queen Gorgo of Sparta tries to convince the council to send the Spartan army to fight against the Persians.
2. The Biography of Director

From armies of vengeful undead zombies to armies of death-defying Spartan warriors, director Zack Snyder was hell-bent on proving his ability to deal with crowds, particularly those on movie screens and those who filled the movie theater seats. From a career that began in commercials, Snyder utilized his technique and insider’s perspective in service of a greater, more engaging thrill, when he giddily riffed on consumerism in a remake of George A. Romero’s “Dawn of the Dead” (2004). Whereas the movie careers of many of his peers in the glossy world of commercials extinguished while trying to extend the commercials for 90 minutes or more, Snyder proceeded to up the stakes with the highly anticipated Spartan epic, “300” (2007).

Snyder was born in Green Bay, WI on March 1, 1966. At the age of 11, photography and filmmaking replaced his previous career aspirations to become an animator, after viewing of “Star Wars” (1977) and receiving a Super 8 film camera from his parents. Snyder was hooked on the moviegoing experience, slipping into a screening of George Romero’s “Dawn of the Dead” (1978) by himself on the sly at the age of 12. Even as a commercial director in the early 1990s, Snyder knew he would make the leap into films. He worked at a breakneck pace, typically directing three commercial spots per month. The locales were exotic and the products were sleek. He was often a top choice for prominent ad agencies, which liked his flexibility with ideas and production schedules. Among countless others, Snyder spent the bulk of the ‘90s on high profile gigs for the likes of Nike, Reebok, Budweiser, UPS and BMW.

In 1996, Snyder met Deborah Johnson, a commercials producer based out of New York who had hired Snyder to direct a spot through the agency Backer Spielvogel Bates. The two clicked personally and professionally over a short California shoot, but Snyder had a wife and Johnson had a boyfriend on the commercial’s production team. Years later, in 2002, the two reunited when Johnson brought Snyder on board for a deodorant commercial. While on location in New Zealand, both discovered neither was romantically attached, which now made it easy to fall in love.

By August of 2002, Snyder was venturing into the waters of feature filmmaking. His talents had come to the attention of Hollywood, now very much a commercial director-friendly industry. He signed a deal with Columbia Pictures to make a big budget version of the 1975 television series, “S.W.A.T.” (2003). When he left the project due to the studio’s concerns about his grittier take, he was quickly snagged by Spyglass Entertainment to helm an adaptation of the comic book “Mage,” about an ambivalent superhero. That project stalled, but Snyder was soon offered the chance to remake his boyhood favorite, “Dawn of the Dead,” by Strike Entertainment producers Marc Abraham and Eric Newman. The two were wary of getting it wrong, but liked Snyder’s enthusiasm – as did actress Sarah Polley, an independent film veteran who was famously picky with her studio projects.
With a cast spearheaded by Polley and Ving Rhames, Snyder was into production of “Dawn of the Dead” in Toronto by June 2003. After the film’s wrap in September, Snyder – then a father of six – took time to build his relationship with Johnson and raise the four children from his first marriage. He was also weighing the options for his next film project. By January of 2004, Johnson had relocated to Pasadena, CA where Snyder ran a production company, Cruel and Unusual Inc.

“Dawn of the Dead” (2004) was released in March and went on cross the $100 million mark with a budget of just over $25 million. Its success showed Hollywood executives that Snyder could do a lot with a little and primed him for his next passion project, “300.” Based on Frank Miller and Lynn Varley’s iconic graphic novel about the real battle of Thermopylae in which 300 Spartans fought under King Leonidas to defend their city against the armies of Persian king Xerxes, Snyder would co-write the screenplay with plans to direct. In the meantime, Snyder and Johnson were married in Manhattan on Sept. 25, 2004 and Snyder signed a deal with Paramount Pictures to adapt and direct his military ops novel “Rainbow Six.”

