

ITAL 156: EXPLORING ROME

ROME: DAY 3



PAVIA STUDY ABROAD







FOOD

- Sign up sheet
- Oct 30 (2 slots), Nov 1 (6 slots)
- F = Food (someone with a kitchen, some food experience)
- Ph = photographer, videographer
- 6-7 minute presentation, time for a couple of questions
- Meet at least twice, probably three times, before presentation
- Web page coming on ingredients; read through cookbook, find some interesting recipes
- Sadly, wine is not allowed



EP 5-8

- Atia mounts a PR 'smear' of Servilia that forces Caesar to abandon her; Servilia vows revenge
- Caesar pursues Pompey to Greece, but tides turn: now Caesar is on the run; yet, he still wins a decisive victory (historically, Caesar repeatedly won against forces that were 5x-10x larger than his own). Pompey flees to Egypt.
- Caesar pursues Pompey to Egypt (where P. Is killed); hooks up with Cleopatra, they have a boy (probably Titus P. Is the real father). Cleopatra names him "Caesarion," staking his claim to Rome.



EP 9: UTICA

- Utica is the location (now in Tunisia) of the last a final defeat of Caesar's enemies; Caesar returns to Rome, victory complete.
- Servilia persuades Octavia to sleep with Octavian to find out about Caesar's "morbus"; Octavian, as usual, is smarter than everyone else.
- Showdown with Erastes has an unexpected outcome: Vorenus will become a magistrate.
Roman laundry



