

## BFI announces major projects over five years to mark centenary of World War One



l-r: The Voyage Inheritance (BBC, 1979); A Farewell to Arms (1932); Paths of Glory (1958); All Quiet on the Western Front (1930); Journey's End (1930)

**London, 6 May 2014.** The BFI (British Film Institute) will mark the centenary of World War One with a wide-ranging series of programmes of key films, archive television dramas, re-releases and archival discoveries including a major three part project for 2014, 2016 and 2018, **The War That Changed Everything**. The BFI's landmark commemoration of the Great War includes some of the profoundest and most moving responses to the conflict, as successive generations have brought their own visions of war and its antecedents to large and small screens. As well as special events and screenings at BFI Southbank, the BFI is ensuring audiences across Britain can get involved via a dedicated collection of content available to stream on the BFI Player and UK-wide cinema releases of key titles.

**NB: A major BFI National Archive restoration of a pivotal, dramatic, British silent film will be revealed later this year for an Autumn 2014 theatrical release.**

### **Setting the scene for war: Edwardian Drama on the Small Screen**

The BFI looks at the backdrop to war and sets the scene for life in Britain during the pre-war period through an examination of small screen interpretations of works by key Edwardian playwrights. For audiences attuned to the world of contemporary television re-creations of the Edwardian past (*Downton Abbey*, *Mr Selfridge*, *The Village*) a programme of **Edwardian Drama on the Small Screen** will play at BFI Southbank during May 2014 offering a welcome and rare opportunity to see some of the best British television interpretations of works by playwrights which were widely performed in the years before World War One. The hugely influential “new drama” which began as early as the 1890s saw its finest flourishing with actor-writer-director Harley Granville-Barker whose greatest plays **Waste** (1977) and **The Voyage Inheritance** (BBC, 1979) both feature in the season. Master works by John Galsworthy, Oscar Wilde and JM Synge also feature.

**Programmed in association with Screen Plays: Theatre Plays on British Television, an AHRC-funded research project from the School of Media, Arts and Design, University of Westminster**

### **On the Eve of War: Around the World in 80 Films**

This investigation of the world before World War One will continue with a programme **On the Eve of War: Around the World in 80 Films** exploring the world on film captured prior to 1914, presented by Bryony Dixon, curator, silent film, BFI National Archive featuring a wonderful panoply of rare COLOUR footage from a dizzying variety of locations: London, New York, Shanghai, Berlin, Paris - as well as remoter regions; far-flung islands like the Solomon's of the Pacific, the camel routes of the Gobi desert in Mongolia, temple complexes in Rangoon- and more. These are films of an extraordinary rarity, featuring a number of titles that have been newly restored by the BFI National Archive.

Four programmes will be screening at BFI Southbank from the 5 June, This programme will also be available on BFI Player, the BFI's online video on demand service later in the year.

Restorations supported by The Eric Anker-Petersen Charity, The John S Cohen Foundation, The Headley Trust and The Radcliffe Trust

### **The War That Changed Everything**

This major cinema and online project will offer three programmes in 2014, 2016 and 2018. The first programme in June 2014 is **Before The War**, a programme of feature films and shorter films which explore the world before World War One, giving a deeper context to the conflict that would follow. New DCPs will be made of key titles of historical importance to enable the widest possible viewing, with many to be made available to audiences UK-wide through the BFI Player. Films made during the period will be screened alongside later visions of that historical moment, including titles such as Michael Haneke's **The White Ribbon** (2009) and **The Shooting Party** dir. Alan Bridges (1985).

In June 2016 **The War That Changed Everything - Part 2: The Experience of War** will focus on feature films and actuality footage which show the moving and often brutal realities of war on both sides, marking the centenary of the devastating Battle of the Somme. In 2018 **The War That Changed Everything – Part 3: After the War** will explore the cinema and actuality of the immediate post-war period and later film re-creations of this key historical moment.

**A Farewell to Arms (NEW RESTORATION) UK-Wide release 30 May 2014**  
**BFI Southbank and selected cinemas tbc**

Dir. Frank Borzage USA 1932, 89 mins, Cert PG. Starring Gary Cooper, Helen Hayes, Adolphe Menjou, Mary Philips

This new digital version of Frank Borzage's Oscar-winning dramatisation of Ernest Hemingway's novel has been restored by Lobster Films.

An impossibly handsome **Gary Cooper** stars as the debonair, somewhat cynical Lieutenant Frederic Henry, an American working in the ambulance brigade on the Italian Front during the War. Through a friend at the local hospital, Frederic meets Catherine Barkley (the petite, ethereal-looking **Helen Hayes**), an English nurse whose fiancé was killed at the Somme. He encounters her again on a double-date, and what initially looks like a flirtatious, casual encounter and a one-night stand (which leaves Catherine in tears), develops into much more.

Hemingway's celebrated novel, which established him as a major American writer, drew on his own experiences serving in Italy and some characters were based on real people. Remarkably frank – even for a pre-Code film – in its treatment of sex, **A Farewell to Arms** later fell foul of the Legion of Decency and the Production Code Administration who condemned its 'suggestive dialogue', 'lustful kissing', 'illicit sex' and 'lack of moral compensation'. This new restoration of the full-length version is based on an original nitrate print belonging to David O. Selznick who purchased remake rights to *A Farewell to Arms* in 1955.

[Press screening Tuesday 6 May, BFI, 21 Stephen St. W1, 6pm for 6.30; or screeners are available]

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**Paths of Glory (NEW PRINT), currently on extended run at BFI Southbank until 15 May and additionally in selected cinemas on nationwide release (Park Circus)**

Dir. Stanley Kubrick UK 1958, 87min. Starring Kirk Douglas, Adolphe Menjou, George MacReady

Adapting Humphrey Cobb's novel to the screen, director Stanley Kubrick and his collaborators Calder Willingham and Jim Thompson set out to make a devastating anti-war statement, and they succeeded above and beyond the call of duty. In the third year of World War I, the erudite but morally bankrupt French general Broulard (Adolphe Menjou) orders his troops to seize the heavily fortified "Ant Hill" from the Germans. General Mireau (George MacReady) knows that this action will be suicidal, but he will sacrifice his men to enhance his own reputation. Against his better judgment, Colonel Dax (Kirk Douglas) leads the charge, and the results are appalling. When, after witnessing the slaughter of their comrades, a handful of the French troops refuse to leave the trenches, Mireau very nearly orders the artillery to fire on his own men. Still smarting from the defeat, Mireau cannot admit to himself that the attack was a bad idea from the outset: he convinces himself that loss of Ant Hill was due to the cowardice of his men.

**Press contact: [press@parkcircus.com](mailto:press@parkcircus.com)**

## **A Night at the Cinema in 1914 - new archive compilation UK/US 1914, c. 85 min**

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne.

UK-wide release: 1 August 2014 (Extended run at BFI Southbank and selected cinemas tbc)

One hundred years on, this special compilation from the BFI National Archive recreates the glorious miscellany of comedies, dramas, travelogues and newsreels which would have constituted a typical night out in 1914, including a comic short about a face-pulling competition, a sensational episode of *The Perils of Pauline*, scenes of Allied troops celebrating Christmas at the Front, and an early sighting of one of cinema's greatest icons ...

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**Each year of the centenary of World War One we will be adding new content, often of exceptional rarity, to the BFI Player. These films tell the story of how British cinema helped inform, educate and entertain the public during the course of the conflict, through news, cartoons, information films, drama and comedy.**

## **2015**

### **100 Years Ago: 1915**

Films from 1915 will include *Troops in the Snow* in which members of the Public Schools' Battalion throw snowballs; *Clapton's Khaki Team*, a newsreel showing ten Clapton Orient players enlisting for the 'Footballer's Battalion' after playing their last match and *Pimple Has One*, in which the Britain's favourite film comedian Pimple finds he has to censor his own behaviour...

## **2016**

### **100 Years Ago: 1916**

See project details above. Films from 1916 will include the gorgeous *East is East*, a feature film in which East End sweethearts, Florence Turner and Henry Edwards fall in love in the hop fields of Kent, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, an adaptation of the classic novel and *Zeppelin Raid on Paris*, a newsreel showing shots of bomb damage in Paris after an air raid.

### **The War That Changed Everything - Part 2: The Experience of War**

See project details above. Indicative titles include *The Big Parade* (King Vidor, 1925), *Journey's End* (James Whale, 1930) and *Oh! What a Lovely War* (Richard Attenborough, 1969).

## **2017**

### **100 Years Ago: 1917**

See project details above. Films from 1917 will include *Scottish Women's Hospital*, providing glimpses of the work of the hospital at Villers Cotterets, France, including details of a shrapnel-removing operation; *Girl Gardeners at Work*, a newsreel showing the college at Glynde, where women grow food for the hospitals at Brighton and Eastbourne and *Abdication of the Czar*, a newsreel showing the arrival of the Czar on the eastern front following his abdication.

## 2018

### 100 Years Ago: 1918

See project details above. Films from 1918 will include *The Blunders of Mr Butterbun*, a comedy in which Mr Butterbun (Lupino Lane) presides over the appeals of a series of would-be WWI draft evaders; *Broken in the Wars*, a public information film about a loan scheme for discharged soldiers and *Old Mother Hubbard* in which the nursery rhyme is put to new use to encourage the nation to do its bit for the war effort.

### The War That Changed Everything - Part 3: After the War

See project details above. Indicative titles include *Dr Mabuse: The Gambler* (Fritz Lang, 1922) and *The Last Flight* (William Dieterle 1931).

All projects presented in association with the Imperial War Museum.



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### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

A range of images for promoting these films and events can be found at

[www.image.net](http://www.image.net) > BFI/BFI Southbank/ Southbank 2014 / June / WW1