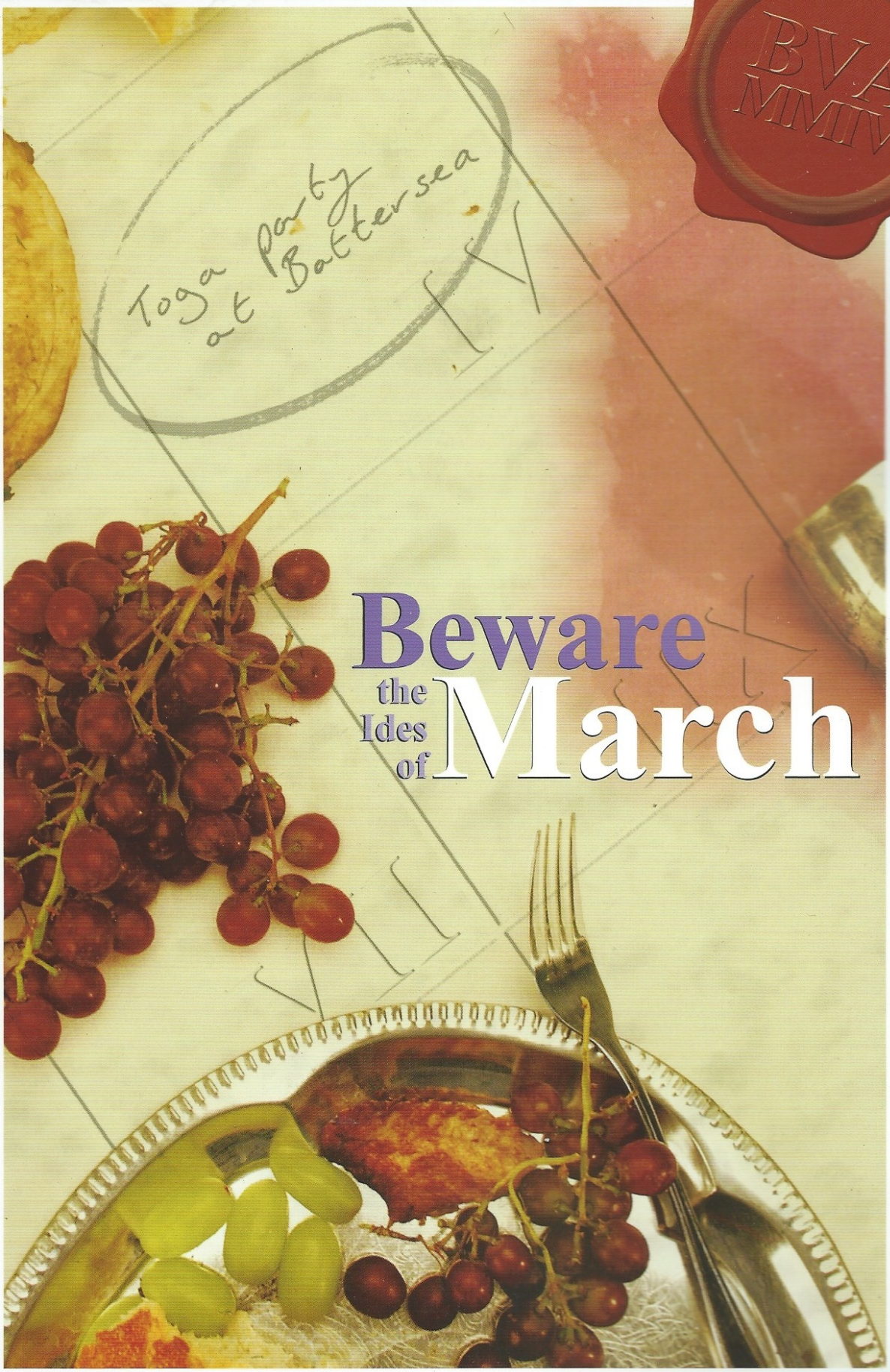

BVA
MMIV
Toga Party
at Battersea
Beware
the
Ides
of
March

# Friends, Romans and countrymen!

Lend me your ears, for we come to praise the BVA and, perhaps, bury her – under a mountain of exotic foods and beguiling drinks.

Our fair city may burn and Nero may fiddle, but tonight citizens and subjects of Rome, we celebrate like never before.

So welcome all to these festivities, this Bacchanalian orgy, a feast the likes of which Imperial Rome has never seen before or since her finest halcyon days of glory.

**"May the gods smile down upon us all!"**

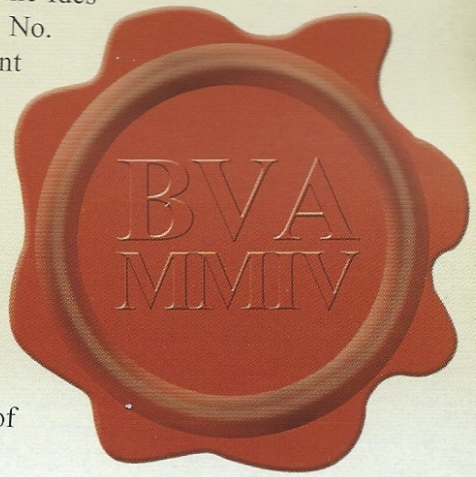
– BVA MMIII CAMPAIGNS

Hail senators, citizens, subjects, slaves, tribunes, legionnaires, priests, priestesses, plebeians and guests from the provinces, and join our hosts, Lavinia Maximus Careyous and Gaius Marekus Antoniakii – Imperators and Pontefracts of the BVA – as they lead you in these joyous times.

May the gods smile down upon us, by Jove, on this most fortuitous time as we celebrate the victorious campaigns of our video and DVD Empire throughout MMIII and beyond.

Celebrate we may, but we ask you to beware! Beware, not the Ides of March, or the Ides of any other month for that matter. No. We ask for vigilance. Constant vigilance, for pirates threaten our shores, our precious empire. But, with your help, we can contain and repel this barbarian threat.

Tonight, however, is a time of celebration, so bring on the food, the wine, the minstrels and the songs. Hitch up your togas, rest on your laurels, peel back your grapes and make this a night that each one of us can say, truly, "Veni, vidi, vici…"



# Rome on film

In one way or another, the might and majesty of Rome has fuelled our fantasies on film ever since those halcyon days of the silver screen. Here are a few examples of why...

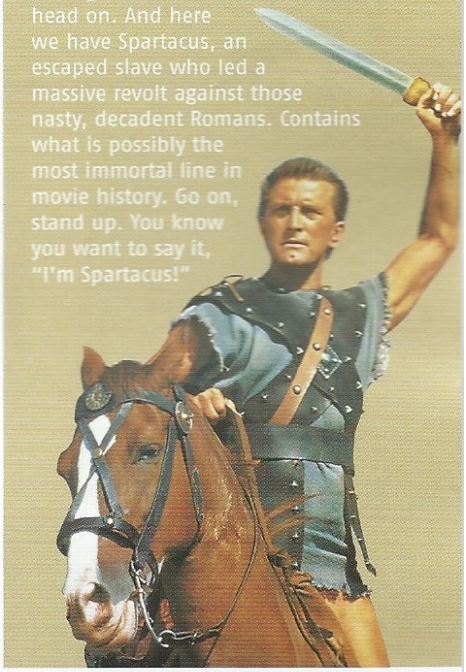
## The Robe (1953)

An epic of truly biblical proportions this, from the early days of Hollywood, when men were men and women swooned. The tagline said it all: The first motion picture in CinemaScope, the modern miracle you see without glasses! Following our Lord Jesus' crucifixion, Marcellus, a tribune, wins Christ's robe in a drunken bet. Tormented by nightmares and delusions he determines to find out more about the man. Should have just laid off the wine.



## Spartacus (1960)

It's a wonder the Roman Empire survived for as long as it did, what with all the gladiators and slaves willing to tackle her head on. And here we have Spartacus, an escaped slave who led a massive revolt against those nasty, decadent Romans. Contains what is possibly the most immortal line in movie history. Go on, stand up. You know you want to say it, "I'm Spartacus!"



