

Press Release
22 January 2018

**14-18 NOW ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE CULTURAL PROGRAMME
FOR CULMINATION OF WW1 CENTENARY**



The Head and the Load by William Kentridge © Stella Oliver
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@1418NOW
#1418NOW

14-18 NOW, the UK's arts organisation set up to bring a creative response to the centenary of the First World War, has commissioned over 150 artists and organisations, working across all art forms, to take part in its closing programme from **March – November 2018**. **John Akomfrah, Danny Boyle, Peter Jackson, William Kentridge, Akram Khan, Anna Meredith, Jenny Sealey, Selina Thompson, Gillian Wearing** and **Rachel Whiteread** are among the artists and performers who will take part in 14-18 NOW's final season of events, it was announced today. As well as reaching across the whole of the UK from the Outer Hebrides to Cornwall and Derry/Londonderry to Ipswich, the programme will feature a number of international commissions, including works in New York, Berlin, Paris, Cape

Town, Adelaide, Trinidad, Athens and Shanghai.

Special themes of the 2018 season include: the centenary of the Representation of the People Act which gave women the right to vote; an exploration of the impact of the First World War beyond the UK including the role played by soldiers from Africa, India and the Caribbean; and the centenary of Armistice on 11 November 2018.

14-18 NOW has pioneered a new way of marking major national moments through the arts, commissioning artists to create works that respond to different aspects of the war. The programme has aimed in particular to bring the centenary of the war alive for young people by engaging them through contemporary culture. Over 30 million people have engaged with the programme since 2014.

Highlights of the 2018 season include:

- World premiere of a new 3D film by internationally acclaimed filmmaker **Peter Jackson** including never-before-seen archival footage of the First World War restored with finest digital technology
- *PROCESSIONS*, a mass participation artwork produced by **Artichoke**, invites women across the UK to mark the centenary of women gaining the vote, with commissions by over 100 women artists
- **William Kentridge** commission for Tate Modern's Turbine Hall explores the story of the African porters and carriers who served during the First World War
- A new work by **Rachel Whiteread** in Dalby Forest to mark the centenary of the Forestry Commission
- *Fly By Night*, a performance by **Duke Riley** celebrating the role of pigeons during the First World War as part of LIFT 2018
- A new multi-channel moving-image work by **John Akomfrah** about the millions of forgotten African servicemen who fought and died in WW1
- A major new work by composer **Heiner Goebbels** co-commissioned with Artangel premieres in Manchester
- Composer **Anna Meredith** creates a new work with 59 Productions for the BBC Proms and Edinburgh International Festival
- Unveiling of **Gillian Wearing's** statue of Millicent Fawcett – the first statue of a woman to be installed in Parliament Square

The 2018 season will culminate on Armistice Day on 11 November with a new work created by **Danny Boyle** which will invite people across the UK to mark the centenary. Details will be announced later in the year.

Film

14-18 NOW and Imperial War Museums, in association with the BBC, have commissioned *Lord of the Rings* director **Peter Jackson** to create a new film about the First World War. The film is being made exclusively with original, archive footage from the Imperial War Museums' film archive and audio from the BBC archives. Working with WingNut Films, the footage has been hand-colourised and restored using the finest digital techniques, and will premiere as part of the BFI London Film Festival in 2018 and air on BBC One. An extensive learning programme will see the film shown in secondary schools across the UK.

Innovative artist group **Blast Theory** is creating *To Fight* (September 2018), a live interactive film exploring why some of us go to war and others choose not to. *To Fight* will be screened in cinemas and online, and invites viewers to interact with, and react to, the action while they watch.

14-18 NOW invites three emerging women artists to consider democracy in our world today, to coincide with the centenary of the Representation of the People Act in a series entitled **Represent**,

supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. Artist and film-maker **Rachel Maclean** reflects on a century of female enfranchisement with a new feature film, *Make Me Up*; part horror movie, part comedy it is inspired by suffragette protest, including Mary Richardson's famous 1914 attack on Velázquez's painting *The Rokeby Venus*, produced with NVA and Hopscotch Films (Summer UK Tour, BBC Broadcast 2018).

Premiered during the first season of 14-18 NOW in 2014, Fuel presents **Sound&Fury**'s innovative and immersive installation, *Charlie Ward*, which creates the experience of being a wounded soldier in a ward where silent films starring Charlie Chaplin are projected onto the ceiling (autumn 2018).

Visual Arts

Artichoke and 14-18 NOW invite women and girls across the UK to come together on the streets of Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London on 10 June 2018 for **PROCESSIONS**, a mass participation artwork to mark the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, which gave the first British women the right to vote. One hundred women artists are being commissioned to work with communities across the UK to create 100 centenary banners for **PROCESSIONS**, echoing the practices of the women's suffrage campaign.

Also marking the centenary of the Representation of the People Act is a new statue by Turner Prize-winning artist **Gillian Wearing** of leading Suffragist campaigner **Millicent Fawcett**, which will be unveiled in Parliament Square in late spring 2018. This monument will be the first statue of a woman in Parliament Square, and the first to be created by a woman. Its unveiling will be a major event in the Mayor of London's #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign, which celebrates the role of women in the capital. Alongside Fawcett, the names and portraits of 58 men and women who campaigned for women's suffrage are inscribed on the plinth. The statue has been commissioned by the Mayor of London with 14-18 NOW, Firstsite and Iniva to commemorate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, through the Government's national centenary fund.

The Head and the Load by **William Kentridge** will receive its world premiere at Tate Modern's Turbine Hall (11–15 July 2018). Echoing a Ghanaian proverb, 'the head and the load are the troubles of the neck', this large-scale new performance will tell the story of the millions of African porters and carriers who served British, French and German forces during the First World War. The work, which is co-commissioned with Park Avenue Armory, will feature an original score by Philip Miller and an international cast of musicians, singers, dancers and performers.

Rachel Whiteread will create a new work to mark the centenary of the Forestry Commission, an organisation which was established to address the depletion of timber stocks caused by the First World War. *Nissen Hut* is part of Whiteread's *Shy Sculpture* series and is the cast of the inside of a local Nissen hut – the familiar pre-fab military structure invented during the First World War – which will stand on the site of a prisoner of war camp in Yorkshire's Dalby Forest (autumn 2018).

African Soldier is a new multi-screen installation by **John Akomfrah** that remembers the African men and women who participated in the First World War. Combining archive and newly created film, the work is presented for the first time at IWM London (21 September 2018 – 31 March 2019) before being shown at the New Art Exchange, Nottingham (September – November 2019). The work is co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW, New Art Exchange Nottingham and Smoking Dogs Films.

Katrina Palmer's new work *The Coffin Jump* (June 2018) highlights women's contribution to the First World War with specific reference to the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY). Presented by Yorkshire Sculpture Park, the work features a narrative distributed across the landscape through sculpture, text and sound, joined intermittently by a live horse jump.

Not Yet At Ease is a new commission by Delhi-based **Raqs Media Collective** at Firstsite in Colchester (September 2018 – January 2019). The exhibition explores the long and persisting shadow of the First World War with immersive video and sound fragments, which invoke letters and images found in the

wake of the Indian soldiers who were among the first to be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

This summer, 14-18 NOW and Public Art Fund will unveil **Dazzle Ship New York**. The Dazzle Ship series was initiated in 2014 by 14-18 NOW and Liverpool Biennial, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, to pay homage to the camouflage ships of the First World War. This will be the first Dazzle Ship commission outside the UK, and follows commissions in Liverpool, Edinburgh and London.

Artist **Christine Borland** presents a new work at Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum following a year-long research residency in Glasgow Museums, made possible with Art Fund support, in which she focused on a range of objects in the museum's collection that reveal forgotten stories from the First World War. The artwork, *I Say Nothing* (from 12 October 2018), will explore the potential for a simple object to embody meaning far beyond its humble form or material.

Bobby Baker celebrates the women who carry on running houses, bringing up children, and keeping families together during wartime in *Great & Tiny War* (September – November 2018). The multimedia installation transforms a house in Newcastle and explores the impact of conflict on the mental health of families through the generations.

Artist **Suzanne Lacy** will work with residents and communities from both sides of the Irish border on a shared artistic project exploring visible and invisible borders. Co-commissioned by Belfast International Arts Festival, *Across and In-between* will premiere in Belfast in October 2018.

Phil Collins' film *Ceremony*, shot while creating a live event for Manchester International Festival in 2017, honours German political theorist and Manchester resident Friedrich Engels, whose work with Karl Marx changed the course of history by inspiring the Russian Revolution during the final phase of the First World War. Co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW, MIF and HOME, the work will premiere at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art as part of the Great Exhibition of the North (22 June – 30 September 2018), before being shown at HOME in Manchester (7 July – 19 August 2018), and at MAC Belfast (10 August – 28 October 2018).

Music

Five Telegrams is a collaboration between **Anna Meredith**, one of the country's most exciting young composer-musicians, and **59 Productions**, the pioneering video design company whose work includes the London 2012 Opening Ceremony and the Tony Award-winning *War Horse*. *Five Telegrams* will be presented at the BBC Proms and as the Standard Life Opening Event at the Edinburgh International Festival. The work is a co-commission with these two major cultural organisations and marks the first time they have collaborated in this way.

Everything that happened and would happen is a new Artangel commission by composer **Heiner Goebbels** that explores the world since the outbreak of the First World War in a part-performance, part-construction site re-enactment of history. The work has been co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW, Artangel, Park Avenue Armory and Ruhrtriennale. The world premiere will be co-presented at Mayfield Depot, Manchester, with Manchester International Festival as a Trailblazer for The Factory (9 – 21 October 2018).

US jazz musician and composer **Jason Moran** and artist **John Akomfrah** present *James Reese Europe and the Absence of Ruin* (on tour in October 2018). The multi-dimensional performance, co-commissioned with Serious and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Washington DC, reflects on the history and legacy of James Reese Europe. Europe was the band leader for the 369th Infantry Regiment, which was the first African American fighting unit to join the Allied forces, and were as well-known for their music as their toughness in combat.

14-18 NOW and An Lanntair have commissioned two new suites of Gaelic music to mark the

centenary of the tragedy of HMY Iolaire, which saw 205 servicemen returning to the Isle of Lewis perish as their ship sank in the early hours of New Year's Day 1919. *Sàl (Saltwater)* by Lewis-born piper and composer Iain Morrison is presented with imagery by Scottish artists Dalziel + Scullion (27 October 2018), and *An Treas Suaile (The Third Wave)* is by composers Julie Fowlis and Duncan Chisholm (9 & 10 November 2018).

Sir James MacMillan has composed a major new oratorio, written to commemorate the Armistice. Scored for brass band, strings and chorus, *All the Hills and Vales Along* uses five poems by Aberdeen-born war poet Charles Hamilton Sorley, and will feature internationally acclaimed British tenor **Ian Bostridge** as soloist. Eamonn Dougan will conduct the world premiere of the chamber version at the Cumnock Tryst Festival (6 October 2018), before Gianandrea Noseda conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in the premiere of the orchestral version at London's Barbican Centre (4 November 2018).

Composer **Magnus Lindberg** marks the centenary of Armistice with a major new work using the text of Edith Södergran's poem *Triumph to Exist*. The London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir will premiere Lindberg's new setting of the poem at the Royal Festival Hall on 10 November 2018 alongside three other works with powerful wartime resonance: Debussy's *Berceuse héroïque*; *Requiem Canticles*, Stravinsky's adaptation of the Catholic requiem mass; and *The Eternal Gospel*, Janáček's 1914 oratorio.

George Benjamin will conduct a series of new music commissions by a range of international composers performed by London Sinfonietta. The new works will complement the major First and Second World War commemorative work by Olivier Messiaen *Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum*.

Theatre & Performance

Alice Oswald's powerful poem *Memorial* is brought to London's Barbican Centre by Australia's acclaimed Brink Productions (27–30 September 2018). *Memorial* is inspired by *The Iliad*, and Oswald's poem focuses on the fates of the soldiers named within it. This new stage work is directed by Chris Drummond, with a soundtrack from Olivier Award-winning composer **Jocelyn Pook** and movement directed by Circa's Yaron Lifschitz. Australian actress **Helen Morse** will be joined on stage by a choral army of 215 people – one for every soldier in Oswald's poem – all drawn from local community choirs.

SS Mendi: Dancing the Death Drill tells the tragic story of the ship that set sail from Cape Town to take hundreds of South African volunteers to join the Allied forces fighting in France. SS Mendi collided with a cargo ship off the coast of the Isle of Wight on 21 February 1917, with 646 men dying. Based on Fred Khumalo's historical novel and performed by South African theatre company **Isango Ensemble** the play focuses on the story of passenger Pitso Motaung, who sailed aboard the Mendi but lived to tell the tale (Nuffield Southampton Theatres, 29 June – 14 July 2018).

