



29 July 2013

IWM London partially re-opens

Following a temporary closure to begin transformation works and build new First World War Galleries, IWM London has partially re-opened with a major new family exhibition ***Horrible Histories®: Spies***, the new art exhibition ***Architecture of War*** and ***IWM Contemporary***, a new programme showcasing significant works by leading artists in response to war and conflict.

Our free permanent galleries and exhibitions have also reopened. Visitors can explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in ***A Family in Wartime***, delve further into the world of espionage in ***Secret War*** and visit our award-winning ***Holocaust Exhibition***; discover stories of bravery in ***The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes***; and view work by some of Britain's most significant 20th Century artists in our ***People's War: Second World War Portraits***.

While the museum is partially open (until summer 2014) we will continue to transform IWM London behind the scenes.

During this time visitors will enter IWM London through the side entrance, the atrium and large objects will be covered from view and there may be times of disruption as the works continue.

IWM London will re-open fully in summer 2014 with new First World War Galleries to mark the start of the Centenary, a new reconfigured atrium with large object displays, as well as our new shops and park-side café.

Visitors to ***Horrible Histories®: Spies*** (until 4 Jan 2015) will be immersed into the world of Second World War spy-craft encountering everything from ***Cracking Codes*** and ***Great Gadgets*** through to ***Savage Sabotage*** and ***Clever Camouflage*** as well as objects from IWM's unique Second World War collections. Families can discover techniques used by the most cunning spies, including how to make invisible ink as well as setting out on their own mission with an interactive 'stamper trail'. A series of family friendly, spy-themed events will run throughout the school holidays (for more information see the [press release](#))

Bringing together highlights from IWM's art collection, ***Architecture of War*** presents artists' responses to the impact of warfare on our surrounding landscapes and environments. Spanning almost a century of British art, this new exhibition divided into four themes, construction, destruction, city life and interiors explores the different ways artists have captured the impact of conflict on the places people inhabit and the machines people build. For more information see the [press release](#).

IWM Contemporary, our new arts programme of exhibitions and events, launches with ***Omer Fast*** and his film ***5000 Feet is the Best*** (until 29 September 2013). In this 30-minute film based on a series of interviews with a former drone operator, artist Omer Fast explores how the use of drones in Afghanistan and Pakistan is rapidly changing the politics, ethics and personal experience of contemporary conflict. The film will be first work shown in our brand new art gallery dedicated to the IWM Contemporary programme. For more information see the [press release](#).

For further press information and images please contact:

- Bryony Phillips on bphillips@iwm.org.uk / 020 7416 5316
- For *Horrible Histories*®: *Spies* contact Lynsey Martenstyn / lmartenstyn@iwm.org.uk / 020 7416 5390
- For IWM Contemporary contact Nina Smetek/ nsmetek@iwm.org.uk / 020 7091 3069

Notes to Editors

What's On	What's closed / still being built	Entrance / Access
Temporary Closure (2 January 2013 – 28 July 2013)		
N / A	N / A	N / A
Partial Opening (29 July 2013 – Summer 2014)		
<i>Horrible Histories</i> ®: <i>Spies</i> (new) <i>Omer Fast</i> , part of IWM Contemporary (new) <i>Holocaust Exhibition, A Family in Wartime, The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes, People's War: Second World War Portraits, Explore History</i>	First World War Galleries Large Object Displays	Side entrance Limited access around the building
Fully Open (Summer 2014)		
First World War Galleries (new) New atrium and large object displays (new) Truth and Memory - Major First World War Art exhibition (new) Mark Neville, part of IWM Contemporary (new) <i>Horrible Histories</i> ®: <i>Spies, Holocaust Exhibition, A Family in Wartime, The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes, People's War: Second World War Portraits, Explore History</i>	N / A	Front of the building

Horrible Histories: Spies

- The exhibition is based upon Terry Deary's popular book of the same name, from the bestselling *Horrible Histories* series, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and is published by Scholastic Children's Books.
- **Tickets:** Adult £6.20, Children £3.30, Concessions £4.40, Family ticket £12.25 - £19 (depending on family size). Tickets will go on sale from 21 May at www.iwm.org.uk/horriblehistories or call 020 7416 5439. Save 10% when booking online
- Suitable for all ages and is particularly recommended for children aged 5 to 12 years old.

About Horrible Histories

Horrible Histories is the world's bestselling history series for children. The first books were published in 1993, and the series has gone on to sell over 20 million copies globally, in 37 countries and 31 languages. By focusing on the 'nasty bits' of history, author Terry Deary's irreverent humour and Martin Brown's witty cartoons have made history accessible and entertaining for children of all ages. Horrible Histories has evolved beyond the page into a BAFTA-award-winning children's TV series, now in its fifth series, the longest running children's West End stage show and a whole host of licensed products and exhibitions.

www.horrible-histories.co.uk



About IWM Contemporary

- The IWM Contemporary programme will present a series of exhibitions each year at IWM London and a major exhibition at IWM North this autumn.
- Upcoming exhibitions include, *Mike Moore and Lee Craker* (24 Oct 2013 – 12 Jan 2014) in a striking exhibition of reportage and portrait photographs taken of US and UK soldiers in Iraq 1991 – 2012.

IWM London

IWM London tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in *A Family in Wartime*; delve into the world of espionage in *Secret War*; visit our award-winning *Holocaust Exhibition*; discover stories of bravery in *The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes*; see work by some of Britain's most significant 20th Century artists in our art galleries or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions. Our family learning sessions and events encourage debate and challenge people's perceptions of war.

IWM London is partially reopen July 2013 – summer 2014 while we continue to [Transform IWM London](#).

The museum partially reopened on 29 July with the new major family exhibition *Horrible Histories®: Spies* and fully reopens in summer 2014 when we launch our brand new First World War Galleries to mark the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War and unveil a new atrium, new shops and a park-side café.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last Admission 5.45pm. (Closed 24 - 26 December 2013).

IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ

T: 020 7416 5000

E: mail@iwm.org.uk

iwm.org.uk / @I_W_M / www.facebook.com/iwm.london

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 in summer 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War (Please note IWM London is partially open, and in summer 2014 the museum will fully reopen). 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 brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit

www.1914.org

