



**Tuesday 18 March 2014**

## **IWM announce judging panel and prizes for 2014's Short Film Festival**

The IWM Short Film Festival is a showcase of imaginative, edgy and challenging films inspired by IWM collections and the causes, course and consequences of conflict. Festival submissions are open to all, providing a chance to reinterpret and experiment with IWM's unique and renowned film archive. This year's festival focuses on short films in the categories of Best Documentary and Best Creative Response. There will also be an award voted for by audiences and a special commendation given to the film that best responds to the First World War.

The judging panel for The IWM Short Film Festival includes experts from different creative disciplines. Journalist, author and playwright Bonnie Greer and film producer Richard Melman from Spring Studios will judge each category alongside IWM's Short Film Festival Director Matt Lee and Founding Director Toby Haggith. Prizes include £10,000 worth of production time at Prime Focus and a paid twelve month internship with October Films.

Matt Lee, IWM Short Film Festival Director says "IWM's Short Film Festival is one of the stand-out events in our calendar. I'm really looking forward seeing a diverse and imaginative set of short films across both categories. We are delighted to offer a commendation for films that respond to the subject of the First World War in this, the centenary year."

IWM Short Film Festival Judge Bonnie Greer comments, "I'm delighted to be a member of IWM's judging panel. IWM's Short Film Festival is such an exciting, creative opportunity for film makers to reinterpret existing material and confront subjects including conflict and peace. I'm really looking forward to the new work that's going to emerge."

Closing date for entries is Thursday 31 July 2014. Short listing will take place until the 15 September. All shortlisted films will be screened at IWM London between 23 October and 10 November and winners and runners up will also be screened at IWM North in December. Budding film makers can attend a Documentary Master Class at IWM North on 15 May where experienced film and television producers will give advice on the production of documentaries.

For more information about IWM's Short Film Festival and requirements for submissions:  
[www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival](http://www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival)

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## Notes to Editors

### IWM Short Film Festival Facts

IWM's Film Festival began in 2001 as a student film festival with an emphasis on discovering, sharing and reinterpreting the museum's extensive film archive. Following continued development and the introduction of submissions from amateur film makers in 2007, the last annual IWM Film Festival was held in 2011 before the museum underwent large redevelopment. In 2014 the festival will return to IWM London for a season of screenings and events.

- IWM is now accepting submissions. For more information on formats and contacts visit [www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival](http://www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival) The submission closing date is 31 July 2014.
- Short listing for the festival will be completed by 15 September and screenings will take place from 23 October – 10 November 2014 at IWM London
- There will be a press screening of all shortlisted films on 22 October 2014
- There will be screenings of the finalist's films at IWM North in December
- The award ceremony will take place at IWM London on 1 December 2014
- The film must be inspired by IWM's subject matter and/or collections
- Films should be no longer than 30 minutes in length
- Submissions are accepted from all filmmakers. IWM encourages submissions from student and amateur filmmakers
- Films should be in English or provided with English subtitles
- Films which have previously been submitted to the IWM Short Film Festival will not be considered for re-submission

### 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 attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, is transforming with new First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with large object displays which will open on 19 July 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War. Our other branches are [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

**2014 - 2018** marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of Street To Trench at IWM North on 5 April, the launch of [livesofthefirstworldwar.org](http://livesofthefirstworldwar.org) in May and brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London on 19 July 2014. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