**"It is not enough to live well. One must die well"**

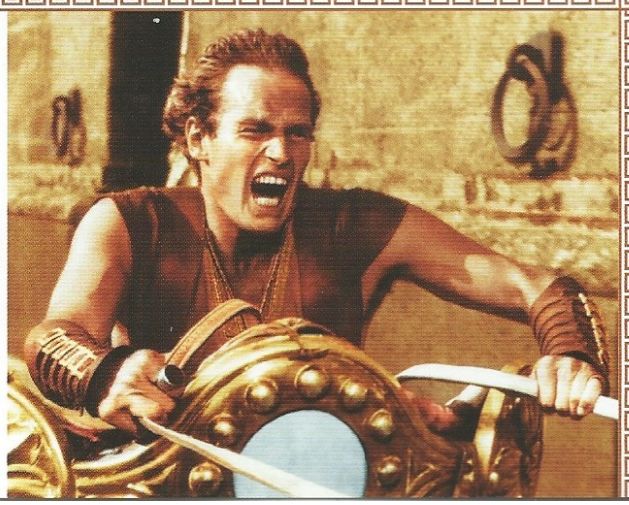
– Petronius, Quo Vadis

## Quo Vadis (1951)

The first Quo Vadis (there have been six so far) arrived in 1902; the last in 1997, but this 1951 version was the true Hollywood colossus. After three years in the field, General Marcus Vinicius returns to Rome and falls in love with Lygia, a Christian who holds no truck with Romans. But she falls in love anyway. Then Nero fiddles, Rome burns, the Christians are blamed and you go grab a hanky!

## Ben-Hur (1959)

It may not have been the first Ben-Hur in cinematic history, but with a cast of, quite literally, thousands, it was the biggest – big enough to be mimicked on The Simpsons decades later. And the story goes like this: Jewish Prince is betrayed. Prince gets sold into slavery by Roman friend. Slave is freed, promises revenge on Roman, takes part in the biggest chariot race ever and also meets one Jesus, son of God.



## Cleopatra (1963)

Taylor smouldered and Burton simmered in this tale of the Queen of Egypt, who was loved by a doomed Julius Caesar, while she fell in love with his opponent, Mark Antony, who was, in turn, defeated by Caesar's successor, Octavian. Cleopatra, unlucky in love, loses her empire to Rome. Sniff.



### Did you know?

The costume worn by Sid James in Carry on Cleo is the same one used by Richard Burton in Cleopatra and an amazing 32,000 costumes were used in the 1951 version of Quo Vadis.

### Did you know?

The sound of the crowd cheering "Spartacus! Spartacus!" was actually recorded at a football game in Spartan Stadium, home of the Michigan State University Spartans in East Lansing, Michigan.

## The Fall of the Roman Empire (1964)

With the likes of James Mason, Alec Guinness, Sophia Loren, Omar Sharif and more, this had 'huge' stamped all over the shop. This epic has the same time frame and some of the same characters as Gladiator. Following the ideals of Marcus Aurelius, the Roman general, Livius, wishes to create an empire that is at peace both inside and outside its borders. The ascension of the dodgy Commodus, however, kind of scuppers those plans.





## Carry on Cleo (1964)

Another slice of history gets the never-delicate Carry On treatment. Two Britons are captured by the Romans, enslaved and sent to Rome. Meanwhile, Roman captain, Mark Antony, is falling for a certain Egyptian ruler while, elsewhere, Julius Caesar's end is looking decidedly nigh. Ooh, no, missus.

## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1966)

Born of a Broadway burlesque musical, it's cunning disguises and silly surprises in a comedy that sees the sly and wily slave, Pseudolus, give true love a helping hand when his master falls for the girl next door.



**Hysterium: My father is rolling over in his grave**
**Pseudolus: Your father is alive**
**Hysterium: This will kill him**

**– A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**

"Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in fer me"

– Julius Caesar, Carry on Cleo



## Up Pompeii (1970)

Irreverent British music-hall satire starring Frankie 'ooh, err missus' Howerd as Lurcio, a Pompeii slave working for a Roman master. With no double entendre left un-termed, this successful sit-com was followed by a movie of the same name (1971), in which Lurcio discovered a scroll detailing a plot against Nero. Fiddlesticks!

Reg: If you want to join the People's Front of Judea, you have to really hate the Romans.
Brian: I do!
Reg: Oh yeah, how much?
Brian: A lot!
Reg: Right, you're in

– Monty Python's Life of Brian

## I, Claudius (1976)

A heavyweight contender in the Roman arena. With more brit-flick thespians than you could shake a scroll at, including Derek Jacobi and John Hurt. I, Claudius was an epic mini-series that chronicled the history of Rome through one of its leaders. Blood, treachery and tragedy were the order of the day. Well, it was a BBC period drama!



**Minester:** Permit me to introduce myself. My name is Minester, I'm an actor. Most people have heard of me
**Scylla:** My name is Scylla, and I'm a whore. Everybody's heard of me

– I, Claudius

## Caligula (1979)

As this movie's tagline asked, what would you have done if you had been given absolute power of life and death over everybody else in the whole world? Well, if you were divine ruler, Caligula, you'd have put your horse into power, bumped off anyone who gave you the pip, slept with your sister and arranged numerous and elaborate orgies!





## Life of Brian (1979)

Manic mayhem, Monty Python-style, in a movie that was accused of blasphemy and, for the most part, banned upon original release. This sacrilegious satire focused on Brian, a Jew in Roman-occupied Judea. After joining an anti-Roman political organisation, Brian is mistaken for the Messiah, but he's really just a very naughty boy!

## Did you know?

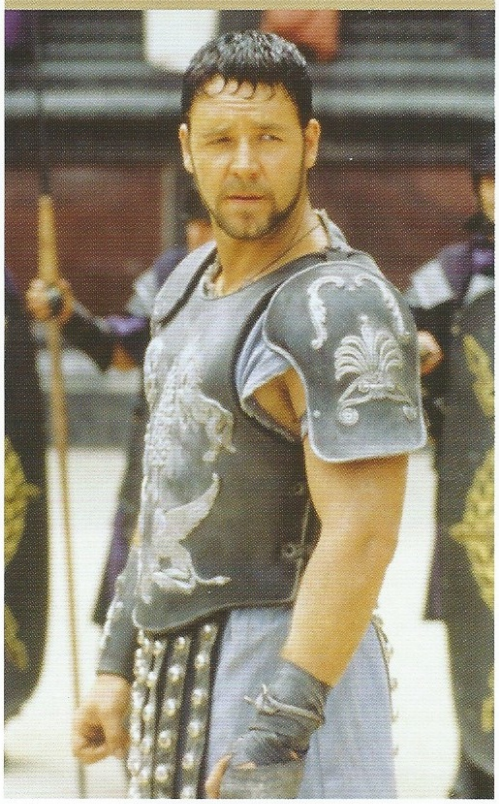
Like many modern day athletes, ancient Roman gladiators did product endorsements. Gladiator's producers considered including this in the movie, but discarded the idea as unbelievable.

## Masada (1981)

This mini-series luvvie-fest featured Peter O'Toole, Anthony Quayle and, erm, Christopher Biggins. Flavius Silva, a commander in Roman Palestine, wants to reach a compromise with the Jewish Zealots, led by Eleazar Ben Yair, and withdraw his legions. But Rome has other ideas. "Victory, at all costs!" She cries. So the Jewish mountaintop fortress of Masada is besieged and the Zealots infamously fight to the bloody end.

## Gladiator (2000)

And here we have it, the movie that put the historical epic back on the big screen. When a Roman general is betrayed and his family murdered by a corrupt prince, he comes to Rome as a gladiator to seek revenge. And how! Russell Crowe smouldered, women swooned and hundreds of men doubled their gym efforts after this one. Gird your loins and get ready, for there will be a Gladiator II.



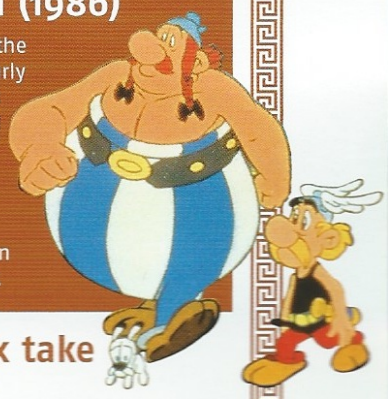
Courtesy Of Universal Pictures

## Did you know?

Life of Brian was initially banned in Norway for blasphemy and wasn't released there until 1980. Subsequently, it was marketed in Sweden as "The film that is so funny that it was banned in Norway!"

