

Bringing *Buffy* Back: The Slayer as a Learning and Teaching Solution: Paula James, Amanda Potter, Anastasia Bakogianni, Wendy Maples

We propose a round table discussion on resurrecting *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* in pedagogy and tearing her out of her cultural history heaven. Buffy is clearly still an icon for older teenagers but she is problematic and might look like ‘ancient history’ in degree level modules. As classicists we are particularly interested in the dissemination of aspects of the Ancient World in mass culture and audience recognition and perception of such resonances. Classical Reception Studies on screen is now an established field in our subject area so the focus of our Round Table will be on why and how televisual texts like *BtVS* continue to refresh our perspectives on the world of Greco-Roman myth and mythical figures.

In our teaching of Classical cultural history we have experimented with specific episodes of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel* in order to illustrate the cultural trajectory of specific myths from the tragedy of Alcestis to the poetic narrative of Pygmalion. The teaching has taken the form of one-off lectures and seminars with school and college students to producing teaching material for adult part-time and distance learners on the UK Open University degree programme. The effectiveness of introducing *Buffy* into the OU Myth in the Greek and Roman Worlds module will be briefly assessed during the discussion.

Bowman, Pomeroy, Alderman, Haynes, Marshall and James have all conjured with heroic archetypes, uncanny creatures and classical texts that feature in the Buffyverse. However a rich source for questions and answers about the continuing cachet of the series is Kreider and Winchell, *Buffy in the Classroom* (2010.) We shall reflectively revisit the theory and practice of teaching the vampire slayer outlined in its chapters and re-assess the pedagogical principles of writing and lecturing about ancient culture through a popular text that is a quality product with a quotidian appeal (as much Greek and Roman entertainment was.)

We could also touch on how Buffy learns and develops in traditional and unorthodox ways to achieve her dialectical understanding about human and non-human conditions and behaviours (also a preoccupation in ancient philosophy.)