

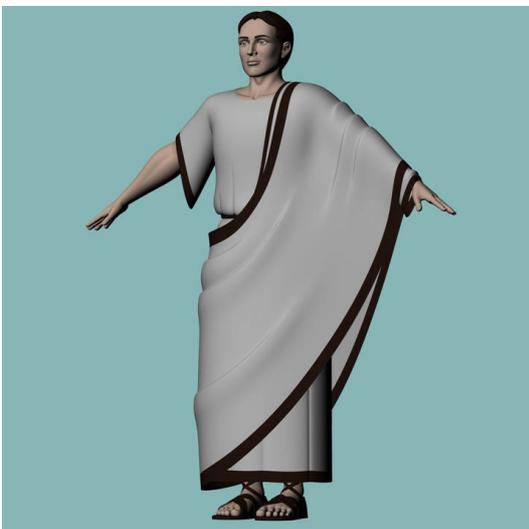
QUO VADIS

Full feature animation film CHARACTERS DESCRIPTION



VINICIUS – The fictitious son of the legendary and historical Marcus Vinicius. A young, strong, well built, handsome soldier and Roman patrician returning from war. On arrival he meets Lygia and is enchanted by her looks- he falls in love, but at first he mistakes lust for love. He fanatically and desperate wants to have her and seeks the counsel of his uncle Petronius. When Vinicius finds out that Lygia is very religious and follows her, he himself converts- believing in God, he trusts Him and

receives a reward- finally receiving her full affection. Vinicius is at first: impulsive, passionate, serious; he rarely laughs – instead he lives life with a constant seriousness. He has beautiful eyes – you can see his love towards Lygia.



PETRONIUS – Nicknamed the "arbiter of elegance", he is the former governor of Bithynia. A member of Nero's court, he uses his wit to flatter and mock him at the same time. Loved by the Roman mob for his liberal attitudes, Petronius tries to help his nephew. Vinicius is smaller and shorter than Vinicius, but very intelligent. Typical Aristocrat. His comfortable life, penchant for beauty and friendship with Nero satisfies his ambitions. He has a cynical and materialistic attitude, but influenced

by Vinicius love for Lygia, which from the beginning he actively took part in helping, as well as receiving the love of his servant Eunice, Petronius risks his life to save Lygia and ensure the right for her and Vinicius to be together. There is a philosophical dispute between him and a Christian Missionary – Paul the Apostle – Petronius is always up for an intellectual dispute. He is visibly attracted to the idea of a merciful God, that he could follow Jesus, yet he stayed a Roman. He embodies the old world order- a world of antiquity. Petronius is at first- loose, relaxed, smiling, happy with himself, smug,

contemptuous in talks with its rival Tigellinus, confident in talks with Nero. When fighting for the happiness of Vinicius and Lygia, he becomes consumed by it, touched. His relationship with Eunice evolves from a curiosity to a new teenage romance, blindly staring at his love. In the arms of his love, Petronius says goodbye to life.

NERO – The Emperor of Rome from 54 to 68 and the last of the Julio-Claudian dynasty. He is portrayed as an incompetent, petty, cruel, and subject to manipulation by his advisors and pays most attention to his flatterers and fools. An Emperor known for his affinity for culture, he built theaters in Rome and promoted the arts, but from the beginning we see that power has gone to Nero's head. He has amazing facial expressions – as if made from flexible gum. He has very bad vision – he either squints his eyes to focus in on



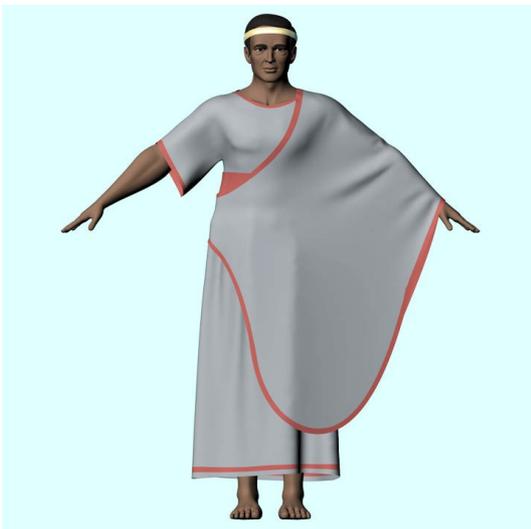
something or he uses a large emerald monacle to see better through. His large eyes and strong lips are always at work and his body is able to twist and twirl as he speaks. As the events of the story move along he gets more and more crazy. The fire of Rome sparks a fear for his own life- he doesn't acknowledge this publicly but he becomes more sadistic, hysterical and he interrupts his own sentences with laughter. He has love for Petronius, respects him, takes his opinions into account and