## Asterix in Britain (1986)

Animated mayhem in which the diminutive Asterix and his burly companion, Obelix - warriors of the last village in Gaul still free after the Roman invasion - bring a barrel load of their druid's power-giving magic potion over to Britain to help Asterix's cousin fight off those pesky Romans.



## Asterix and Obelix take on Caesar (2000)

Those animated Gauls return to the big screen in this real-life, comic-book adaptation. When Asterix and his pals refuse to pay their dues to tax collector, Claudius Interruptus, Julius Caesar himself comes to teach them a lesson they won't forget. But, what's this? The druid's muscle-busting magic potion has run out? Oh no! What's a Gaul to do?

# THE DAILY ETCHING

FREE

# A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

## Jokes so old they've been cast in stone...

The slave driver of the Roman trireme leered down at his galley slaves and bellowed, "I've got some good news and some bad news. The good news is that you'll all be getting double rations tonight!" The murmuring of the surprised slaves as they struggled with their oars was interrupted by the slave driver. "The bad news is that this afternoon the commander's son wants to water-ski."

The great Roman emperor Caesar was watching Christians being thrown to the lions. "One good thing about this sport," he said to one of his aides, "is we're never bothered with spectators running onto the field."

**"Recedite, plebes! Gero rem imperialem"**

**– Stand aside Plebeians! I am on Imperial business**

**Q: How many road-building Roman Legionnaires does it take to light an oil-lamp?**
A: Five, one to light the lamp and four to lean on their shovels and watch the first one.

**Q: Why did the Romans build straight roads?**
A: So their soldiers didn't go around the bend!

**When did Caesar reign?**
I didn't know he reigned. Of course he did, didn't they hail him?

**Q: How many gladiators does it take to light an oil-lamp?**
A: None. Gladiators aren't afraid of the dark.



## THIRSTY WORK

**Proving that Rome is as popular as ever, in a recent Pepsi ad, Pink, Beyoncé and Britney Spears joined forces and dressed up as Gladiators to fight for the Emperor, Enrique Iglesias. Fancy!**



This time, cut out the topiary touches!

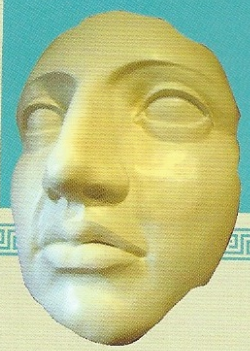



## Wordus Searchicus

The 12 Roman-related words listed below have been hidden in this diagram. They have been printed across (backwards or forwards), up, down or diagonally, but always in a straight line. Can you find them all?

Caesar
Titus
Octavian
Gaul
Roman
Legion
Tribune
Ides
Juno
Nero
Gladiator
Quo

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | E | S | A | R | R | Q | U | A |
| E | F | S | L | S | E | S | T | U | M |
| Q | O | N | A | I | V | A | T | C | O |
| L | L | A | S | E | D | I | R | X | T |
| X | O | M | T | O | T | S | I | R | P |
| N | P | O | N | U | J | S | B | E | R |
| E | E | R | S | I | I | L | U | A | G |
| R | T | L | E | G | I | O | N | T | T |
| O | V | A | D | S | U | T | E | U | M |
| R | R | O | T | A | I | D | A | L | G |



**Q: How many people from Pompeii does it take to light an oil-lamp?**
A: None, the results could be explosive!

**Q: How many philosophers does it take to light an oil-lamp?**
A: Hmm... now that's an interesting question, isn't it?

**I'm learning ancient Roman history**
So am I, let's talk over old times.

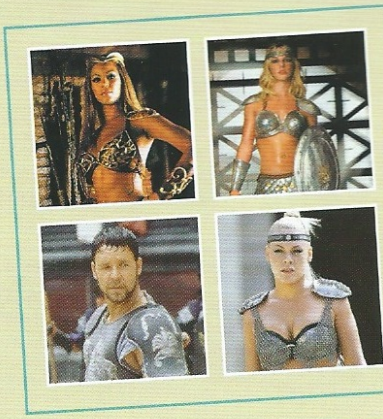
**Q: What is a forum?**
A: Two-um plus two-um!

**First Roman soldier:**
What is the time?
**Second Roman soldier:**
XX past VII!

**Teacher:** When was Rome built?
**Johnny:** At night miss.
**Teacher:** Why do you say that?
**Johnny:** Because my Dad says that Rome wasn't built in a day.

## MISSFITICUS

**Pink, Beyoncé and Britney may have dressed up as Roman gladiators recently, but we seem to have mixed them up with that other well-known gladiator, Russell Crowe. Can you guess who is who? (See answers below).**





ANSWERS
MISSFITICUS: Forehead and hair – Britney Spears; face – Pink; chin and torso – Russell Crowe; hips and legs – Beyoncé.



# What have the Romans ever given us?

Quite a lot actually...

It's an infamous moment from an infamous movie. In a scene from Life of Brian, a hapless band of political liberators are hatching a plan to kidnap Pilate's wife and be rid of those useless Romans forever, only...

**Reg:** They've bled us white, the bastards. They've taken everything we had, and not just from us, from our fathers, and from our fathers' fathers.

**Loretta:** And from our fathers' fathers' fathers.

**Reg:** Yeah.

**Loretta:** And from our fathers' fathers' fathers' fathers.



## The Romans have given us: Kirk Douglas's dimple

What a chin; so noble, so resolute – several thousand slaves were more than happy to rise up for, follow and die for that dimple!

## The Romans have given us: Caesar salad

Who'd have thought that old Julius would be partial to a bit of lettuce, a coddled egg with garlic and lemon juice, and a crouton? But he was, as this dish will attest.

**Reg:** Yeah. All right, Stan. Don't labour the point. And what have they ever given us in return?

**Commando Xerxes:** The aqueduct?

**Reg:** What?

**Xerxes:** The aqueduct.

**Reg:** Oh. Yeah, yeah. They did give us that. Uh, that's true. Yeah.

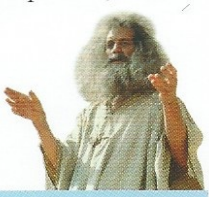
**Commando #3:** Sanitation.

**Loretta:** Oh, yeah, the sanitation, Reg. Remember what the city used to be like?

**Reg:** Yeah. All right. I'll grant you the aqueduct and the sanitation are two things that the Romans have done.

**Matthias:** And the roads.

**Reg:** Well, yeah. Obviously the roads. I mean, the roads go without saying, don't they? But apart from the sanitation, the aqueduct, and the roads –



**Commando #1:** Irrigation.

**Xerxes:** Medicine.

## The Romans have given us: Roads

Straight roads to be exact. Within four years of invading Britain, they built over 1,000 miles of them. Just think about it the next time you drive on one. It may look like the A12 to Colchester to you, but it's following an ancient and well-worn path.



## The Romans have given us: Gladiators

The show that ran for seven years; hit us with your pugil-sticks and chase us in your atlaspheres Amazon, Jet, Laser, Vogue, Hunter, Rhino, Warrior, Wolf et al.

**Commando #2:** Education.

**Reg:** Yeah, yeah. All right. Fair enough.

**Commando #1:** And the wine.

**Francis:** Yeah. Yeah, that's something we'd really miss, Reg, if the Romans left. Huh?

## A brief history of Roman time

Notable dates in Roman history...

