



Film Review THE ODYSSEY

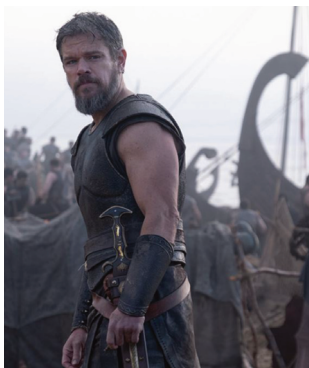
By Duncan Forbes



The Odyssey is the latest film from master auteur Christopher Nolan. An adaptation of the epic Ancient Greek poem, it stars Matt Damon as Odysseus, a veteran of the Trojan War, who must undertake a long and perilous journey to return home to his wife Penelope (Anne Hathaway) and son Telemachus (Tom Holland).

Nolan has delivered a slew of fantastic movies throughout his career, from the lauded *Dark Knight* trilogy to *Inception* to his last film, *Oppenheimer*. It is testament to *The Odyssey's* quality, then, that it may well be his best film yet. The much-publicised lack of Greek actors, American accents and inauthentic props and costumes mean absolutely nothing in the face of the incredible visuals, stunning sound design, thundering score, expansive but gripping story, and numerous excellent performances.

The Odyssey is one of the most famous and beloved stories worldwide, and while there have been several adaptations, both direct and loose, over the years, none of them match the sheer scale of Nolan's epic production. His use of fantastic practical effects, limited but impressive CGI, eye-popping production design and lush



cinematography truly bring Homer's sprawling poem to life.

After delivering incredible scores for the likes of *Black Panther*, *Oppenheimer* and *Sinners* in recent years, Ludwig Göransson accompanies Nolan's stunning visuals with a truly epic and powerful score. The sound design compliments Göransson's score, with sound that you can not only hear, but feel in the cinema.

The cast, though subject to

much insincere criticism in the lead-up to the film's release, are strong from top to bottom. Matt Damon is a formidable and flawed Odysseus, Anne Hathaway is a vulnerable but powerful Penelope, and Robert Pattinson is a slimy and detestable Antinous. Smaller roles, such as John Leguizamo as Eumaeus, Samantha Morton as Circe, Himesh Patel as Eurylochus and Corey Hawkins as Polybus, are captivating and authentic. While Tom Holland as Telemachus and Charlize Theron as Calypso aren't quite up to the strength of the rest of the cast, they are still very good in their roles. *The Odyssey* is long, somewhat violent, and even overwhelming in places. For those who have a short attention span, or even a nervous disposition, might be put off by Nolan's uncompromising vision. For everyone else, though, this is one for the history books.