



National World War I Museum

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National World War I Museum Announces Fall Programs

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial is pleased to offer a variety of free programs this fall which explore various aspects of the Great War. Programs will feature nationally-known speakers, World War I movies starring Gary Cooper and musical performances.

For more information on any of these free programs, please visit www.theworldwar.org or call 816-784-1918.

Program Details

Saturday, September 19, 1 p.m.

Free Movie: *Sergeant York*

“The Great War, the Great Movies” Film Series: Gary Cooper Goes to War. *Sergeant York* (1941) features Cooper as the pacifist-turned-patriot Alvin York who received the Medal of Honor for his battlefield exploits; also stars Walter Brennan, himself a veteran of World War I. Cooper earned his first Oscar[®] for Best Actor in this title role. Introduced by Eli Paul, Vice President of Museum Programs. First in a series of four films co-sponsored by the National Archives at Kansas City. (134 minutes). This event is free and will be held in the Museum’s J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Sunday, September 27, 1 p.m.

Special presentation by a noted film historian

David Shepard, one of the world’s foremost film preservationists, will screen clips from rarely seen vintage films of World War I and discuss his fascinating role in restoring and distributing many essential film works. Introduced by Dr. John Tibbetts, Department of

Theatre and Film, University of Kansas. This event is free and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Saturday, October 3, 1 p.m.

Free Movie: *They Came to Cordura*

"The Great War, the Great Movies" Film Series: Gary Cooper Goes to War. *They Came to Cordura* (1959) finds Cooper as U.S. Army officer Tom Thorn during the 1916 American expedition in Mexico to capture Pancho Villa. After a military engagement he recommends four soldiers for the Medal of Honor, but during their slow, difficult journey to Cordura, Thorn reevaluates the heroes and himself. Also starring Rita Hayworth, Van Heflin, and Tab Hunter. Co-sponsored by the National Archives at Kansas City. (123 minutes) This event is free and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Saturday, October 3, 4 p.m.

Free Performance: United States Air Force Band of Mid-America's Hot Brass

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a free performance by the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America's Hot Brass. During the concert, you will enjoy jazz, funk, blues, soul, zydeco, swing and country, as well as the latest pop hits. The free performance will take place on the Museum's Southeast Lawn.

Saturday, October 17, 1 p.m.

Free Movie: *The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell*

"The Great War, the Great Movies" Film Series: Gary Cooper Goes to War. *The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell* (1955). In another classic portrayal of a real person from history, Cooper stars as Colonel Billy Mitchell, U.S. Army, punished for disobeying orders while proving the strategic importance of military aircraft. Also starring Rod Steiger; directed by Otto Preminger; the film debut for TV stars Elizabeth Montgomery and Jack Lord. Co-sponsored by the National Archives at Kansas City. (100 minutes). This event is free and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Saturday, November 7, 1 p.m.

Special presentation, film documentary – *Accidental Army: The Amazing True Story of the Czechoslovak Legion*.

From the battlefields of the Eastern Front to the far reaches of Siberia, caught up in the Russian Revolution, reaching Vladivostok on the Pacific coast, the Czech Legion fought its way home, halfway around the world. Introduced by Bruce Bendinger, executive creative director for the Czech Legion Project. (60 minutes). This event is free and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Wednesday, November 11, 10 a.m.

Veterans Day Ceremony

Veterans Day will be commemorated at this special ceremony. The event includes performances by the American Legion Band and speeches to honor the significance of this important day. The ceremony concludes at 11 a.m. – a symbolic time on this special day – with the laying of a wreath. This free event takes place indoors in the J.C. Nichols Auditorium.

Wednesday, November 11, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Free Admission to the National World War I Museum

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial will be free for all visitors on Veterans Day, thanks to a gift from TriWest Healthcare Alliance. Guests who visit the Liberty Memorial's Tower will be charged regular admission.

Wednesday, November 11, 1 p.m.

Free Movie: *Gary Cooper: American Life, American Legend*

"The Great War, the Great Movies" Film Series: Gary Cooper Goes to War. *Gary Cooper: American Life, American Legend* (1989). Documentary on the life and career of the Hollywood icon; narrated by Clint Eastwood. Included are rare newsreels, home movie footage, and film clips from his Oscar[®]-winning performances in *High Noon* and *Sergeant York*. Introduced by Maria Cooper Janis, Cooper's daughter and the Museum's special guest for Veterans Day. Co-sponsored by the National Archives at Kansas City. (47 minutes). This event is free and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Thursday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.

