



**TURNER  
SIMS** Southampton

# GREAT WAR: UNKNOWN WAR SILENT FILM FORTNIGHT

FEBRUARY 2018

Turner Sims in partnership with the University of Southampton's Film and Music departments presents a three-part series focusing on the film heritage of the First World War. With introductions to each film, expert insights and guests, including two of the country's leading silent film score performers, the series of screenings and talks will show the role cinema played in memorialising the war after the armistice, and reflect on cinema's continued importance to our present day understanding of the conflict.

Silent Film Fortnight is part of the University of Southampton's Great War: Unknown War series of events marking the lead-up to the anniversary of World War I's ending in November 2018. The Fortnight is produced by Turner Sims in partnership with the University's Film and Music departments, and Faculty of Health Sciences, the British Film Institute, the Gateways to the First World War centre (funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council), City Eye, and the Cavell Nurses' Trust.



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[turnersims.co.uk](http://turnersims.co.uk)



## THE GUNS OF LOOS (1928)

Sun 11 Feb 3pm

*The Guns of Loos* marked a bold new approach to depicting the war on screen. Previous British war films concentrated on highly detailed, documentary-style reconstructions of particular battles, with little attempt at drama or character.

For this film, the striking recreations of the conflict at Loos provide the backdrop to an intense psychological drama about a factory owner whose dictatorial manner and apparent nerves of steel quickly unravel when faced with the horrors of war. Combining strong performances with outstanding cinematography, the film received rave reviews on its release in 1928, with many critics declaring it the best war film ever made. Pianist **Stephen Horne** (with percussionist **Martin Pyne**) performs his specially commissioned score, first heard in 2015 to mark the anniversary of the battle.

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Standard £12  
Students and under 16s £6

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Combined ticket with *1918, At Home, At War*:  
Standard £20  
Students and under 16s £10

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## DAWN (1928)

Tue 13 Feb 7.30pm

One of the greatest British martyrs of World War I, Edith Cavell (1865-1915) was a distinguished nurse who moved to Brussels in 1907 to help establish an independent medical institution outside the control of the established churches. After war was declared in 1914 she became actively involved in helping to smuggle British fugitives out of Belgium, for which she was eventually caught, tried and sentenced to death. In the first of two adaptations of the Cavell story director Herbert Wilcox opted to stage the events primarily in the form of an atmospherically-shot suspense thriller, with Sybil Thorndike in the title role, one of her most memorable film appearances.

Composer and pianist **Andrew Fisher** leads an ensemble in an improvised performance to accompany the film.

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FREE: ticket required

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## 1918, AT HOME, AT WAR

Thu 22 Feb 7.30pm

**Neil Brand**, writer, composer, broadcaster (BBC4's *Sound of Cinema* and *Sound of Song*) and World War I historian, uses the films, music and writings of the time to take his audience deeply into the experience of the serving soldier and his family at home 100 years ago. Battles, factory work, concert parties, cinema-going, the songs, laughter, highs and tragic lows of ordinary people spring to life through film, music and readings as Neil presents his unique vision of the century-old war and accompanies the films on the piano in his signature style.

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Standard £15  
Students and under 16s £8

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Combined ticket with *The Guns of Loos*:  
Standard £20  
Students and under 16s £10

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