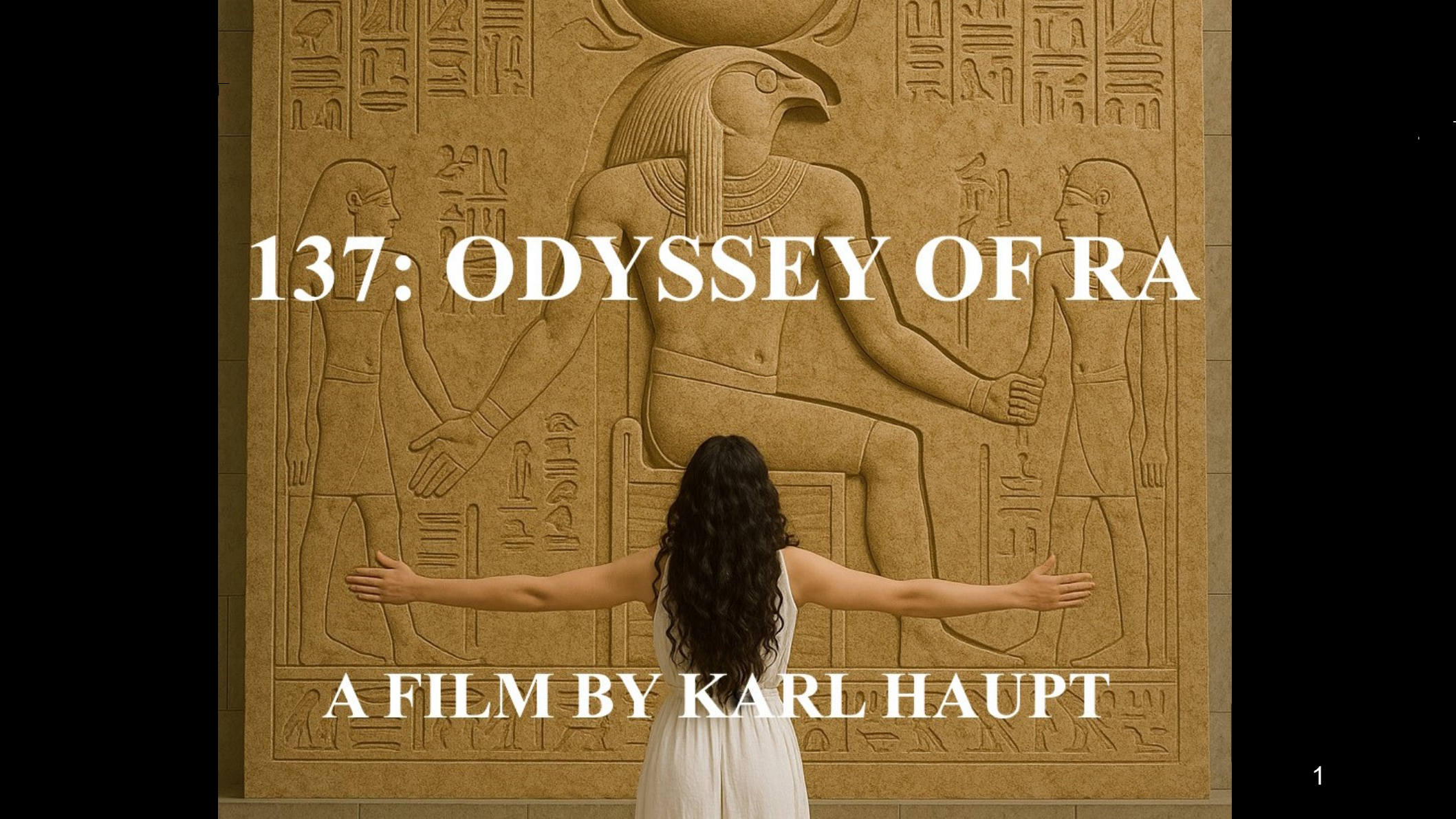




137: ODYSSEY OF RA

A FILM BY KARL HAUPT

LOGLINE

As Ra, a Syrian PR executive, leads a group of refugees on their voyage to mainland Europe, he unwittingly retraces Homer's *Odyssey* - while the sorceress Circe and the ancient gods still linger over the modern world, toying with their fates.



CIRCE, nymph and sorceress of the god world, in a playful mood at the Grand Antiquities Museum

SYNOPSIS



RA, Syrian public relations executive turned refugee, joins the migration trek in style

Ra, a Syrian government PR executive, flees Damascus and becomes the reluctant leader of refugees crossing the treacherous Aegean Sea.

Unbeknownst to him, Circe - a sorceress from the divine realm - stalks him, suspecting he may be of godly descent. Unfamiliar with the mortal world, her interventions turn their perilous voyage into surreal chaos, where witchcraft and reality intertwine.

Zeus sends Athena to stop Circe but only partly succeeds. After a series of strange adventures echoing *The Odyssey*, the refugees are stranded on a volcanic island and drawn into a high-fashion photo shoot that transforms them spiritually.

Seeking solitude, Ra continues alone, but Circe catches up and, to resolve her suspicion, kills him. Zeus' ensuing punishment is unforgiving.

DIRECTOR'S VISION

Two stories are told here: that of a refugee group trying to survive their treacherous journey across the sea, and that of a Ulysses-like figure, beset by a sorceress with an otherworldly obsession.

The story calls for a harsh grittiness to offset the flightiness of the god world, where the protagonists are caught between reality and the divine.

- a metaphor for human existence, for being and transcendence.



CIRCE, sorceress and nymph, in the guise of a white cat, probes her intuitions about RA

VISUAL STYLE & TONE



ATHENA, goddess, trying to free RA from Circe's treacherous spell, in the guise of a young girl

The film must feel stark and unforgiving. Every frame should carry the weight of reality — the exhaustion, the fear, the silent endurance of those forced to cross the sea. There's no place here for gothic or fantasy excess; the supernatural belongs to another register entirely.

Mount Olympus, with its blinding opulence, and the sunlit beach towns of the Aegean exist in jarring contrast to the refugees' world. The same sea that tourists play in is, for others, a graveyard.

When the gods appear, their power feels intimate and unnerving — not spectacle, but intrusion. Circe's magic is psychological, a distortion of will and perception, closer to control than enchantment.

THEMES

- **The Journey** → Survival • Trial • Transcendence
- **Circe's Pursuit** → Obsession • Intrusion • Downfall
- **The Divine Realm** → Complacency • Irksomeness • Authority



ZEUS, surrounded by nymphs, commands ATHENA to go after CIRCE and stop her meddling in the mortal world

CHARACTERS



CIRCE fights off ATHENA, sent by Zeus to stop Circe's interference, in the guise of alley cats

RA — a cynical PR man turned street-wise leader, drawn toward transcendence through solitude and fate.

JAMAL — a crass human smuggler with a universal, philosophical outlook.

CIRCE — a nymph-sorceress and driven monomaniac, blind to her naive yet destructive manipulations.

ZEUS — the weary lord-father of the world, warm-hearted, yet petty and easily irritable.

WORLD & SETTING

The harsh, perilous sea stands in stark contrast to the cheerful beachside resorts, just as the bleak volcanic islands clash with the opulent heights of Mount Olympus, home of the gods.

The Moria refugee camp, with its neatly ordered tents - an alien implant in the gentle Greek hills — an intrusion upon the serenity of the sea beyond.

A vision of opposing worlds: divine splendor and human despair.



The refugees set out for a ten mile crossing, but find themselves soon adrift in the open sea

TARGET AUDIENCE & GENRE POSITIONING



CIRCE feigns drowning to draw RA's attention, unleashing chaos at the Lesbos Women's Festival

Genre: Art-house drama • Mythic realism

Comparable Films:

UN TRAIN, UNE SOIRÉE (André Delvaux, 1968) -Where reality dissolves into dream and revelation — a poetic meditation on memory and identity.

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK (Peter Weir, 1975) -Mystery and transcendence unfold amid natural beauty, where reason falters before the unknowable.

STALKER (Andrei Tarkovsky, 1979) -A metaphysical odyssey through desolation and faith — a journey toward belief, surrender, and transformation.

Positioning: For audiences of European art cinema and festival circuits — drawn to stories of exile, transformation, and transcendence.

PRODUCTION STATUS

Script: Refining and polishing

Budget: 3 million EUR target

Financing: EU & national film funds; investors; producers; co-producers; distributors

Casting & Talent: Securing casting agents and principal actors

Locations: Main shooting planned in Greece and Cyprus; other locations in Egypt, Spain, and Italy



CIRCE, in the guise of a beautiful lesbian, cuts in and steals SIBYLLA from Ra, ending their budding romance instantly

KEY CREATIVES

Karl Haupt, CEO of Expressionist Media

- Writer, Director, Producer of features, documentaries, and TV series
- Screenwriter of *137: ODYSSEY OF RA*
- Master's Film Directing, New York University Tisch School of the Arts, New York, USA
- Master's Fine Arts, Cologne Art & Design School, GER
- Bachelor's Social Psychology, Cologne University, GER



MORIA REFUGEE CAMP, Lesbos Island,
where Ra finds some of his crew again

CONTACT



ZEUS, annoyed, sends out ATHENA again to stop Circe for good

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MORE IMAGES 1



Under CIRCE's spell, some of the men think they are donkeys



RA has to beat the OLIGARCH at chess for free passage



To RA, the chess figures are all white, but ATHENA helps out



The gun-running super yacht must evade a FRONTEX patrol



A sea battle ensues, ZEUS intervenes directly to save lives



The refugees jump ship, as ATHENA watches over them

MORE IMAGES 2



ATHENA hooks the raft to a passing freighter with an supernatural tow line



The raft is magically steered by ATHENA to a volcanic island



On the island, the REFUGEES run into a high fashion photo shoot camp



The PHOTORAPHERS discover the refugees as striking subjects



The CYCLOPS camera, monstrous, one-eyed, looms over the refugees



FADI, having a donkey spell relapse, menaces a fashion model

MORE IMAGES 3



ATHENA as an owl slays
CIRCE as a dog in fierce battle



ATHENA, curious, has a tryst with
RA before disappearing again



The shoot over, all have left, only
RA, seeking solitude stays behind



In peace with himself, RA sets out
for his final, mythical voyage



His raft adrift, RA falls into a deep
dream, while mermaids visit



Sea creatures rise from the depths,
curious to see the sleeping RA

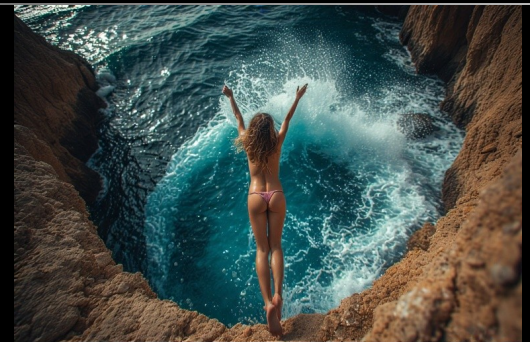
MORE IMAGES 4



Awakening from his dream, RA finds himself ashore at a beach resort



RA relaxes on the beach, but CIRCE, is back - immortal, and, stalking him



CIRCE gives herself to POSEIDON in exchange for a killer wave



CIRCE, in the guise of a beach babe, leads RA into a deadly trap



RA faces CIRCE'S deadly wave, too shocked to run and save himself



CIRCE watches as RA smashes against the beach bar's window

CONCLUSION



RA drifts out to sea - a mortal destined to become one with the universe, and with his forefather, the sun god Ra.

ZEUS orders CIRCE deported to a remote island for eternity. But he reflects on the tragedy that had unfolded for all to see, pointing out that Circe's intuition was true: Ra's divine heritage was real, though her actions were cruel and unworthy of divinity.

ZEUS concludes that all mortals are of divine origin – they had merely forgotten it over time, and thus became mortal - but mortals and immortals shared one thing: **137**

THE MEANING OF 137

The title *137: Odyssey of Ra* points to a number poised between science and mystery. In physics, $1/137$ marks the **fine-structure constant** — the ratio governing how light interacts with matter, how energy becomes form.

In this story, JAMAL, a geophysist moonlighting as a human smuggler frequently evokes the number **137** jokingly when he encounters something that he cannot explain, such as Circe's witchcraft.

Little does he know that Ra, the story's main protagonist, is bound to become one with the sun god of the same name, morphing from the physical to the eternal. The number **137** thus becomes a symbol of that passage between worlds: between body and spirit, particle and wave.

Ra's odyssey mirrors that same law of the universe — a movement from the tangible toward the infinite, from the human to the divine. In the hidden mathematics of existence, **137** is both a cosmic fingerprint and a reminder that even the laws of light are written in mystery.