Free Event: Frédéric Chopin—A Voyage with Byron Janis

Internationally renowned American pianist Byron Janis will conduct a talk and demonstration on the life and works of Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849). A legendary interpreter of the celebrated composer, Mr. Janis will enthrall audience members with his knowledge and musical illustrations from the keyboard. Co-presented by the Harriman-Jewell Series. This event is free and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Saturday, November 14, 11 a.m.

"Liberty for All" Lecture Series and Book Launch

Dr. Jay Winter, Yale University, editor of and contributor to "The Legacy of the Great War: Ninety Years On," will discuss this new co-publication of the University of Missouri Press and the National World War I Museum. This ground-breaking book includes contributions by renowned WWI historians Sir John Keegan, Hew Strachan, Margaret MacMillan and Niall Ferguson. Based on a series of scholars forums presented in 2007-08 by the Kansas City Public Library, Truman Presidential Museum, and the National World War I Museum. This free event is co-sponsored by the Kansas City Public Library and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Saturday, November 28, 1 p.m.

Free Special Holiday Concert: Michael Lasser and Company: Music of World War I

Michael Lasser, along with performers Cindy Miller and Alan Jones, will present a lively concert of popular songs from World War I. Featuring patriotic, sentimental, and martial music of the period. Lasser, a Peabody Award-winning lecturer on America's musical tradition and host of Fascinating Rhythm on National Public Radio, will amuse and inspire during this afternoon of piano-accompanied selections. This event is free and will be held in the Museum's J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Saturday, December 26, 1 p.m.

Free Movie: *Joyeux Noel*

Annual holiday tradition, “The Great War, the Great Movies” Special Film Presentation. A visitor favorite, *Joyeux Noel* (2005) dramatizes the true story of the spontaneous 1914 Christmas Truce along the war-torn Western Front. Stars Diane Kruger (Troy and National Treasure), Benno Fermann (Speed Racer), and Gary Lewis (The Gangs of New York). (PG-13 rated; subtitles; 116 minutes). This event is free and will be held in the Museum’s J. C. Nichols Auditorium.

Ongoing Special Exhibits

Snoopy as the World War I Flying Ace

On Exhibit through November 29, 2009

Snoopy as the World War I Flying Ace, presents Charles M. Schulz’s lovable beagle, Snoopy, as his alter ego, the Flying Ace. The exhibit showcases 42 of Snoopy’s most exciting adventures in his transformed doghouse. Memorable for both children and adults, the exhibit expands beyond a pop culture icon to include vintage objects related to World War I aviation. These include a Prussian mounted officer’s tunic like the one worn by the real Red Baron, a German airplane fabric section from a Fokker D7 rudder, airman insignia, flying goggles and a British Lewis .303 caliber aircraft machine gun produced for the French. This special exhibition is organized by the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center and toured by ExhibitUSA.

Gary Cooper’s Academy Award for “Sergeant York”

On Exhibit through November 29, 2009

Gary Cooper was the only person that Alvin York trusted to portray his story from the Great War. York insisted that if Cooper was not part of the movie he would not authorize the film. Cooper’s 1941 portrayal of the World War I hero is considered one of his finest – and for his exceptional work he was awarded his first Academy Award® for Best Actor. Maria Cooper Janis, the daughter of Gary Cooper, loaned the National World War I Museum her father’s Oscar for the special exhibit.

The First World War in Color: International Treasures from the National World War I Museum

On Exhibit through September 1, 2010

The First World War in Color: International Treasures from the National World War I Museum offers vivid insight into the Great War by presenting newly acquired historical objects from countries around the world. Black and white photography which captured the grey images of the Great War failed to show the flashes of color seen by the soldier. *The First World War in Color* includes one-of-a-kind uniforms, helmets, books, textiles, medals and unique personal items from the Great War. Other extraordinary artifacts include original paintings, vivid posters, color photographs, postcards and documents.

These exhibitions are supported by Buffalo Funds and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum is closed Mondays, except for Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Museum is also closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Last tickets for the Liberty Memorial Tower are sold at 4:15 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on the day of your visit. The Liberty Memorial is operated in agreement with the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. For more information call 816-784-1918 or visit www.theworldwar.org.

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