

New Film in Development on Christian Roman Emperor

By Ashley Stone
Guest Columnist

For centuries, ancient Romans prayed to numerous gods, from Apollo to Jupiter. Pagan cults performed bloody sacrifices to suffice the feared entities whose forecasters could read the future in the entrails of dead animals. All this changed in 306 AD when Constantine the Great took power as Caesar upon the death of his father.

Now award-winning filmmaker Oliver Tuthill is bringing this story to the screen in the film adaptation of his play *The Nightmares of Constantine the Great*, which he directed and produced at the Erickson Theater off Broadway in Seattle in 2008. Tuthill plans to film it in the manner of a Shakespeare play.



Tuthill's fascination with Constantine the Great started in grammar school and continued to grow throughout his adulthood. "The Christians suffered the 'Great Persecution' under Diocletian (284-305) until Constantine put an end to the bloodshed," said Tuthill.

"Constantine improved the lives of millions of people and he revolutionized one of the most brutal civilizations in history by bringing Christianity to the Romans."

He continued, "By doing this he stopped the killing of infants, young girls from being forced to marry older men, prohibited the

murder of slaves by slaveholders, put a stop to death by crucifixion, supplied grain to the poor, built hospitals for the sick, and ended the gladiatorial games."

Constantine the Great ruled for over three decades, a truly amazing achievement for an empire mired in civil wars and attacks from barbarian tribes along their borders.

"Constantine believed Jesus guided him in all his actions and felt he owed all his victories in battle to the direction of God," said Tuthill. "By studying history we learn how our leaders of today think. This film will offer insight into what the future holds for all Americans."

Ashley Stone is a freelance writer based out of Los Angeles who is currently on assignment in South America.