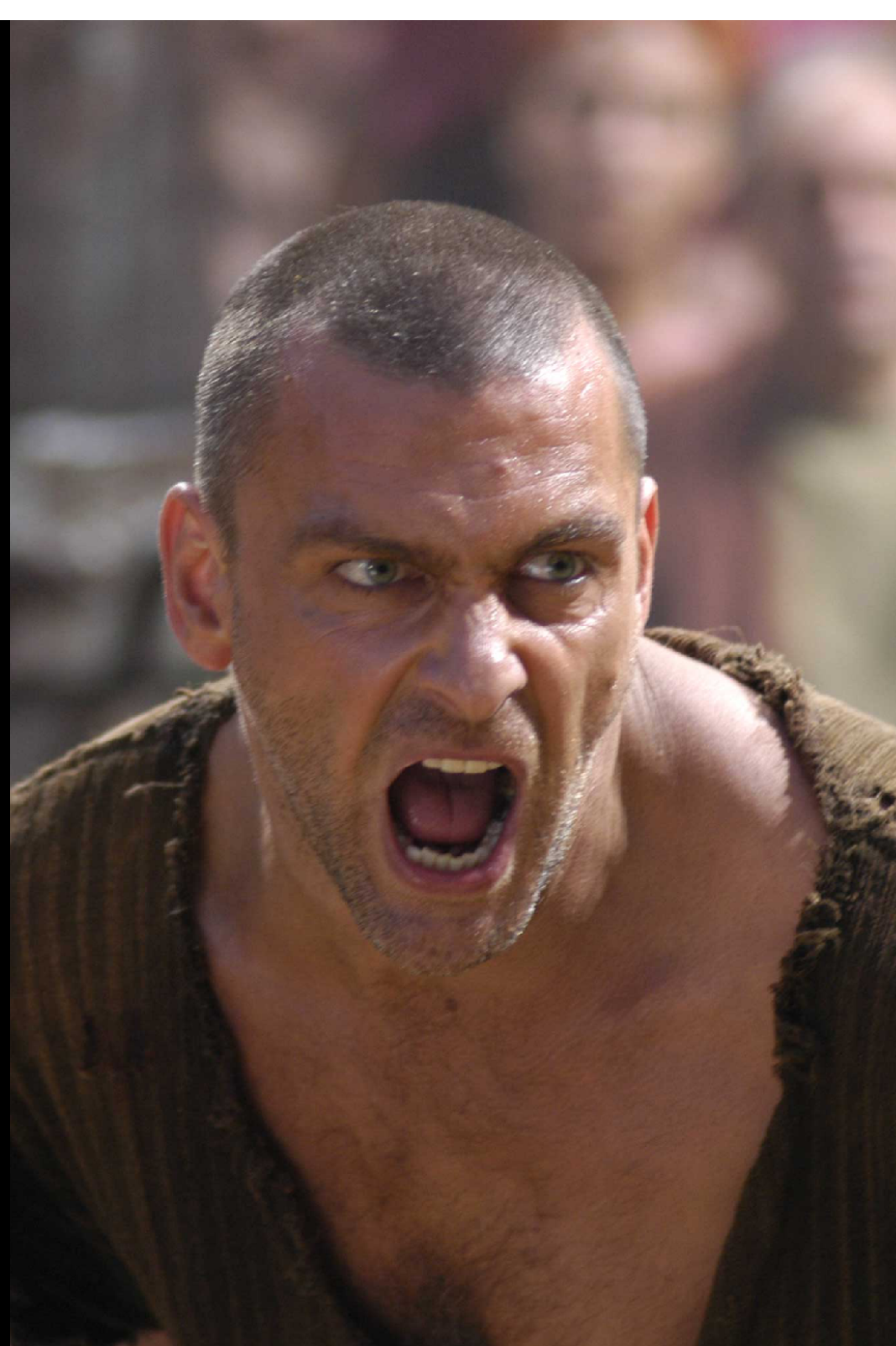
EP 10: TRIUMPH

- A “triumph” in ancient Rome was an epic parade and celebration in honor of a military victory
- Vorenus campaigns for magistrate; hecklers are removed by force; indeed, the whole election is rigged — Vorenus is effectively on a “humiliation arc”
- Pullo frees Eirene, only to learn that she is in love with and plans to marry Niobe’s slave, whom he promptly kills in a jealous rage.



EP 11: SPOILS

- Pullo becomes a hired killer; Vorenus becomes a politician, behaving unethically to maximize power and (perhaps) the good of the people
- Brutus begins to turn
- Vorenus and Niobe are introduced to the life of the *optimates*
- Trial of Pullo; execution in arena; Vorenus cannot follow political necessity, gives in to friendship and loyalty



EP 12: KALENDS

- Roman calendar was measured based on three days of particular meaning, roughly the 1st (*kalend*), 5th (*nones*) and 13th (*ides*) day of each month (Caesar reformed the calendar in several ways, including July)
- Servilia triumphs; her son fully commits to Caesar's assassination, she invites Atia to explain; Octavian watches
- Vorenus learns the truth about his son, which makes him leave Caesar's side; Niobe dies?
- Pullo and Eirene reconcile?
- Cliff hangers abound, but not for Caesar



ROME

- What are the driving forces of history, according to the show?
- What is the image or idea of Ancient Rome that the show wants to convey?
- The show is generally organized around the story of Caesar. What kind of story does it tell? Why do things end badly for Caesar after he is presented as nearly unbeatable?



PAGANS VS. CHRISTIANS



HISTORY

- Hughes reports objectively on historical facts, but with a distinct anti-Christians bias ("fanatics," 139; "Jesus freaks," 140; "misogynistic lunacies," 152). Why does he talk about Christianity as if it were an apocalyptic, divisive cult, rather than an inclusive religion of love?
- 312 Constantine, *in hoc signo*, Milvian Bridge, eventual conversion; Hughes understates case for Constantine as a "Christian emperor"
- Fall of Rome tied to advent of Christianity: coincidence or cause?
- Persecution about-face (153-54)



ROMAN ART

- Bussagli, 7-75
- Mostly pictures, but really good text
- Read it, appreciate it
- We'll discuss 5-10 images in each class section, with occasional references to Hughes (the "Seated Boxer" is *amazing*)
- Reminder: no class 10/9, and 10/11; paper #1 due 10/11 (electronically to me or grader)

