



HUMANITIES WEST

Exploring History. Celebrating the Arts.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS
The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe
Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2, 2015
Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 30, 2015--- Humanities West presents ***The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performances exploring the dramatic cultural shift brought about by the First World War as reflected in the profusion of postwar art, music, literature, and film. The program takes place on Friday, May 1, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, May 2, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for ***The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe*** are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$55 orchestra and \$45 balcony and individual Saturday programs are \$80 orchestra and \$55 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are \$125 orchestra and \$80 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com

Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for \$25. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org).

Humanities West completes the 2014-2015 season with a program exploring history and celebrating the arts, bringing you illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped and still inform, modern cultures. ***The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe*** takes audiences to postwar Europe. From 1914 to 1918, "The Great War" raged amid a vast crisis of cultural confidence. The war to end all wars was a monumental catastrophe, one of history's major turning points. Yet in its wake, avant-garde artists began to consider and investigate many things that had once seemed unimaginable. This two-day program explores the immense cultural and artistic response in music, art, literature, and film that has left an enduring legacy of dramatic political, social, and cultural changes.



On Friday evening, **Tyler Stovall** (UC Berkeley) provides the opening lecture ***The Great War: Monumental Catastrophe, Cataclysmic Change***. This keynote outlines the main features of the war, both on and off the battlefield, a cataclysm that both destroyed the old world and at the same time created the new era, marking the beginning of the twentieth century, and the modern age in general. Stovall's talk is followed by a musical performance of ***Postwar Parisian Mélodies***, with **Molly Wilson** (soprano), **Eliane Lust** and **Daniel Lockert** (piano), providing an introduction to the music that emerged after the Great War, including the contributions of Satie, Cocteau and a group of new musicians known as *Les Six*. Discover how postwar artists and musicians broke from the past to create an everyday music with a style closer to that of popular Parisian nightlife.

On Saturday, **Adam Hochschild** (*Mother Jones* and UC Berkeley) presents ***The War Within the War***. The First World War had its conscientious objectors too, many from each of the major countries that took part. In this talk, Hochschild brings the moral battle over the war to the front, accompanied by photographs, film and music. **Jennifer Shaw** (Sonoma State University) follows with a presentation on ***Postwar Art and Gender Dynamics***. Shaw's talk examines the postwar emergence of the "modern woman" or "garçonne"—a woman who wore trousers, cropped her hair, drove a car, and even smoked. Shaw also discusses the rising conflict between cultural conservatives and Dadaists, Surrealists and other members of the avant-garde that challenged conservatism and the cultural values that they perceived as having led to the destructive war.

The program continues with ***Kabarett!*** The **Matlock Duo**--husband and wife team **Daniel Lockert** and **Jenny Matteucci**--recreates music from the golden era of the Weimar Republic, the period in Germany between the World Wars. It was a period of enormous artistic creativity, where classical and popular music commingled and was heavily influenced by the new phenomenon of jazz. The Duo performs the music of Frederick Hollander (1896-1976) and Mischa Spoliansky (1898-1985), along with the foremost representative of the style, Kurt Weill (1900-1950), with music from his popular "Die Dreigroschenoper" (3-Penny Opera) and beautiful art songs of the period.

The two-day program closes with a talk on ***That Old Lie: Literature and Art After World War I***, by **Bruce Avery** (SFSU). In this talk, **Avery** discusses how an entire generation of writers and artists responded to the devastation and trauma of the Great War, bringing about a revolution in art and literature across the globe with an outpouring of paintings, stories, poems, novels, and plays new in both subject and form.



A panel discussion with the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience.

*Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event. For a complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters please visit www.humanitieswest.org

Humanities West, a non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, explores history and celebrates the arts through time and across the globe, bringing you illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe*

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**WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, May 1, 2015
10am to 4pm, Saturday, May 2, 2015**

**WHERE: Marines' Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco**

TICKETS: \$25 - \$80
Tickets are available through City Box Office at 415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

PUBLIC INFO: 415/391-9700 or www.humanitieswest.org

CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR RELATED EVENTS

for *The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe*

CinemaLit Film Series: Films of The Great War

When: Fridays in April
Where: Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street, SF CA
Details: www.milibrary.org

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918 (2011)

By Adam Hochschild

When: 5:30pm, Wednesday, April 1, 2015
Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
555 Post Street, SF, CA
Cost: \$5
RSVP: commonwealthclub.org
Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum



Italy and WWI: Marching from Colonialism into Fascism
with Douglas Kenning

Hear the story of Italy at the turn of a new century, mired in corruption and political infighting, seeking an elusive national unity and international respect in dreams of a new Roman Empire. Italy marched furiously with the rest of Europe into the horror of World War I, sacrificing three-quarters of a million of her sons. The country finished on the winning side, but was rewarded with humiliation at Versailles, more political chaos, and more economic misery. A drowning nation could do little else but grasp the reassuringly firm stick of fascism.

When: 7:30pm, Thursday, April 23, 2015

Where: Museo Italo-Americano, Fort Mason Center

Cost: \$10 suggested donation

RSVP: events@davincisanfrancisco.com

Sponsored by the Leonardo da Vinci Society

Fireside Chat with George Hammond – Cultural Aftermath of The Great War

Join Humanities West board member George Hammond for a preview of the two-day lecture/performance series – ***The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe***

When: 6:30pm, Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Where: Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

Cost: Free

Over There: Journalists and The War Zone – A Panel Discussion

Join a panel with Adam Hochschild, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Markos Kounalakis, and Mark Tanner to discuss journalists in war zones.

When: 6:00pm, Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Where: Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street, SF CA

Cost: \$15

Details: www.milibrary.org

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

All Quiet on the Western Front (1929) by Erich Maria Remarque

When: 5:30pm, Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
555 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum