

Michael Chiklis To Bring 'Olympus' Comic Book Series To IDW Publishing



When last we heard from actor Michael Chiklis, it sounded like he'd reached his limit in terms of comic books and comic book movies. And who could blame the guy? The costume he had to wear for his role as Ben Grimm in the "Fantastic Four" series of films looked pretty brutal to have to strap on for weeks at a time.

However, it looks like Chiklis is headed back to the world of four-color heroes, only he'll be upgrading

his role from the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing to that of a Greek God. According to a Variety report, Chiklis' Extravaganza Productions will team up with IDW Publishing to create an all-new series of graphic novels titled "Olympus," telling the tales of ancient Greek gods who return to a ravaged and chaotic present-day Earth to resume their battle with the Titans for the future of mankind. Chiklis and Extravaganza

Productions will oversee the books, of which they hope to parlay into film, television or video game properties. When asked why the actor — best known for his role as Detective Vic Mackey on the recently concluded FX series "The Shield" — decided to return to comics, said Chiklis, "As a kid, I was always fascinated by the Greek gods, so the chance to bring my childhood heroes and villains to life in the modern world is irresistible."

The Legacy of Greek Mythology

Without a doubt, Ancient Greece has had great influence on the formation and development of western culture and civilization. Athens, arguably the greatest city-state of Ancient Greece, brought forth democracy into the world. It was during the golden age of Ancient Greece that Philosophy, Science, Math, Literature, and the Arts started to make their mark on western civilization. Greek thinkers established the modern fields we now take for granted. It was because of their cultural and intellectual revolutions that the world as we know it now exists. Perhaps one of the most influential contributions of the Ancient Greeks was their literature, specifically, their myths. Greek mythology is considered by scholars as the great classics of literature. The presence of Greek mythology in many subjects and fields of study only serve to assert the importance of its long-lasting legacy on our modern world.

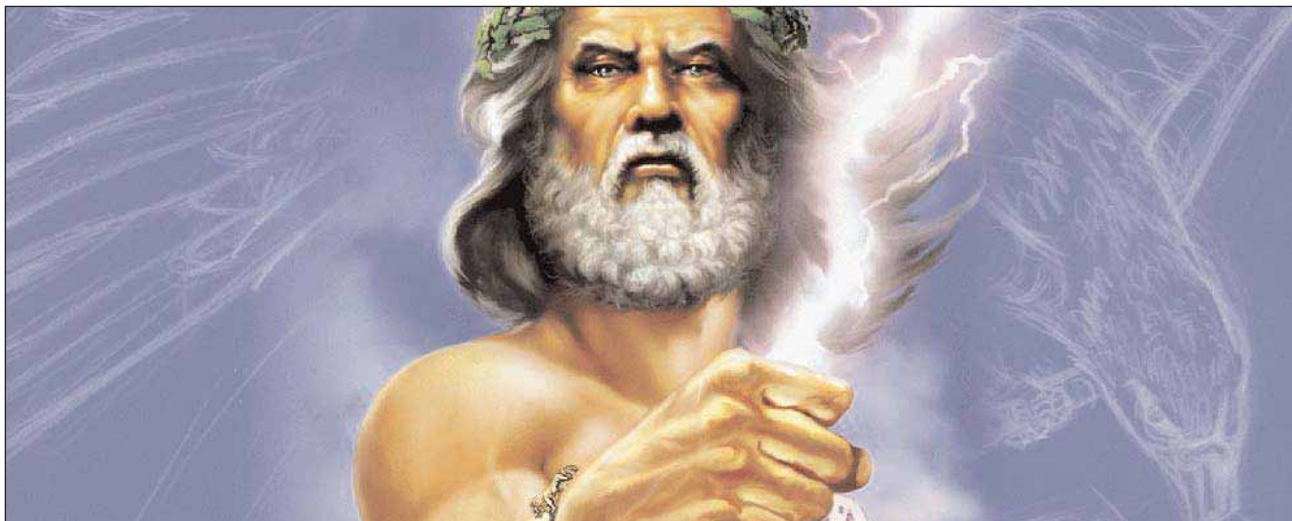
Literature

Greek mythology, perhaps, has its greatest influence on literature itself. Greek drama, narratives, and poems became the subject of scrutiny and study by many literary theorists and even philosophers. Even the ancient Greek thinkers analyzed their own myths and formulated their own theories and conclusions.

