

WHERE DO FILMS

THE PAST

Writer: Homer
Date: About 1000 B.C.
Title: The Iliad

Subject: The story of the Trojan War. Paris, Prince of Troy, ran away with Helen, the wife of the Greek King of Sparta. A huge Greek army then sailed across the Aegean Sea to the city of Troy, to bring her back. This city had strong, high walls. The Greek army was enormous – but they couldn't get into the city.

The war went on for ten years. There were many battles between the Greeks and the Trojans. Famous soldiers like Achilles and Hector were killed. Finally, the Greeks succeeded in entering Troy. One of their leaders, Odysseus, suggested a trick. The Greeks made a big wooden horse which they left outside the city gates. Then they pretended to sail back to Greece.

The Trojans thought that the horse was a present from the Greeks. They pulled it into their city. They believed that they had won the war. But that night, secret doors in the horse opened. Odysseus and his soldiers climbed out. The Greeks were in Troy! They killed most of the inhabitants and destroyed the city.

Comment: The Iliad, and its sequel, The Odyssey, survived for more than 3000 years! People in many countries know the stories. Other writers and poets all over the world used the same characters and the stories. Good stories never die.



Identify another movie with an interesting story behind it. Is it still relevant today?

WORD FILE

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| battle | A big fight with a lot of soldiers. |
| run away (v) | To leave a place quickly. |
| sequel | The next part of a story. |
| survive (v) | To escape death. |
| trick | A very clever idea. |

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| movie traveling | film travelling |
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THE PRESENT

Writer: David Benioff
Date: 2004 A.D.
Title: Troy

Subject: The story of the Trojan War. [...] The war went on for ten years. [...] and destroyed the city. As you see, it's exactly the same story!

Comment: The latest film, "Troy", is a big international project. It was filmed in Mexico, Malta and the U.K. The singers are Bulgarian. The director is German. The actors come from many different countries. The film, like the original story, is now travelling around the world.

That's international entertainment!

COME FROM?

A JOURNEY

THE BOOK

Author: Ernesto Guevara
Date: 1952/3
Title: Notas de Viaje (The Motorcycle Diaries) published in Argentina.

Subject: This diary is about a motorcycle trip. Ernesto was studying medicine, and his friend Alberto Granada was a young biochemist. They were both interested in leprosy. They decided to go on a journey: to ride on a motorcycle from Buenos Aires in Argentina to North America. This was a huge distance. The route went over snowy mountains, through the desert, and across huge rivers and lakes. In fact, they didn't get to North America.

They took Alberto's old motorcycle, La Poderosa II (The Powerful Woman). They crossed the Andes to Chile.

THE ICON



For the next ten years, "Che" Guevara lived and worked in Cuba. Alberto went to live there too. Later, Che joined the revolutionary movement in Bolivia – and was killed. His face became a symbol for students and revolutionaries.



THE FILM

Director: Walter Salles. He also directed the international hit "Central Station" (Central do Brasil).
Date: 2004. (The film received The Cannes Special Prize for "high artistic quality" in France.)
Title: The Motorcycle Diaries (Diários de Motocicleta).

Comment: It is based on Guevara's Diary. The director also talked to Alberto, who was 81 when they made the film. He still remembers his friend. "To get to know Che Guevara more fully, and not just through his speeches and political life, you also need to know something about his background, how he grew up, his travels."

Salles worked on the film for five years. Robert Redford encouraged him. Like the Diary, it's a film about a journey, an adventure story. We see the students crossing the Andes, travelling on a raft, swimming across the Amazon at night. Just two students, having fun. We see the serious side, too: the visit to the leper colony. And we know that one of them will become famous.

The language of the movie is Spanish, with subtitles. The actors are from Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Peru. The director is Brazilian. Another story which will travel around the world.

WORD FILE

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|---------------------|--|
| background | The ideas or facts behind something. |
| first-hand | Personal (when you see or do things yourself). |
| hitch (v) | To travel by car without paying. |
| icon | A very famous person who represents an idea. |
| injustice | Things which are not fair. |
| leper colony | A place where people with leprosy live to be away from others. |
| leprosy | A serious illness which affects skin, nerves and bones. |

movie
traveling
truck

film
travelling
lorry