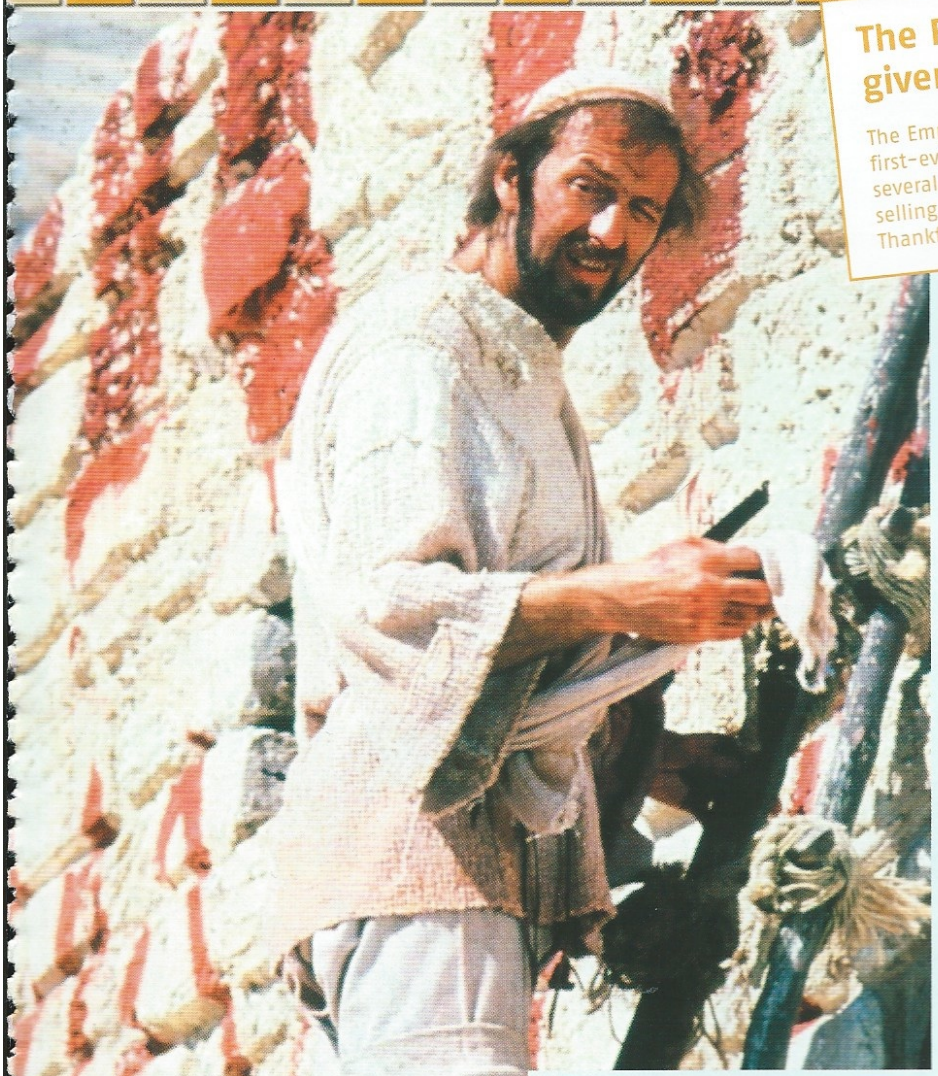
### 753BC

Rome, capital of Italy, is founded. Orphan twins, Romulus and Remus fight for leadership. Romulus wins.

### 509 BC

Tarquinus Superbus, the last king of Rome, is overthrown and Rome becomes a mighty republic, ruled by a senate.





## The Romans have given us: Shops

The Emperor Trajan (98 to 117AD) built the world's first-ever shopping mall in Rome. Spread over several levels, it contained more than 150 outlets selling everything from foods to luxury silks. Thankfully, there wasn't a Starbucks in sight.

**Commando:** Public baths.
**Loretta:** And it's safe to walk in the streets at night now, Reg.
**Francis:** Yeah, they certainly know how to keep order. Let's face it. They're the only ones who could in a place like this.
**Reg:** All right, but apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, a fresh water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?
**Xerxes:** Brought peace.
**Reg:** Oh. Peace? Shut up!

## The Romans have given us: Beauty tips

Roman ladies used to use gunk made from gladiator sweat as a face pack whilst sweating it out in a spa. Yuk!

## 'Life of Brian' bon mots

**Little clips of dialogue that we still use today:**

I. He's not the Messiah, he's a very naughty boy!
II. Nice one, Centurion
III. Oi! Big nose
IV. Always look on the bright side of life
V. Stwike him, Centuwion. Stwike him vewy wuffly!
VI. What's so funny about "Biggus Dickus?"
VII. Alms for an ex-leper!



### 73-71 BC

I'm Spartacus! The man who would be Kirk Douglas leads the slave revolts, but comes to an ignoble end.

### 60BC

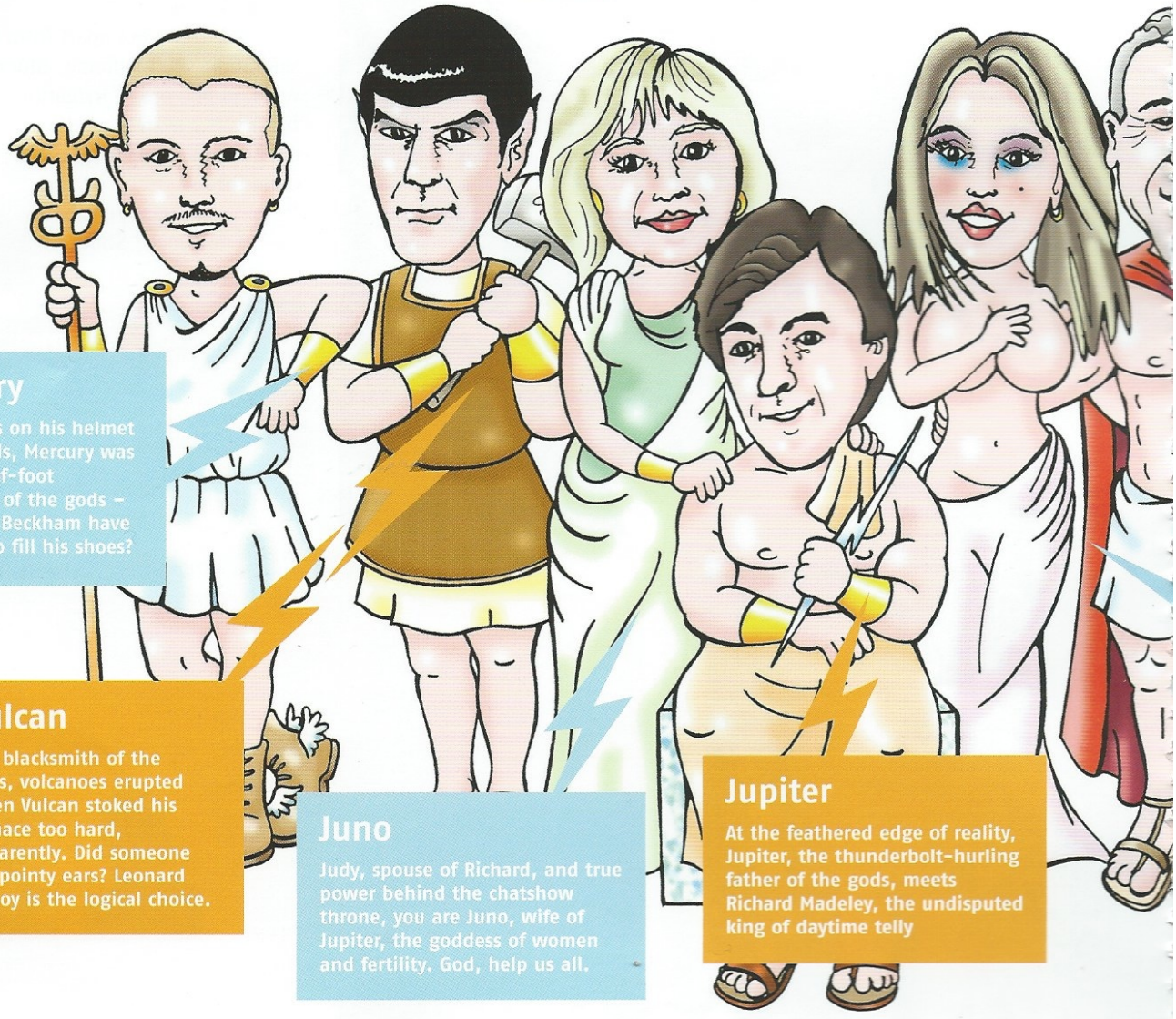
Generals Crassus and Pompey, plus Julius Caesar form a Triumvirate, and take control of the squabbling republic.

### 49BC

Proving it's not easy at the top, Julius Caesar becomes dictator and absolute ruler of Rome, but is later assassinated.

# I'm a celebrity – make me a god!

The Roman gods have names we'd recognise today, but which modern celebs could do their jobs?