The ambition to realize “300” on the screen could very well have been a metaphor for the director’s career itself. It took some convincing to get Warner Brothers, the studio behind “300,” to see the movie could be made using the same digitally-enhanced blue-screen filming that was employed by another of Miller’s properties, “Sin City” (2005). Things gelled when he found his King Leonidas during a brief coffee shop meeting with Scottish actor Gerard Butler – formerly best known for playing the Phantom in Joel Schumacher’s big screen remake, “Phantom of the Opera” – and, armed with a budget relatively small for the action genre, Snyder spent four months shooting the film entirely on soundstages.

In June 2006, Snyder boarded the troubled big-budget production of another beloved comic book property. Paramount Pictures had acquired the rights to Alan Moore’s “Watchmen” (2008) from Universal Pictures after the film’s development stalled, due to enormous budgets under director Paul Greengrass, who had replaced previously-attached director Darren Aronofsky. It was revived when the studio was convinced through the early footage of “300,” that Snyder could streamline the costs while keeping the story’s impact intact.

While continuing to fine tune the postproduction elements of “300” over the bulk of 2006, Snyder inked a deal in October to write and direct an adaptation of the comic book, “Cobalt 60,” detailing the trials of a post-apocalyptic vigilante superhero. In February of 2007, “300” was released to theaters and Snyder was doing full-time duty on “Watchmen,” combining the various screenplays and refining them into one, with an eye towards entering the casting process. “With “Rainbow Six” languishing in the development process, Snyder was ready to give himself completely to his next project, “Watchmen” (2009), the highly-anticipated and deeply contested adaptation of the popular comic book series. Though the project was originally in development at 20th Century Fox, it was eventually produced by Warner Bros. But Fox later claimed rights to the profits, citing that their original development deal allowed this if another studio distributed the film.
Warner Bros. fought the action, but was eventually denied. Fox and Warner Bros. settled their dispute in early 2009. Snyder later said that the lawsuit never disrupted shooting.
Deddy Lesmana: A Brief Description Of Characterization In Zack Snyder's Film 300, 2010.
Deddy Lesmana: A Brief Description Of Characterization In Zack Snyder's Film 300, 2010.

Overview

User Rating:

7.9/10 207,805 votes

MOVIEmeter: 📈

Up 16% in popularity this week. See rank & trends on IMDbPro.

Director:

Zack Snyder

Writers (WGA):

Zack Snyder (screenplay) & Kurt Johnstad (screenplay) ...
more

Contact:

View company contact information for 300 on IMDbPro.
Release Date:

16 March 2007 (Indonesia) more

Genre:

Action | History | War more

Tagline:

Feel the wrath in IMAX more

Plot:

King Leonidas and a force of 300 men fight the Persians at Thermopylae in 480 B.C. full summary | full synopsis

Plot Keywords:

Persian | King | Xerxes | Battle | Army more

Awards:

9 wins & 27 nominations more

NewsDesk:

(59 articles)

Watchmen: When A Win May Be A Loss
(From Studio Briefing - Film News. 10 March 2009, 2:32 AM, PDT)
Fewer Watchmen Watchers Than Expected
(From Studio Briefing - Film News. 9 March 2009, 2:35 AM, PDT)

User Comments:

Always catching the coat-tails of... more

Cast

(Cast overview, first billed only)

Gerard Butler ... King Leonidas
Lena Headey ... Queen Gorgo
Dominic West ... Theron
David Wenham ... Dilios
Vincent Regan ... Captain

Deddy Lesmana : A Brief Description Of Characterization In Zack Snyder's Film 300, 2010.
Michael Fassbender ... Stelios
Tom Wisdom ... Astinos
Andrew Pleavin ... Daxos
Andrew Tiernan ... Ephialtes
Rodrigo Santoro ... Xerxes
Giovani Cimmino ... Pleistarchos (as Giovani Antonio Cimmino)
Stephen McHattie ... Loyalist
Greg Kramer ... Ephor #1
Alex Ivanovic ... Ephor #2
Kelly Craig ... Oracle Girl

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Additional Details

Also Known As:

300: The IMAX Experience (USA) (IMAX version)
more

MPAA:

Rated R for graphic battle sequences throughout, some sexuality and nudity.

