The Roman Invasion

Cast List

12 Roman Soldiers
Centurion - Attackus
2 Celts on the beach - Ethel Edna
Emperor Claudius
Senators - Glutimus Maximus
Ludicrus Cranius
Minimus Decimus Meridius
Boudicca
9 Celtic Warriors

Introduction

A long time ago in a land far away…….
Episode 1 – The Emperor Strikes Back
Roman soldiers marched across Europe and fought the Barbarians.
Rebel uprisings were squashed and the mighty Roman Army under the
command of The Emperor conquered many European lands and some
beyond.
The Roman Empire was strong and ruled with great force.
Still in the North there was a small island which remained resistant…

Scene 1 – The Emperor’s Palace

Glutimus Hail Claudius and greetings from Glutimus Maximus!
Ludicris Hail Claudius and greetings from Ludicrus Cranius!
Minimus Hail Claudius and greetings from Minimus Decimus Meridius!
Claudius Yes, yes. Now what news from the senate?
Glutimus Well the there are reports from Pompeii that Mount Vesuvius is actually a
Volcano and is about to erupt. Have you ever heard anything so ridiculous?
Claudius I’ve told you before Glutimus you must pay no attention to gossip. Ludicrus
what news have you brought to your Emperor?
Ludicrus Russelus Crowus the gladiator beat the Barbarians at the Colosseum last
night.
Claudius  I know that I was there! Surely Minimus you have some news.

Minimus  Yes your excellency. The Senate decided to name a month after the greatest Emperor of all time.

Claudius  Oh! How wonderful Clauduary…

Minimus  Er.. No your excellency not after you Claudius after Julius Caesar – July.

Claudius  Oh! Him again! He died nearly 80 years ago haven’t they stopped honouring him yet? I’m tired of all the statues, roads and offerings to the Gods for Caesar. After all he can’t have been that great. The Senators murdered him!!

Minimus  Yes your excellency. Well I am afraid there is no other news then.

Claudius  Then we shall have to make some news of our own. I’m tired of hearing about Caesar. It’s always Caesar did this or Caesar did that. Nothing about me. Everybody in Rome thinks I am dim witted and cowardly.

Ludicrus  But you are a great ruler Claudius.

Glutimus  A fine Emperor.

Minimus  You’re great, really great!!

Claudius  Yes, well we will just have to show everyone HOW great won’t we?

Ludicrus  But how? You haven’t really DONE anything except write a History book And I don’t think generations of school children will thank you for that!

Glutimus  Quite!

Minimus  I suppose you could always conquer somebody.

Claudius  Brilliant! But who?

Ludicrus  What about Gaul?

Claudius  Gaul’s gone!

Glutimus  What about Iberia?

Claudius  Iberia’s gone!

Ludicrus  Asia Minor?
Claudius  Asia Minor’s gone!

Glutimus  What about Egypt?

Claudius  Egypt’s gone – remember Cleopatra. Haven’t you read my History book?

Minimus  What about Britannia?

Claudius  Britannia’s gone you fool. Julius Caesar conquered it about 100 years ago.

Minimus  Ah! No! He didn’t. That is he only conquered some of it. In fact he only managed to conquer a tiny bit of it in the South. It was said the inhabitants, Celts I think they are called, were too unruly and Great Caesar gave up!!

Claudius  Minimus Decimus Meridius you are brilliant. Britannia it is then. Sent General Attackus to me.

Minimus  Yes your excellency.

ENTER ATTACKUS

Attackus  You sent for me Mighty Claudius?

Claudius  Yes. General prepare your army we march on Britannia in a months time.

Attackus  But Emperor Claudius Britannia is full of mad Celts and Englishmen!

Claudius  So what!

Attackus  But they don’t fight by the rules they are really nasty and shout rude names at you.

Claudius  So get off with you and start training your army Attackus!!

Attackus  But sir…

Claudius  Off with you man. You are fighting for the glory of Rome.
Scene 2 – The Army Training Ground

ENTER ATTACKUS
SHOUTS ORDERS TO ARMY OFF STAGE AND THEY MARCH ON

Attackus  Roman Army Attention
By the left forward march… Sinister, dexter, sinister dexter…

Roman Army Halt.

Left Turn.

ATTACKUS GOES ALONG RANKS TO INSPECT TROOPS

Now men we are to attack Britannia in a month.

Soldiers  Oh no! Not Britannia again.

Attackus  Any complaints and I shall run you through with my sword. As I was saying
In a months time we march on Britannia.

Soldiers  Oh! Goody goody.

Attackus  That’s better. You should all be equipped with the following things. And remember it is up to you to buy your armour. It is a great honour to be in the Roman Army and you wouldn’t want to let Rome and your family down by getting killed would you?

Soldiers  No General Attackus.

Attackus  Step forward soldier.
First you need a cassius on your head because Roman soldiers use their brains and we want to make sure yours are in one piece.
Second you need a lorica segmentata to protect your upper body.
Third you must carry your scutum and use it to defend yourself or attack the enemy with the metal boss on the front. It can make a nasty mess of a Celts face.
Finally keep your gladius in your hand at all times and don’t go leaving it in anybody!!
Back in line soldier.
Roman Army left turn.
By the left quick march. …Sinister, dexter…
MARCH UP AND DOWN A FEW TIMES

Attackus Now we will practise some battle formations.
Shields up. We call this the tortoise formation and we use this when arrows or
spears are raining down on us. By the left quick march. Sinister, dexter…

Soldiers form for attack. This is the wedge formation and we will use this to
break up the Celts. By the left quick march. Sinister, dexter…

Roman Legions we are now ready to march to Britannia.

SOLDIERS MARCH ON SPOT CHANTING

Roman Army Chant

(Attackus says each line repeated by soldiers)
We are Roman soldiers.
Marching North to Britain.
We wear skirts and armour.
We carry shields and weapons.
We’re highly trained and skilful.
We’re loyal and follow orders.
We fight for our Emperor.
To make our nation powerful.
We invade and conquer.
We’re not scared of anyone.
So when we get to Britain.
We’ll frighten all the Celts away.
Yes we are Roman soldiers.
Marching to Britannia.
When we reach the Channel.
We’ll row our boats across it.
We’ll land upon the beaches.
We’ll shout to our enemy.
THE ROMANS HAVE LANDED!!
Scene 3 – A Beach In Kent

CELT S SITTING IN DECK CHAIRS

Edna   Ethel, do you like my make up? It’s wode you know.

Ethel   Yes very nice – the blue matches your eyes.

Edna   Lovely weather isn’t it?

Ethel   Yes, better than yesterday. My Egbert is decorating our hut today.

Edna   Oh yes, what colour?

Ethel   Same as usual - mud coloured.

Edna   Lovely and peaceful here isn’t it – I don’t know why people go abroad for their holidays give me a beach in Britannia any day.

ROMAN ARMY PRETENDING TO GET OUT OF BOATS AND WALKING TOWARDS THEM.

Ethel   Edna, look over there. What’s that?

Edna   Oh! That’ll be some of those Gauls from France for a day out.

Ethel   Are you sure Edna they look terribly smart.

Edna   They always were into fashion. I expect it’s some new fad.

Ethel   Are you sure they seem to be waving swords!!

Edna   Oh! No! It’s those Romans again I’d recognise their tanned legs anywhere!!

Ethel   I suppose we’d better go and tell the rest of the tribe. But that one at the front is mine!!

EDNA AND ETHEL RETURN TO CAMP

Ethel   Egbert ! Egbert! Those rotten Roman’s have just landed on the beach.

Egbert   Are you sure Ethel? Have you been at the mead again.
Ethel  No ! Ask Edna she saw them too.

Edna  Yes, that’s right Bert come on put your wattle and daub down and put your war paint on.

Egbert  OK. Come on lads grab your weapons there’s a fight on the beach!!

ACT OUT ROMAN ATTACK, ROMANS WIN.

Attackus  In the Year AD 42 I claim Britannia for the Emperor Claudius and Rome.

ROMANS SETTLE DOWN IN CAMP.

BRITONS LIMPING BACK TO THEIR CAMP.

Egbert  Blimy those Romans are vicious. One of them pushed their shield in my face and then stabbed me while I was rubbing my nose.

Ethel  You’re right Bert they are ever so strong, especially that one on the front row!!

Rufus  Well Bert some of them seem quite decent chaps I reckon we’d be better off if we just get along with them. No point in getting any more Celts killed.

Ethel  Yes I am prepared to get along with them too.

Edna  At least you can finish the decorating then Egbert.

Egbert  OK, OK I’ll have a chat with their leader.

EGBERT GOES TO ROMAN CAMP.

Egbert  Listen mate . I’ve had a chat with the chaps and we reckon we can all get along OK. So if its alright with you we’d like to call a halt to all this fighting.

Attackus  Fine by me. I think the lads will be pleased to settle here for a while. Right lads?

Soldiers  Yes General!.

SHAKE HANDS AND MINGLE.
Scene 4 - Back In Rome

SOLDIERS READING LETTERS THEY HAVE WRITTEN HOME.

Claudius  Well what news from Britannia Minimus?
Minimus  I have here some letters written home from the soldiers. It seems all is well and Britain is secured.
Claudius  Let me read the letters.

Soldier 1  Dear Mummy,

The attack on Britain was successful and we have now started to build a town at a place called Colchester. We have taken this to be our capital city. The soldiers, as usual, have been building roads, bridges and helping to run the town.
I have married a lovely English girl called Edna. I am sorry mummy I know you wanted me to marry a nice Italian girl but I could be here for 25 years before I am given my pension.
Most of the Britons are OK but there are a few tribes in the North which are rather rough.
I’ll see you in about AD 68!
Lots of Love.
Septimus

Soldier 2  Dear Wife

Britain is an awful place. The people live in huts with no central heating and no toilets. The women are big and loud and are allowed to rule their tribes when the men die. They have some dreadful habits such as painting themselves and dying their hair. I don’t know what they use to dye their hair but it smells awful.
The weather is very changeable. In winter they have snow and rain for months and in the summer it rains as well. I wish I was back home with you in Rome as the wine here is pretty dreadful too. It is my turn for guard duty now so I must go.
Your Husband
Allius

Claudius  Seems like everything is going well. I may visit later this year.
Scene 5 - 17 Years Later

Attackus  I am just sending my annual report back to Rome the year is AD 60. Claudius is now dead and his step son Nero is Emperor. Seutonius Paulinus is governor of Britain and we have built several Roman towns at Verulamium, Calleva and Londinium. As leader of the army I organise building forts and roads so that we can squash any rebellions quickly.

BOUDICCA’S CAMP

Boudicca  You are a real wimp Prasutagus. I don’t know why I married you. You never stand up to these Romans why did you let them come in and take over. You are a spineless coward. If it was up to me I’d fight for what is ours. Are you listening to me husband?

1st Celt  Your majesty I think he is dead.

Boudicca  What do you mean dead!! Trust him to desert me when I needed him most. He never did have any bottle. Well take him away. I’m queen now so we will do things my way from now on. agreed?? OK so here is the plan.

HUDDLE TOGETHER AND WHISPER.

Soldier 3  General, General Boudicca is revolting!

Soldier 4  We know that, sit down and finish the game of cards.

Soldier 3  No, no you don’t understand she is leading the rebel alliance in an attack on the forces of the Emperor.

Soldier 4  You’ve been visiting the amphitheatre too much sit down.

Soldier 3  But she IS attacking.

Attackus  OK ! OK! You 4 go and sort this out she’s only a woman after all!

ATTACK ROMAN SOLDIERS AND WIN. SOLDIERS RETURN LOOKING BEDRAGGLED.

Attackus  What did Boudicca do to you chaps, have you stopped the revolt?

Soldier 4  No she won! She is the most frightening thing I’ve seen since Hannibal’s elephants! She is marching on Colchester, Verulamium and Londinium
burning all the Roman buildings down..

Soldier 3 I told you she was revolting.

Attackus Right lads time to shape up.

**BATTLE WITH CELTS AGAIN. ROMANS WIN.**

Boudicca I don’t believe it! You useless lot couldn’t win the lottery let alone a battle. I’m off. Anybody else want to join me?

Celt 1 What are you going to do Boud

Boudicca Poison myself of course, those Romans are not going to make a fool out of me!!

Celts Bye Boudicca!!

**Postscript**

Claudius I was remembered as a great Emperor and Rome ruled Britain for another 350 years. They never did rule Scotland to the North and eventually Hadrian built a wall to keep the Picts out and that is as far North as the Roman Empire went.