Palaephatus tried to interpret myths as having figurative meanings. He surmised that myths were real-life accounts and experiences written in a highly symbolic language. Even Plato himself tried to analyze and oppose Greek myths on the grounds of morality. The great intellectual argued that the immorality and sins of the gods were not acceptable to the then-flourishing Greek culture and society. However, several centuries after Plato's death, Greek myths still had firm roots in Greek society. The motifs, allusions, and symbols used by the Ancient Greeks in their myths clearly paved the way for modern literary theorists and scholars to develop their own philosophies and theories. In a way, the various kinds of literary approaches we now have at our disposal, became possible because of the existence and emergence of Greek mythology. Some of the best western writers even copied the plots of the myths and wrote elaborate novels based on them. James Joyce wrote the novel Ulysses, with a modern theme but a distinctly Greek plot.

Psychology

Because the Ancient Greeks themselves were keen on understanding the human mind, it is no surprise that their way of thinking, and their myths, have become very important in the field of Psychology. No less than the famous Sigmund Freud himself bor-



rowed from Greek mythology in developing his theories on human psychosexual development, hence the terms, Electra Complex and Oedipus Complex. The Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Jung, also relied on Greek mythology to justify his belief in the innate recurring ideas present in all men which he called archetypes. Jung believed that these archetypes were the manifestation of psychic structures common to all people. Because of these structures, he believed, mythological themes came to be.

Art

Because of the highly symbolic and allegorical nature that Greek mythology has, European artists during the Renaissance and even today, base their works on characters and events from these myths. Some of the best works of art were influenced by the beauty of Greek mythology.

In the 15th century, renowned Italian sculptor Sandro Botticelli finished his masterpiece, Birth of Venus. Another Italian artist, Gianlorenzo Bernini, created a marble sculpture of Apollo and Daphne in early 17th century. One of the most terrifying scenes in the Theogony, Cronus devouring his children, was also immortalized on canvass by Spanish painter Francisco de Goya. And then, we have the famous painting of Icarus falling from the sky by the Flemish artis Pieter Bruegel. However, in Bruegel's painting, peasant on the fields continue to toil, oblivious to the great event taking place over them. This can be seen as a form of defiance to the control of feudal aristocrats who often patronized works of arts with mythological themes. In the modern world, Greek mythology and architecture has resulted in the adoption and use of many Greek styles. The most common of these styles were the three kinds of columns, the Ionian, Corinthian, and the Doric. Even until now, these údi-

vinely inspiredú art forms continue to live on.

Film and Drama

The widespread fame that Greek myths have garnered reached the shores of European countries and have inspired countless operas and dramas. Some of them are worthy of praise and recognition. In the 17th century, Italian composer Claudio Monteverdi orchestrated the operatic dramatizations of these myths with Orfeo (Orpheus), and Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria (The Return of Ulysses to His Homeland). This continued on to the 20th century with such works as Elektra by German composer Richard Strauss, and Oedipus Rex by Russian composer Igor Stravinsky. Of course, with the advent of motion pictures, the impact of Greek mythology never waned. In fact, a multitude of films about the different myths surfaced. Movies about the Illiad, Jason and the Argonauts, Hercules, and many more became prevalent and only served to further immortalize Greek mythology.

Science (Astronomy)

The effects of Greek mythology is so diverse and powerful that even the skies and heavenly bodies have been ascribed mythological names.

The planets in our solar system were named after Roman gods and goddesses who were in turn, taken from Greek myths. Even the constellations and stars bear the names of the many heroes and characters in Greek myths. The different seasons and natural phenomena were also named after Greek gods and heroes as if to imply that their existence is tantamount to the perfect order of the world. Whatever the reasons may be for naming celestial objects and seemingly magical phenomena, one thing is clear: Greek mythology has its place in the stars.