Fly By Night by **Duke Riley** is a performance at dusk in which he conducts a large flock of pigeons, each carrying a tiny LED light, in a spectacle of flight. The work celebrates the role of pigeons as message-carriers in the First World War, and will be presented as part of LIFT 2018. *Fly By Night* was originally commissioned by Creative Time.

This Is Not for You is a new performance piece from **Graeae**, written by Mike Kenny and directed by Jenny Sealey which pays tribute to Britain's wounded war veterans. The large-scale outdoor work will be performed by **Blesma, The Limbless Veterans**, who have trained with Graeae in aerial performance especially for the production, alongside a cast of professional performers and a choir of local people. Performed as part of Greenwich & Docklands International Festival in July and Stockton International Riverside Festival in August 2018.

Nawr Yr Arwr | Now The Hero (25–29 September 2018 as part of Swansea International Festival) is an immersive theatrical experience from Welsh interdisciplinary artist **Marc Rees** that will take visitors

on an extraordinary journey through three intertwining narratives of war via a military storming, a raucous wedding party, a protest dance and an ancient wake. The work is inspired by the little-known British Empire Panels painted by Frank Brangwyn that were originally commissioned by the House of Lords to commemorate the First World War, and includes a new requiem composed by double Oscar-nominee **Jóhann Jóhannsson**.

Landscape theatre company **WildWorks** returns to Cornwall's Lost Gardens of Heligan with their second site-specific work as part of 14-18 NOW. **100: UnEarth** (3 - 22 July 2018) takes its inspiration from the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice to explore the devastating aftermath of conflict, telling the homecoming stories of all those who fight and live through it. The production will feature artists, performers, musicians, veterans and members of the local community among a cast of hundreds.

Also part of the **Represent** series of commissions are new works by **Selina Thompson** and **Debris Stevenson**. Artist and performer **Selina Thompson's** *Sortition*, presented at Bristol's Arncliffe, focuses on young Britons who now have the right to vote but, for whatever reason, choose not to use it. Young poet and performer **Debris Stevenson** presents a new work at London's Royal Court Theatre mixing text, music, movement, grime and poetry.

Clarion Call by **Byron J. Scullin and Supple Fox** is a large-scale outdoor sonic artwork, made up of voices of women and girls, that will ring out each day from the Ipswich Waterfront during SPILL Festival of Performance (October – November 2018).

The 306: Dusk is the concluding part of Oliver Emanuel and Gareth Williams' powerful and profound First World War trilogy. Directed by Wils Wilson, it follows the heart-breaking true story of the 306 men executed for cowardice and desertion during the conflict and the devastating consequences for those they left behind. **The 306: Dusk** is a collaboration between the **National Theatre of Scotland, Perth Theatre** and 14-18 NOW and will open in the newly restored and redeveloped Perth Theatre (12–27 October 2018).

Literature and Spoken Word

Traces of the Great War is an anthology of new illustrated stories from over 20 international comic book artists, graphic novelists and writers, including **Juan Díaz Canales, Kris Maël, Sean Phillips, Ian Rankin, Dave McKean** and **Simon Armitage**, that explores the conflict's continued relevance and resonance. The book, a collaboration between the Lakes International Comic Art Festival (UK) and On a Marché sur la Bulle (France), will be launched in October 2018.

Unwritten Poems brings together poets of the Caribbean diaspora to explore new perspectives on the Caribbean experience during the First World War, looking at the unheard stories and experiences of the soldiers who fought a century ago. Presented as part of BBC's *Contains Strong Language* (autumn 2018).

The Art of Border Living (autumn 2018) is a collaboration with the Verbal Arts Centre (Derry/Londonderry), the Foghorn Company, BBC Radio Ulster and Poetry Ireland to commission a diverse range of Irish and international writers to reflect on the changing idea of borders across 100 years.

Dance

XENOS will see **Akram Khan** give his final ever solo performances in a full-length work that blends Indian classical dance with contemporary choreography in powerful and pioneering synergy. **XENOS**, which means 'stranger' or 'foreigner,' tells the tale of an Indian colonial soldier in the First World War, expressing both the beauty and horror of the human condition. It will receive its UK premiere at Sadler's Wells (29 May – 9 June 2018), co-producers of the work, followed by performances as part of Edinburgh International Festival (August 2018) where it will be accompanied by a participatory dance project linking Edinburgh, Paris and Berlin.

Shobana Jeyasingh's new work *Contagion* (opening at the Gymnasium Gallery, Berwick-upon-Tweed on 15 and 16 September 2018) is inspired by the nature and rapid spread of viruses, both in the context of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic and through the broader idea of war as a global contagion. The work of Austrian artist Egon Schiele, who was a victim of the pandemic, is a powerful footnote to the choreography. The work is set to an atmospheric soundscape and presented in a promenade style with digital visuals in unusual venues, many with connections to the First World War.

ZooNation presents the world premiere of *Sylvia*, which celebrates the life of Sylvia Pankhurst to mark a century of Votes for Women. Written by Kate Prince and Priya Parmar, with original music by Josh Cohen and DJ Walde, *Sylvia* is a modern musical fusing dance, hip hop, soul and funk opening at The Old Vic (1–22 September 2018). An Old Vic, Sadler's Wells and ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company production, co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW.

These Rooms by **ANU and CoisCéim Dance Theatre** is an immersive blend of theatre, dance and visual art, that tells two stories of Dublin's North King Street massacre in April 1916: those of the civilians who were victims of and witness to the massacre, and those of the men of the South Staffordshire Regiment who committed the act. The work is performed at Shoreditch Town Hall as part of LIFT 2018.

UK Tour of the Poppies

2018 is the final year of the UK-wide tour of the iconic poppy sculptures *Weeping Window* and *Wave* from the installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* – poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper – which have so far been seen by over 3.5 million people. In 2018, the sculptures will be presented at Hereford Cathedral, Fort Nelson in Portsmouth, Carlisle Castle, Middleport Pottery in Stoke-on-Trent, IWM North and IWM London. At the end of the tour they will become part of the Imperial War Museums' collection.

14-18 NOW is funded by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, and by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with additional support from corporates, trusts and foundations, and individuals. 14-18 NOW is an independent programme hosted within Imperial War Museums.

14-18 NOW is proud to acknowledge its partnership with the BBC on projects in the 2018 season.

For details of the full programme please see

www.1418now.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

14-18 NOW

14-18 NOW is a programme of extraordinary arts experiences connecting people with the First World War, as part of the UK's official centenary commemorations. It commissions new work by leading contemporary artists across all art forms; the programme has included over 200 artists from 35 countries, with commissions taking place in 160 locations across the UK. Over 30 million people have experienced a project so far, including 7.5 million children and young people. 16.7million people took part in LIGHTS OUT in 2014, and 63% of the population were aware of Jeremy Deller's 2016 work *'We're here because we're here'*. The UK tour of the iconic poppy sculptures by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper have been seen by over 3.5 million people to date. 14-18 NOW has won many awards for its work, including the National Lottery Heritage Award 2017, a Museums Heritage Award and the Chairman's Award at The Drum Social Buzz Awards 2016. It is supported by

the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and by additional fundraising.

DCMS

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) helps to drive growth, enrich lives and promote Britain abroad. We protect and promote our cultural and artistic heritage and help businesses and communities to grow by investing in innovation and highlighting Britain as a fantastic place to visit. We help to give the UK a unique advantage on the global stage, striving for economic success.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

Since 2010, HLF has invested more than £93million to more than 1,850 First World War centenary projects including: The Imperial War Museum's First World War Galleries; HMS Caroline in Belfast; London Transport Museum's B-type Battle Bus; and the Yorkshire Film Archive. We have also invested in over 1,400 community projects exploring the impact of the conflict through our *First World War: then and now* programme.

www.hlf.org.uk @heritagelottery #UnderstandingWW1

Arts Council England

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2 million visitors each year are IWM London, IWM's flagship branch that transformed in 2014 with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; IWM North, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; IWM Duxford, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; Churchill War Rooms, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser HMS *Belfast*.

First World War Centenary Partnership

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, five-year programme of cultural activities across the world. IWM will be announcing its programme to mark the anniversary later this year. For more information visit www.1914.org

UK Tour of the Poppies

The two poppy sculptures, *Weeping Window* and *Wave* by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper

which together have over 10,000 poppies, have been saved for the nation by the Backstage Trust and the Clore Duffield Foundation, and gifted to 14-18 NOW and Imperial War Museums. Financial support for the presentations has been received from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Heritage Lottery Fund. DAF Trucks are the transport sponsor for the UK presentations, and 14-18 NOW are delighted to partner with DAF on making this historic project a reality. *Wave* and *Weeping Window* are from the installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* – poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper – by Paul Cummins Ceramics Limited in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces.