

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND DURING THE WINTER

By Joanna Bailey

'I was a dark star always' film installation at John Hansard Gallery (Until Fri 25 Jan 2019)

A stunning tribute film dedicated to the life of Wilfred Owen with readings by Ben Whishaw

The John Hansard Gallery, part of the University of Southampton, look forward to marking the centenary of the passing of Wilfred Owen with a rivetingly emotional film installation by Philip Hoare and director, Adam Low. The film is a sensitive reflection of Owen's personal letters and poems. It was filmed at momentous locations in his life, including the Torquay beach where he swam in his younger years, and the canal in Northern France where he died at the mere age of twenty-five.

It was a year before he passed that he told Siegfried Sassoon, 'I was a dark star always', and in the film, we can recognise a perspective so tragically stricken by war. He wrote from the view of a sombre man in the frontlines, yet his writings were famed for his pursuit of identity rather than the macabre themes of war. Hoare believes his works are not poems inseparable from the agony of the trenches but ones that reflectively convey the anxieties of a young man detached from the rest of the world. Hoare typecasts Owen as a poetic icon of World War One and the film does him justice.

'I was a dark star always' is co-produced with Southampton's John Hansard Gallery and will be screened at the gallery itself as well as other sites in Oxford, Edinburgh



Running time: 10 minutes

Written by Philip Hoare

Directed by Adam Low

Produced and Photographed by Martin Rosenbaum

Edited by Joanna Crickmay

Assistant Producer, James Norton

A Lone Star / John Hansard Gallery Co-Production

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