## Mercury

With wings on his helmet and sandals, Mercury was the fleet-of-foot messenger of the gods – but would Beckham have the balls to fill his shoes?

## Vulcan

The blacksmith of the gods, volcanoes erupted when Vulcan stoked his furnace too hard, apparently. Did someone say pointy ears? Leonard Nimoy is the logical choice.

## Juno

Judy, spouse of Richard, and true power behind the chatshow throne, you are Juno, wife of Jupiter, the goddess of women and fertility. God, help us all.

## Jupiter

At the feathered edge of reality, Jupiter, the thunderbolt-hurling father of the gods, meets Richard Madeley, the undisputed king of daytime telly

### AD37-41

The reign of that orgy-throwing, family-killing Emperor, Caligula, who tried to place a horse in power.

### AD43

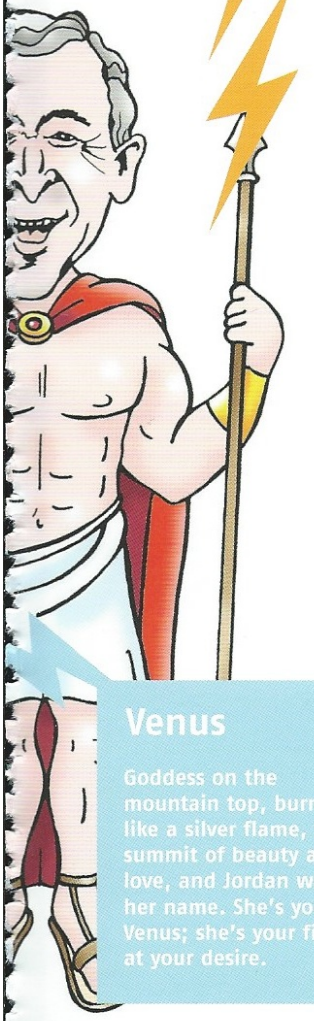
The Romans successfuly invade Britain using missile-throwing, armour-piercing machines. Ouch!

### AD54-68

The reign of mummy-murdering Nero Claudius Caesar, yet another not-so-stable Roman Emperor.

## Mars

Mars, the god of war. Strong, fearsome and, some say bloody-minded. George 'Dubya' Bush anyone?



## Venus

Goddess on the mountain top, burning like a silver flame, the summit of beauty and love, and Jordan was her name. She's your Venus; she's your fire, at your desire.

# It's a date

January, February, sang Barbara Dickson, many moons ago. Bet she didn't know our calendar is based, more or less, on the Roman one. Originally 10 months long, and starting in March, the calendar was amended, most notably by Julius Caesar. That's why it is sometimes referred to as the Julian calendar. But what do those months mean?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **January** I<br>Januarius, named after the Roman god, Janus | **February** II<br>Februarius, named after the Februa festivals | **March** III<br>Martius, in honour of the god of war |
| **April** IV<br>Aprilis, named in honour of the festivals for Venus | **May** V<br>Maius, named after Maia, the goddess of the spring | **June** VI<br>Junius. This one's for the goddess, Juno |
| **July** VII<br>Quintilis (originally the fifth month) was renamed by Julius Caesar | **August** VIII<br>Originally called Sextilis and renamed after Augustus Caesar | **September** IX<br>Meaning the seventh month. Very literal, those Romans |
| **October** X<br>Ditto, but for the eighth month | **November** XI<br>Does exactly what is says on the tin: the ninth month | **December** XII<br>And, quite literally, the tenth month |

### The almost months

In AD37, Caligula renamed September, Germanicus, after his father, but this was overturned following his assassination. The Emperor Domitian changed it back to Germanicus in AD89, following his triumph over the German Chatti tribe. He also changed the month he was born, October, to Domitianus. Thankfully both decisions were reversed after he too was assassinated.

### AD 161

Marcus Aurelius, he of Gladiator fame, becomes Emperor of Rome.

### AD 455

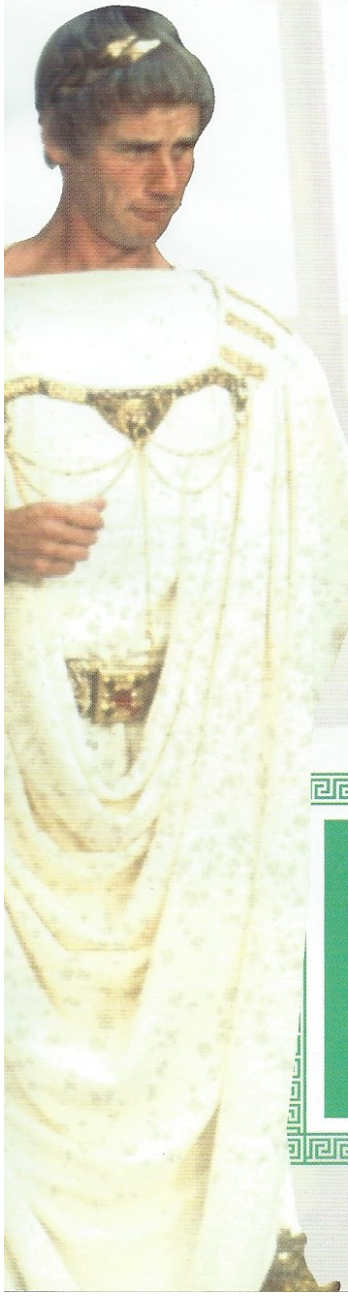
Big, hairy Vandals loot and sack Rome. Rome falls to their plundering and is no more.

### AD 476

The last Emperor, Romulus Augustus, abdicates and the Western Roman Empire comes to an end.

# Toga, Toga, Toga!

**An ancient tradition that was once lost in the mists of time, the toga party was given new lease of life in OTT frat movie, Animal House. Here's how to host yours...**



Wherever the might of Rome decamped in a non-combat situation, whenever a victory was secured; at birthdays, weddings and yes, even funerals; whenever, wherever the occasion merited it – there was no excuse needed for a party and there was only ever one way to party. Featuring wine (the quaffing of) and behaviour best described as Bacchanalian (after the god of wine and song), ladies and gentleman, it's time to grab your sheets and let the hills echo with that age-old clarion call: "Toga, toga, toga!"

**TOGA** A gown, the name of the principal outer garment worn by the Romans. The word toga is derived from the Latin verb tegere, meaning 'to cover', because it covered the whole body. The toga was the peculiar distinction of the Romans. It was originally worn only in Rome itself but gradually entered into more common usage.



### Peel me a grape: How do they do that?

**Reclining on a red velvet banquette, while your slaves feed you slices of sweet meats and exotic fruits may be the height of imperialist decadence but what if he (or she) cannot pass muster in the grape-peeling department? As an alternative to throwing them to the lions, try slipping them a scroll with this pearl of wisdom inscribed within:**

**Start at the stem end and separate the skin from the pulp by using a knife or sharp fingernail. For easy skin removal, dip the grapes in boiling water for 30 seconds, then place them in cold water.**

### Toga party dos and don'ts:

I. Don't wear flowery prints or Hawaiian style motifs. You will be stoned.
II. Do drink (or quaff) as much wine as is possible.
III. Don't sacrifice any virgins. Unless you think you can get away with it.
IV. Do keep your pants and knickers on. It can get awfully draughty up there.

**"It's not gonna be an orgy! It's a toga party."**

**Boon – Animal House**



Courtesy Of Universal Pictures

**Arrange food, drink, entertainment and a sit-down orgy for forty!**

Mile Gloriousus – A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

# Food for thought

As an alternative to Cheesy Wotsits, or Kettle Chips (if you are posh), you may wish to try more traditional Roman fare. Then again, perhaps not...



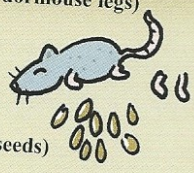
## Starters



Jellyfish and eggs
Cow's udders (stuffed with salted sea urchins)
Boiled tree fungi (with peppered fish fat sauce)

## First course

Dormice (stuffed with pine kernels and dormouse legs)
Peacocks' eggs
Boiled pigs' udders



## Second course




Thrushes (in honey and poppy seeds)
Roasted wild boar
Roast parrot and flamingo

## Third course

Boiled ostrich
Fallow deer in an onion and raisin sauce
Fig-boiled ham



## Dessert

Fricassee of roses
Stoned dates stuffed with nuts
African sweet wine cakes

## How to host an orgy

Oh go on, if you must...

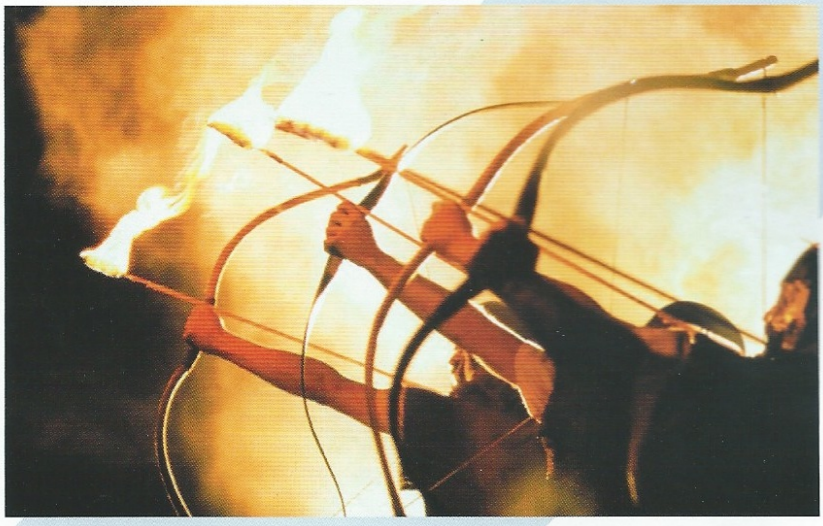
1. Send out invites that let guests know sex is on the menu
2. Make sure your serving slaves are pretty and nearly naked
3. After dinner, empty the stomach with a visit to the vomitorium (we kid you not)
4. Ply your guests with wine, served in the appropriate style
5. Arrange for some intimate music but no blokes with lyres
6. Make sure the room is ripe with conveniently placed condoms
7. Make sure your dinner guests contain a plant – someone who, at a given signal, will disrobe, get frisky and get things going.



# Real-life Romans

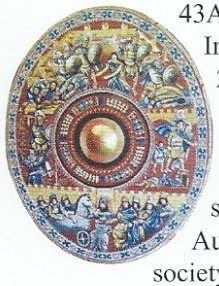
**Dressing up in togas and living like the Romans – it's all in a day's work for historical re-enactment society, the Legio Secunda Augusta...**





Can you portray a Roman legionnaire accurately? Can you spin, weave, cook and fight like a third century Roman? No? Well, David Richardson can.

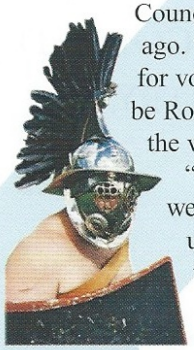
He's the founder of Roman historical re-enactment society, the Legio Secunda Augusta, and has been doing it for around 18 years – "a bit like being in a long-running play".



When Rome invaded Britain in 43AD, she sent four Imperial legions, the 20th, 14th, ninth and second to take us, and it's from the latter – literally the second legion of Augustus – that the society takes its name.

As well as bringing history to life for the museum and theme park-visiting public, in this country and all round Europe, the society conducts extensive research into Rome and the Roman way of life. The group also visits schools to impart knowledge and enhance history lessons. But how do you get into such a thing in the first place?

For David, it was Winchester City Council, many years ago. "They advertised for volunteers wanting to be Roman soldiers for the weekend," he says. "My brother and I went along, dressed up and got bitten by the bug."



His society now boasts 103 men, women and children who re-enact military and civilian roles, even appearing on TV!

"We appeared in 12 television programmes last year," David says. These included educational programmes for Channel 4; an episode of Time Team and a new BBC1 show called Celebrity Time Machine. Featuring lookalikes, the show puts modern celebrities in the past to see if they would be famous then.

**"I dressed as a Roman and got bitten by the bug"**

"We did Posh 'n' Becks," says David proudly. "Becks is a charioteer and Posh is in the throes of being in love with him, but hasn't got a career of her own." A bit like now, then.

The group hopes to go to Rome this summer to take part in a parade that celebrates the founding of the city and David is looking for sponsorship. "You try finding cheap flights for 150 people," he says.



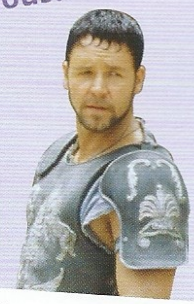
He puts his affinity with Roman history down to a very good teacher at school bringing the subject to life, and his dad. "He took me to see Spartacus," he says. "That fired me up." Well it would, wouldn't it?

**For more info:**
**Legio Secunda Augusta**
**www.legiiavg.org.uk**



# Gladiator vs. Gladiator

**The gladiators of old were religious in origin, while the gladiators of TV were born of a US game show. But when forced to fight one another, who would emerge victorious? Time to find out...**





| | Maximus | Wolf |
|---|---|---|
| **Who?** | One-time general in the Roman army, Maximus Decimus was betrayed and his family murdered. Arrived in Rome as a gladiator, won the crowd's love, and took on the corrupt Emperor. | One of the more famous of the TV Gladiators. A little older than the rest, a little balder too but, boy, could he snarl. One of the few male gladiators not to be tested positive for drugs. |
| **Origins** | First introduced to Rome in 264BC, gladiators were usually condemned criminals, prisoners of war or slaves. Especially trained in the art of combat, they typically fought to the death. | Based on a popular US gameshow, it pitted 12 gladiators against two pairs of athletic contestants in a range of physically demanding but very silly looking games. |
| **Popularity** | Had the love of his legions, won the hearts of Rome and the respect of gladiators everywhere. Practically everyone was on his side, except the nasty Commodus. | Gladiators ran from 1991 to 1998 and Wolf lasted right to the end. The gladiator you loved to hate, he was idolised by anyone under the age of about fourteen. |
| **Arena** | The Colosseum, Rome's greatest amphitheatre, opened by the Emperor Titus in 80AD. Held around 50,000 people. Purpose-built for death, bloodshed and amusement. | Birmingham's National Indoor Arena (NIA). Holds 13,000. Accommodates 30 different types of sport and played host to that other popular blood sport, the 1998 Eurovision Song Contest. |
| **Weapons** | Swords, warchains, axes, daggers, shields, weighted nets, three-pronged tridents, lions, tigers and bears. Ouch! | Pugil sticks, half pugil sticks, atlaspheres, elastic rope, foam missiles, blasts of air, ramrods and fistpads. Boring! |
| **Verdict** | It's a definite thumbs up for Maximus – he knows how to put on a show and can take on wild animals, gladiators, charioteers and emperors with nary a scratch and little by way of sweat. | It's thumbs down for Wolf, throw him to the lions! He may be good at hitting you over the head with a large cotton bud but put him in a real arena and he'd soil his lycra pants. |

Courtesy Of Universal Pictures

# Are you a gladiator?

**Leather-clad, testosterone-fuelled hunk; panic-stricken fodder for the lions, or part of the hungry crowd, baying for blood – what's it to be, centurion? Take our gladiatorial quiz and find out...**

## 1. Do you see yourself:

A: Wearing leather, carrying a sword and chasing things?
B: Wearing rags, carrying not a lot and running away from things?
C: Wearing what you damn well like and watching everything else chase everything else?

## 2. Does the roar of the crowd:

A: Fill you with pride?
B: Fill you with fear?
C: Honey, I am the crowd!

