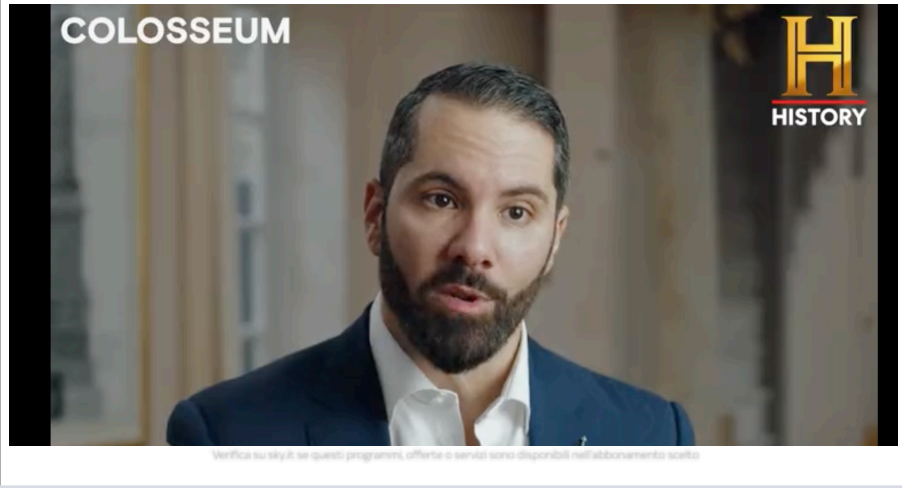


# The lives of gladiators in the series "Colosseum". According to the historian Alexander Mariotti : "Not just violence, but redemption"

di Lara Crinò



Coming to the History channel an eight episode series that tells the story of antiquities most famous monument, created with the advice of historians and experts of gladiator games. Among them, the Italian Historian Alexander Mariotti, who here explains why they still fascinate us so much

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**f** Choosing a monument as a symbol of an empire and making it the pretext to tell a series of events that illuminate a moment in human history that fascinates us and that we continue to investigate.

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This is the goal of **Colosseum**, the new eight-episode series, an original production by History Channel US, which arrives on the first European TV on History Channel Italia (Sky channel 411) from 18 October (21.50) and which focuses on the the most famous ancient building in the world together with the pyramids to tell the imperial age, from the construction of the Flavian Amphitheater, commissioned by Vespasian and completed under Titus (80 AD) to its decline. In eight episodes, alternating the voices of historians with reconstructions of a docufiction, Colosseum takes the viewer to the stands of the most famous amphitheater of antiquity, and pushes them to identify themselves from time to time with the characters who populated it, from the emperor to the common people and the **gladiators**.

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In the eight episodes of Colosseum, we meet eight protagonists from the history of the Roman amphitheater

The first episode is set in the year 80 AD, when Emperor Titus, anxious to legitimize the dynasty to which he belongs, chooses to inaugurate the Colosseum with 100 days of spectacular games; fighting in the arena will be the most beloved gladiators, the barbarian Priscus, probably of Germanic origin, and the Roman champion Verus, as the Roman poet Martial recalls in his verses. In the following episodes we get to know other protagonists, real or likely, whose life revolved around the Colosseum: the animal tamer Carpophorus; the builder Haterius; the martyr bishop Ignatius of Antioch, killed during the games wanted by Trajan in 107 AD; the gladiator Mevia, who renounces the status of a free citizen in order to fight; the doctor Galen of Pergamum, called to treat those injured in the fighting; the emperor Commodus, who descends into the arena to try to regain popularity, and finally the pagan senator Symmachus, who sees in the Colosseum the last chance to restore splendor to 4th century Rome, now in decline.

### **Among the consultants of the series is an Italian expert in gladiator games**

Among the various historians and scholars of ancient Rome that appear in the series, in addition to international names such as Simon Sebag Montefiore, an Italian also appears: he is **Alexander Mariotti**, a young scholar who grew up abroad but with roots in the capital, a seasoned consultant for many film and television projects and a renowned expert in field of Gladiatorial history. "I grew up abroad but spent a lot of time in Rome as a child. My grandfather grew up in via Capo d'Africa, and for me as a child the Colosseum was a kind of huge playground. I think my passion for the Colosseum and for the events that surrounded the gladiators was born then. Then after my research and work in various museums led me to deepen my expertise in the subject “.



The Colosseum and the world of games, the bloody games that took place there, "frightens us but at the same time fascinates us. It is an eternal model. We just need to think of football stadiums, or the rituals of American football. There is the redemption of the hero, who from nothing can become the most adored of men ".A series like Colosseum also serves to deepen the knowledge of a world that in truth we know less than we think and that goes far beyond the stereotypes, explains Mariotti: "For the gladiators, the arena was a ground for redemption, and not all of them were slaves. Some freely chose to be gladiators. If you won, if you didn't survived, it meant making allot of money and winning freedom. The alternative was not just slavery, but military service that lasted many years, where you risked your life regardless. " In the series, one episode works using a bit of imagination from a fragment of Juvenal's writings and imagines the life of a different kind of gladiator: a concession to the imagination, which however serves to question the role of women in Roman civilization. Mariotti says again "The more we know about the Romans, the more we discover in numerous ways that we are still linked to them, and how much history helps us to better understand the times

## Discovering the Colosseum in the metaverse

For an even more realistic effect, the series will have an extension into the [metaverse](#), free for all, which will allow an immersive experience in the arena of the Colosseum reconstructed in perfect detail as it was at the time of the games. Get ready to go experience the

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