views him as an authority on art and culture while having a contemptuous attitude towards his wife Pomponiia and Tigellinus - commander of the Praetorian Guard and the rival of Petronius. However, under the influence of fear – he pits Tigellinus against Petronius. His relations towards Petronius becomes sadistic and vengeful for all the humiliation and lessons Petronius ever gave him. Yet – very important – Nero is a victim of his passions and not a demon of evil. He is a man entangled in the insecurities of an artist. His face glows when reciting his poems(more singing than speaking)- in those moments he is truly himself. When speaking about his mother, who he had killed, his face turns into that of a young hurt child scared of punishment. After a rash of cruelty and unpopularity, Nero lost power. Becoming a wanted man, he committed suicide in 68.



TIGELLINUS – He is the commander of the Pretorian, the Imperial Guard. Tigellinus gained imperial favour through his acquaintance with Nero's mother Agrippina, and was appointed prefect upon the death of his predecessor. As a friend of Nero he quickly gained a reputation around Rome for cruelty eventually grew to be a great influence within the palace, which Nero didn't appreciate. He lives in constant humiliation due to Nero elevating Petronius in front of him. He's the bitter rival of

Petronius, deeply affected by Petronius' success with Nero. He has a very visibly expressive face – you can see his rage, humiliation and jealousy. He burns down Rome for Nero – to earn his affection. In the end he goes on the counteroffensive to flatten Nero and put himself in charge. When he feels Nero weakening and turning against Petronius he once again shows loyalty to Nero. He's a professional soldier without morals, that looks at victims like cannon fodder, having no empathy for Christians. Nero's eventual ordered the execution of Tigellinus, after which he committed suicide.



PLAUTIUS – A politician and general of the mid-1st century that started the Roman conquest of Britain and became the first governor of the province. He represents the old guard and old values – justice and dignity. He's Roman, but he's accepted that his wife, Pomponia became a Christian. He loves family and a calm life far away from the court. The scars of war are visible on his face. His heart knows no fear – yet he's scared for Lygia, his adoptive daughter, which wakes the old warrior

within him.



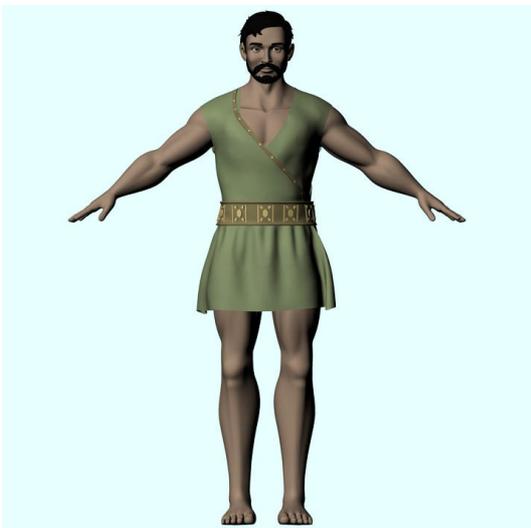
APOSTLE PETER – One of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ, Peter was originally a fisherman and he played a leadership role and was with Jesus during events witnessed by only a few apostles. According to Christian tradition, Nero crucified him upside down in Rome. He is old, skinny, leans on a cane but is still full of luminous inner energy, fueled by God's gasoline. His gray hair is visible from afar and his eyes and facial expressions show the seriousness of his Divine Majesty. When speaking

his body burns with an inner light – heating up from the inside like a Chinese lantern. His face is smooth for his age with very few wrinkles.



APOSTLE PAUL – An apostle, though not in the original twelve, Paul taught the gospels of Christ in the first century and took a personal interest in converting Marcus. He's the same age as Peter, yet he has the stronger body of a younger person. Grey hairs are interwoven in his dense black hair. He's a friend of the people, he loves them and you can always see gentleness and understanding in

his eyes. He's a forgiving and loving teacher of man and should be shown as a spiritual figure.



URSUS – He is the bodyguard of Ligia and a fellow tribesman. He served her late mother and is devoted to Ligia. As a Christian, Ursus struggles to follow the religion's pacifist teachings, given his great strength and barbarian mindset. A noble savage, he's a bear of a person but emotionally gentle like a pigeon. He has great strength and a great heart. His innocent, naive expression contrasts with his powerful body.



EUNICE – A Household slave of Petronius, Eunice is beautiful, young and alluring Greek woman utterly in love with her master, although he is initially unaware of her devotion. Always looking at Petronius, always watching him. At the beginning she's afraid of him, and loves him secretly, but finally she dares to show him her love in the end. From that moment Eunice is like a loving and faithful wife to him. Always waiting for him with a smile and joy under her wonderful, golden hair.



ACTE – An Imperial slave and former mistress of Nero. Nero has grown tired of her and now mostly ignores her, but she still loves him. She studies the Christian faith, but does not consider herself worthy of full conversion. In the 1951 film, it is she who helps Nero commit suicide. She's beautiful but has a lurking sadness in her eyes. She still loves Nero and with sadness she watches Nero change into a monster.



POMPONIA – A Christian convert, she is dignified and much respected, The wife of Plautius, they are Ligia's adoptive parents, but they are unable to legalize her status. According to Roman law Ligia is still a hostage of the Roman state but is cared for by the elderly couple. She is a mature and serious woman, wife and mother and the guard of the family and home.



POPPEA – Official wife of Caesar, clever, she hides her love and affection from Nero and plays her own game. She hates Caesar, but she does not love anyone but herself and her comfortable luxurious life. She passionately envies and hates Ligia and waits like a Viper for her moment to strike.



LYGIA – Otherwise known as Calina, she is the daughter of a deceased king of the Ligians, a barbarian tribe (hence her nickname). Ligia is technically a hostage of the Senate and Rome and was forgotten years ago by her own people. A great beauty, she has converted to Christianity, but her religion is originally unknown to Marcus. She portrays the innocent virgin, pure of heart. Very slim, narrow in the hips. She isn't the most beautiful physically, but is the most luminous. Vinicius finds

love in her, which Lygia does not understand. Her feeling is pure because in first place is her love to God. She is the epitome of sacred. Her body can become almost transparent or melt with her fervent faith. Ligia is everything which Vinicius is not- an angel.

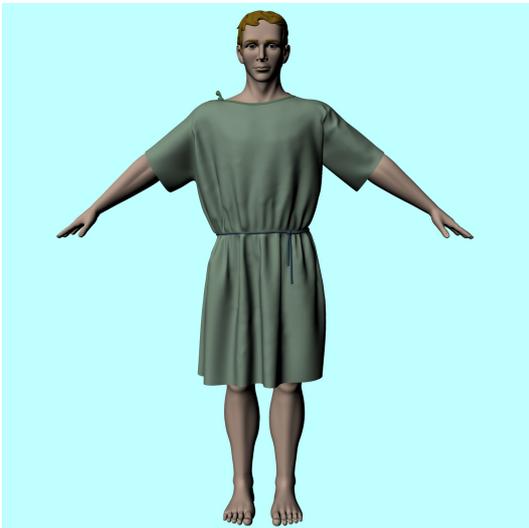


CHILO – Hired by Marcus to find Ligia, this charlatan acting as a private investigator is a major figure as doublecrossing traitor and is inspired by the character of Saint Dismas. He looks older than he is. Poverty and an unhealthy lifestyle – too much wine, too little sleep has made him look like a deplorable creature. His body is twisted and his speech is almost stuttered. He speaks of himself as a philosopher but in reality is more of a tramp. However, his cunningness and desire for profit

bring him unexpected success. Despised by Petronius and Vinicius, he gets revenge, reporting to Tigellinus about their Christian relations. When he reaches success – he begins donning the robes of noble Romans and rolling in a chariot, his face full of pride. However, after going into shock from the sight of Christians being tortured, when it seemed that he died of grief, his guilt gives him the strength to first stand up to and oppose Nero during which his face illuminates a proud glow.



CRISPUS – An early Christian fanatic, Crispus is the opposite yet complementary to Chilo. Like Chilo he is skinny, but this is the result of an ascetic life, which you can see through his thin frame when he is on the cross. He walks upright and serious and his speech is melodious and gentle. He perishes in the flames on the cross but during it his face shines proudly, as if he felt no fear and pain.

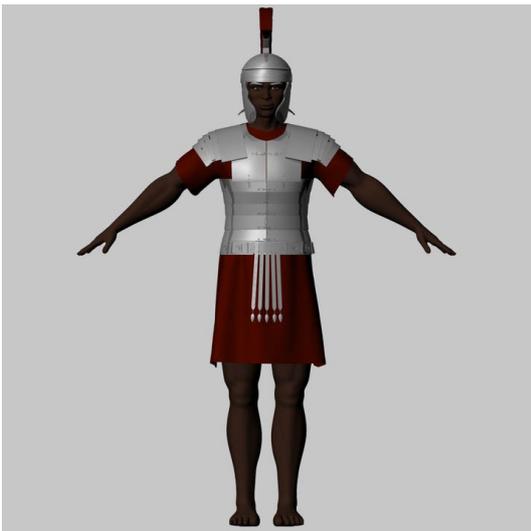


NAZARIUS – A noble young man, in the temple he serves as a priest assistant, a companion and helper of the Apostle Peter. He is smart, quick, agile, young and dedicated.



HASTO – Is an experienced soldier and a good man. He is a silent witness to history – witnessing the death of Christians, delivering the death sentence for Petronius -- his appearance always foreshadows events that change the course of history. However, he is not the messenger of death – it's more like he prevents the events from being at their worst and turns them into lighter blows.

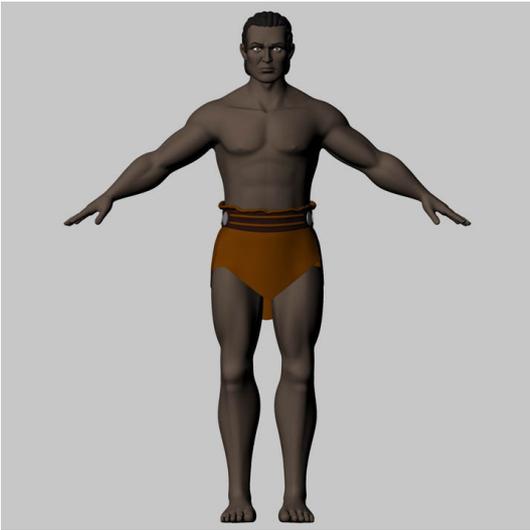
SPORUS – Is an innkeeper, a fat man, a bit of a coward, a little greedy, sometimes a hard-working man. Anyone can treat him badly, but Sporus has his own mind and knows more than he wants to say.



KRIKSOS – A soldier in the Praetorian Guard. Dull and dumb, before he answers he always stays silent for a long moment, wondering about the meaning of what he heard.



CENTURION – Commander of the jail guards but a Christian sympathizer. It's his big secret, which casts a shadow on all of his actions. He looks around to see if no ones following him and speaks with Vinicius in a very secretive manner, scared for his life but still breaking through the fear.



CROTO – A gladiator of thoughtless strength, he is a mercenary for hire that Vinicius uses during his quests to acquire Ligia. A man – machine – terminator. big muscles and tattoos with thoughtless facial expressions.



FUGITIVE – The refugee/runaway is a Roman citizen from the lower caste. After spending the night in the burning Rome, he falls into hysteria. He doesn't speak but screams, he doesn't walk but runs.



FAON and PYTHAGORAS – Two freedmen who were thought to be a part of Nero’s “filthy herd”. Pythagoras is thought to have married in a public ceremony in which the emperor took the role of bride. They are both narcissistic handsome men with feminine beauty, long curled eye lashes that are obsessed with their own looks. They’re treated as decorative flowers and they know this and protect their image, walking and talking like women or a pretentious actress.



SMALL AULUS – Son of Plautius and Pomponia, he is a joyful boy, spontaneous and happy. Ligia treats Aulus like her little brother and when receives the bad news about his older sister Lygia having to leave, his constant smile changes into crying and sadness.