## 3. Would you prefer to:

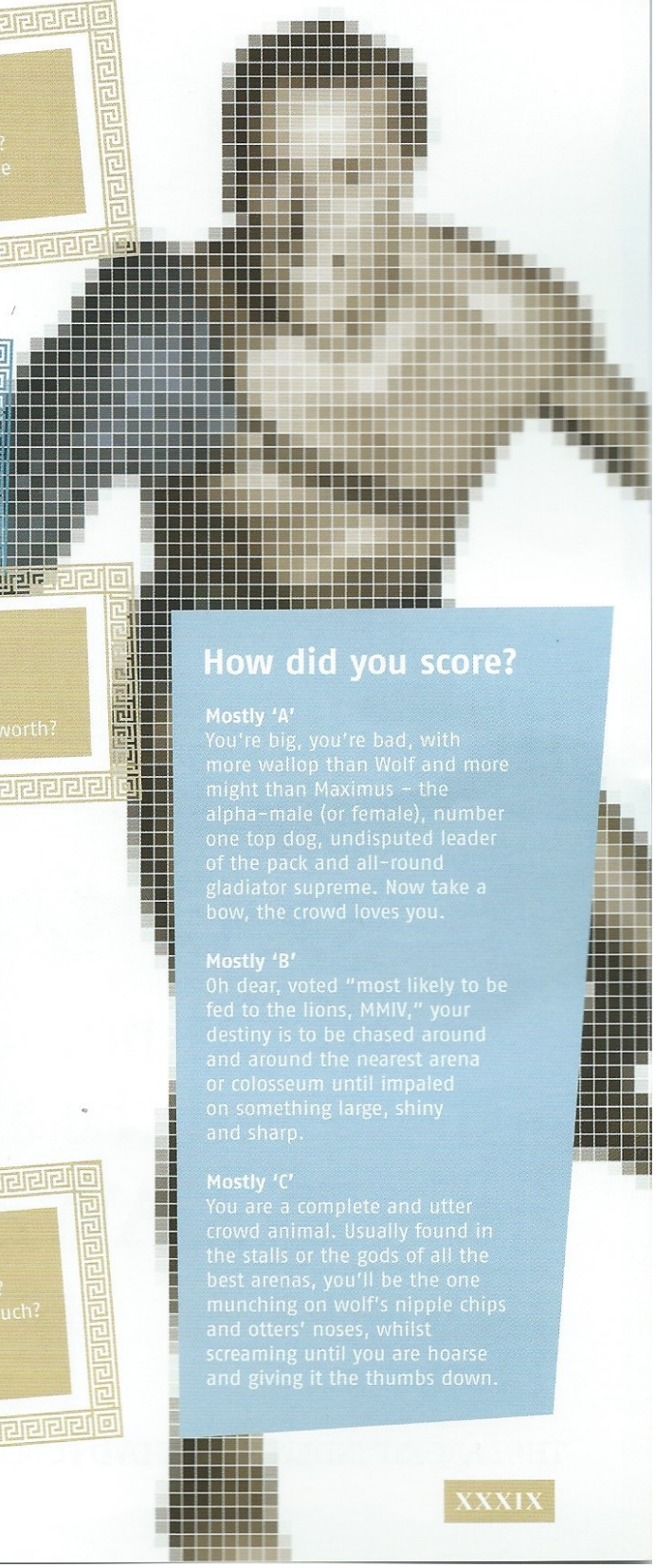
A: Go on my second whistle?
B: Go on my first whistle?
C: Take the whistle, blow the whistle and scream for all you're worth?

## 4. At school did you:

A: Enthusiastically participate in all outdoor sports, especially when it rained?
B: Run away from the ball and stand, miserably, at whatever end of the pitch it wasn't ?
C: Stand on the sidelines in all weathers, screaming, "Come on you pansies!"?

## 5. At work, do you:

A: Lead by example, and take on anything that's thrown at you?
B: Keep your head down and hope you don't get noticed too much?
C: Hang around the water cooler with your workmates and whisper conspiratorially?



## How did you score?

**Mostly 'A'**
You're big, you're bad, with more wallop than Wolf and more might than Maximus – the alpha-male (or female), number one top dog, undisputed leader of the pack and all-round gladiator supreme. Now take a bow, the crowd loves you.

**Mostly 'B'**
Oh dear, voted "most likely to be fed to the lions, MMIV," your destiny is to be chased around and around the nearest arena or colosseum until impaled on something large, shiny and sharp.

**Mostly 'C'**
You are a complete and utter crowd animal. Usually found in the stalls or the gods of all the best arenas, you'll be the one munching on wolf's nipple chips and otters' noses, whilst screaming until you are hoarse and giving it the thumbs down.

# It's all Roman to me!

**Latin was the language of Rome and, although it's rarely taught today, it's not as dead as some would have you believe...**

## Res ipsar loquita!

There are thousands of Latin words still used in English today and while most of them are legal terms (ancient Rome's legal system was a great influence on the legal systems of most of the western world), many still make it into everyday use...

| Word | Original meaning | Modern meaning |
|---|---|---|
| Bona fide | In good faith | Sincere or genuine |
| Status Quo | The state of affairs | How things are currently |
| Ad hoc | To this | As needed |
| De facto | From the fact | Actually, in effect |
| Ad infinitum | Forever | Forever |
| Ipso facto | By the fact itself | Therefore |
| Modus Operandi | Mode of working | Method of operation |
| Quid pro quo | This for that | An equal exchange |
| In flagrante delicto | While the crime is burning | Caught in the act |
| Alibi | Elsewhere | At another place |
| Alias | At another time | An alternative name |
| Per se | By itself | As such |
| Versus | Turned | Against or in contrast to |

## How rude

**Swear like a centurion in Latin, with these choice phrases...**

**Make my day:** Fac ut gaudeam

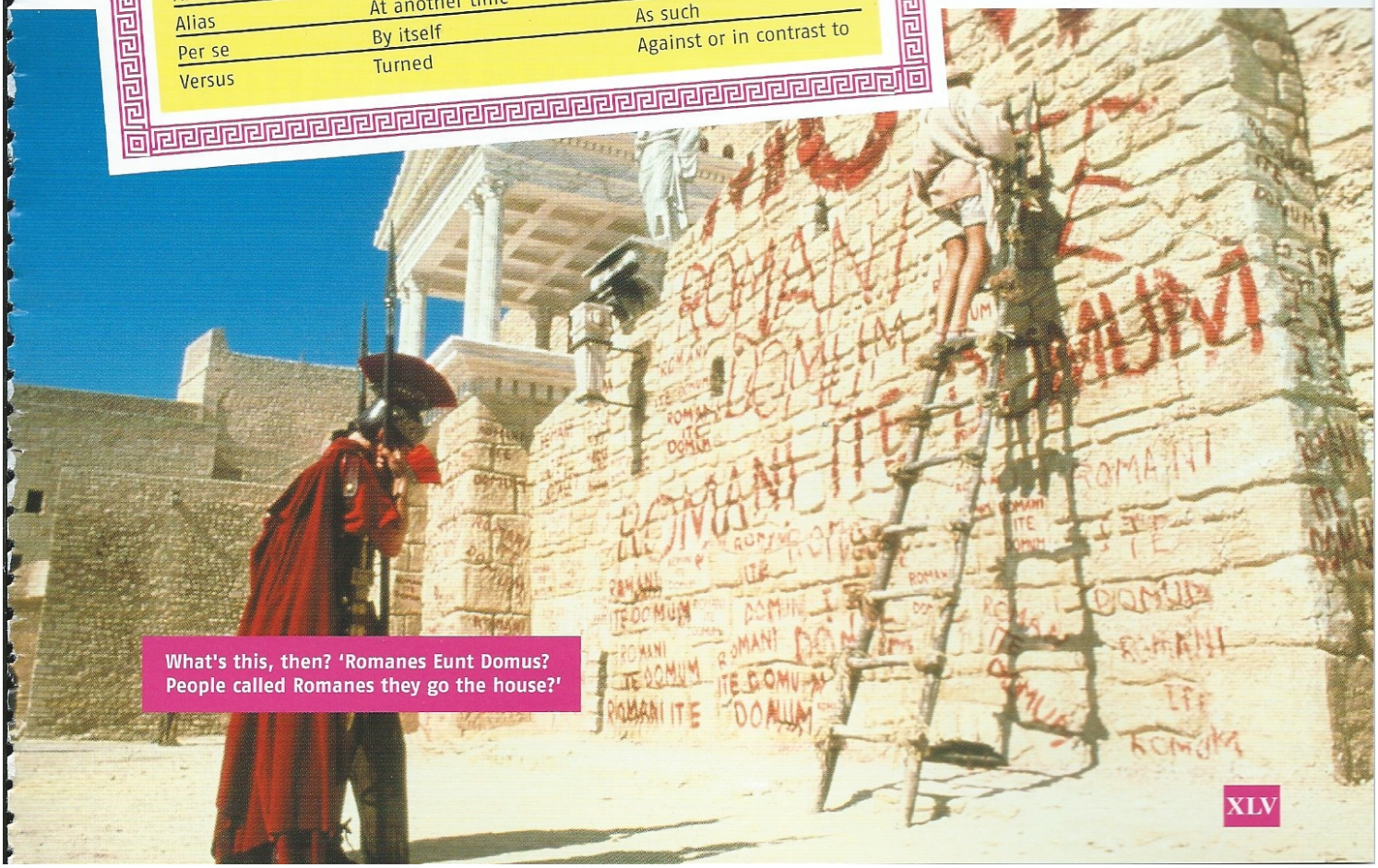
**I'm wasting my time:** Tempus meum tero

**Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn:** Re vera, cara mea, mea nil refert

**May barbarians invade your personal space:** Utinam barbari spatium proprium tuum invadant

**If Caesar were alive, you'd be chained to an oar:** Caesar si viveret, ad remum dareris

**In the good old days, children like you were left to perish on windswept crags:** Antiquis temporibus, nati tibi similes in rupibus ventosissimis exponebantur ad necem




What's this, then? 'Romanes Eunt Domus? People called Romanes they go the house?'

# XXI MURDER REPORT

EVIDENCE



**Date:** March XV 44 BC

**Full Name of Deceased:** Gaius Julius Caesar

**Date of birth:** July XIII 100 BC

**Age at Death:** LVI

**Cause of death:** Multiple stab wounds

**Marital Status:** Busy boy: married first to Cornelia then, following her death, he married Pompeia. Finally, Caesar married Calpurnia, following a divorce from his second wife.

**Profession:** Caesar, absolute ruler of the Holy Roman Empire.

**Appearance:** Bloodied and dead.

**Events leading to death:** A meeting of the Senate was convened this morning, the Ides of March. It is alleged that one of the suspects – and boy, are there suspects – Brutus, arose early that morning and secreted a dagger about his person. He then proceeded to his associate, Cassius' house, there to meet his co-conspirators, before moving on to Pompey's Great Civic Megaplex. The Senate was temporarily meeting in a hall near Pompey's theatre. Caesar was late.

Caesar eventually arrived later that afternoon. The conspirators allegedly gathered around Caesar immediately as he sat in his chair. Senator Tullius Cimber pretended to submit a petition, but grabbed Caesar's purple robe and wrenched it from his neck. This was the apparent signal for attack. Senator Casca struck the first blow. All in all 23 stab wounds were



inflicted. Caesar uttered not a word until Marcus Brutus rushed him, at which point, it is claimed, that Caesar said, "Et tu Brute?"

The body was left at the foot of Pompey's statue as the Senators fled into the streets, claiming to have liberated Rome.

**Suspects:** Approximately 60 conspirators, mostly Roman Senators, including close friends and associates, Gaius Cassius and Marcus Junius Brutus.

**Motives:** General lack of trust in Caesar's policies and suspicion over his attitude.

**Notes to Sarge:** The Ides of March is just another way of saying 15 March.

### Ides of March

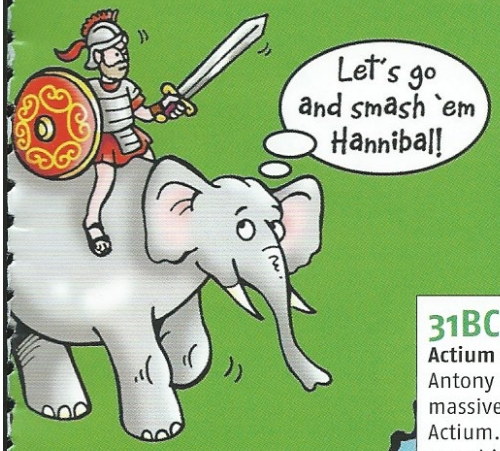
Caesar was warned to "Beware the Ides of March," by a street soothsayer by the name of Spurinna. We attempted to track him down but, apparently, he knew we were coming!


They'll never take me alive!
61AD Britain: You go girl! Queen Boudicca of Britain goes severely mental and kicks Roman butt after they nick her lands, rape her daughters and have her flogged. Well, you would, wouldn't you?
Varus, Varus, Give me back my legion! Bah Bah!
VARUS AND HIS LEGIONS R.I.P
58–51BC Gaul: Your time is up! Julius Caesar established Roman rule in Gaul with a war that killed over a million Gauls and enslaved a million more.
218BC The Alps: Hannibal had balls! The republic faced its biggest threat from Carthaginian general, Hannibal, who marched from Spain to Italy, over the Alps, with an army of elephants in tow. He smashed legion after legion, but they got him in the end. And it only took 17 years.
45BC Spain: Bloody scary. The battle of Munda, Spain, was very bloody indeed. After several skirmishes the two armies met properly on the plains of Munda. It was a vicious battle and, all in all, 30,000 men died that day. Caesar even walled up the city with corpses of the enemy. Yeuch!
76BC Italy: I'm Spartacus! If rebel Roman slaves were caught, they were crucified – tied to a cross and left until they died. When the slave revolt, led by Spartacus the gladiator, was crushed, over 6,000 slaves were killed this way.

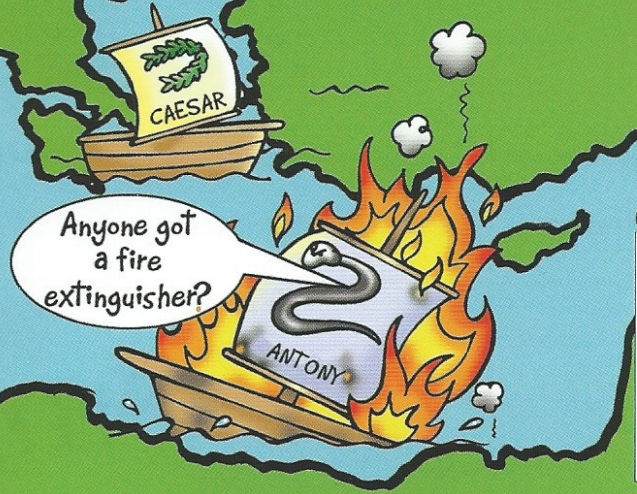
# You couldn't make it up

**Proving that Rome's history was as colourful as it was long, these events were real...**

**9AD Germany: Emperor goes nuts!** Quintilis Varus, commander of the Roman legions on the Rhine, Germany, was ambushed. One ninth of Rome's army was destroyed and the Emperor Augustus went to pieces. He neglected his appearance and would often cry, "Varus, Varus, give me back my legions!"




**31BC Greece: All action at Actium** Octavian defeated Antony and Cleopatra in a massive naval battle near Actium. Each fleet was over 200 ships strong but, by the end of it, Antony's fleet was in flames. The victory marked the end of almost 100 years of civil war and the 'official' beginning of the Roman Empire.







**218AD Syria: Typical teenager!** Varius Avitus Bassianus, a Syrian, was made emperor at just 14. He renamed himself Elagabalus, after the Syrian sun god, married a vestal virgin and shocked Rome with his antics, including bisexuality, transvestitism and impersonating prostitutes.

**Did you know?**

**Italy: 79AD**

When Mount Vesuvius went "bang" in a big way, it buried the coastal town of Herculaneum under 66ft of ash and muck. Ouch!

# CLASSIFIED ADS

**Friends, Romans and countrymen, if you want to sell it fast, sell it through the BVA...**



### HOLY SMOKE

**City for sale,** some fire damage. Available in whole or in part, including senate, forums, coliseums, churches, baths and amphitheatres. Not to be missed! Make me an offer. Fiddle also available. Hurry, stock may not last. **Contact: Nero, Rome 111.**

### LITTER FOR SALE

**Be carried through Rome in style,** privacy guaranteed. Made from the finest cedar wood and decorated with beautiful fabrics, some gold fretwork. Litter bearers not included, air-con, VGC, 20,000 Sestertii ONO. **Contact: The Litter Emporium, Rome 212**

### ROMAN CHARIOT

**Chariot, burnished copper and gold,** five times tournament winner, seen on TV, some ivory features, four horsepower, few dents and scrapes, otherwise VGC, one careful owner, wheels may need some attention 15,000 Sestertii. **Contact: Ben Hur, Rome 228**



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**Welcome to Wigworld!** Wigs and hairpieces for every occasion in a range of colours and styles. Cut from the finest barbarian slave girls available. **Where in the world? Wigworld!**



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