Parents Guide:

View content advisory for parents

Deddy Lesmana : A Brief Description Of Characterization In Zack Snyder's Film 300, 2010.
Runtime:
117 min
Country:
USA
Language:
English
Color:
Color
Aspect Ratio:
2.35 : 1 more
Sound Mix:
Sonics-DDP (IMAX version) | DTS | SDDS | Dolby Digital
Certification:
Filming Locations:
Icestorm Studios, Montréal, Québec, Canada more
Company:
Warner Bros. Pictures more

Fun Stuff
Trivia:
The film was shot in 60 days. more

Deddy Lesmana : A Brief Description Of Characterization In Zack Snyder's Film 300, 2010.
Goofs:

Incorrectly regarded as goofs: Dilios is telling the story to the new soldiers he is commanding before battle. Yet he leaves before King Leonidas and his men execute their final attack. So he wouldn't have known what they did exactly but he is telling the men everything until the point of Leonidas's death as if he was still there for it. However, the character of Dilios, according to director Zack Snyder in the documentary The 300: Fact or Fiction? (2007) (V) on the 2-Disc Special Edition DVD, is not a man to allow truth get in the way of a good story and is narrating in an effort to invigorate his men before a later battle. more

Quotes:

[first lines]
Dilios: When the boy was born, like all Spartans, he was inspected.
more

Movie Connections:

Spoofed in Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) more

FAQ

Why is there a bottomless pit in the middle of town?
Was there a special workout the actors did to get in to shape?
What is the Captain saying when the Persians shoot arrows at the Spartans following the first battle?
more

User Comments

(Comment on this title)
95 out of 174 people found the following comment useful:-
Always catching the coat-tails of..., 9 June 2007

Author: Deoglood from United States

...Wonderful productions, I wonder how much I've been influenced by exposure to the various thumbs of armchair critics. However, there can be little influence from naysayers about this film because I am a true fan of the sword and sandal classics.

In retrospect, one wouldn't be surprised that the entire film was shot on green-screen sets, but it was so masterfully (or at least distractedly) done that you don't think about the dramatic skies and wheat fields as piped in. In fact, the entire cg aspect was transparent, which even the Matrix and the Lord of the Rings series had not managed to do completely.

The stylization of the effects, such as the radiant glow, deepened shadows, and
slow motion sequences, seemed to emphasize the movie's illustrated roots, and though sometimes I found myself wishing I could see clearer, I always found deep satisfaction and immersion in the storyline. I think without the effects the plot would have required more elaboration, and turning a piece of art into another 'Gladiator' look-alike.

This movie is going on my keeper list, as I found it very comforting to watch, inspiring, and I will never tire of looking at (finally) scantily clad men, especially Gerard. The kingly figure of Leonidas, cloaked in red as is his Spartiate warriors, reminds me of the warrior class and king from George Nader's sci-fi book 'Chrome'. Romantically idealized, the simplistic portrayal of virtue and honor are purely portrayed by a directly stylized hero.

Of course, the villain was just as idealized, and therein is the complaint. Nobody likes a baddie without explanation, and perhaps the studio thought that being a Persian god was explanation enough. I would have enjoyed a much more developed Xerxes, but Ru Paul did a great job on the part. Just kidding. Rodrigo Santoro was superb, as big and evil as the comic portrays, and he does a good job overwhelming the much smaller king of Spartans.

The acting was good, and the script solid enough, all in all earning a rating of an 8, but as promised, tanned and bearded men with valor earns it a 10. We need more movies like this.
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- The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
  - IMDb User Rating:

- Troy
  - IMDb User Rating:

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