



ORIENTATION THEATER **FINAL APPROVED SCRIPT**

Presented to the Liberty Memorial Museum
by Donna Lawrence Productions
15 May 2006

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Exhibit Summary and Setting

This 10-12 minute orientation video is composed of archival imagery; artifacts; contemporary artwork, posters and ephemera; and animated maps set to a richly textured stereo soundtrack composed of music, sound effects, and narration. The show cycle, playing in a dedicated theater, may be programmed to run continuously, to play on a 20-minute or longer cycle, or to play on demand.

Main Theme

- In a series of brief “movements,” the show dramatically explores some of the fundamental conditions and forces of change that converged to create the tensions in early 20th century Europe that would lead to the Great War.

Exhibit Purpose

- To establish the context of political, social and economic conditions in early 20th century Europe that led to the war.
- To create the sense in visitors of being immersed in the swirl of building tensions and disorienting change that characterized the times.
- To prepare visitors for the complex story of World War I as it unfolds throughout the Museum.

Production Assumptions

- Approximately 10-12 minute video program
- Preshow interlude consists of audio and projected video
- Seating for 60 in an enclosed theater
- Screen dimensions 12' x 6.75'; bottom of image 56" off finished floor; 16:9 ratio
- Standard definition program provided as a digital file in a format/resolution to be specified by ESI
- Theater-quality audio system (provided by others)
- Lighting program/system (provided by others)
- Countdown clock integrated into between-show function (provided by others)
- Soundtrack includes narrator, sound effects and music
- On-screen captions can be activated by a visitor
- Visuals include (from LMM archives) archival imagery; artifacts; contemporary artwork, and posters and ephemera; plus animated maps provided by DLP
- Additional imagery from other resources procured by LMM per collaboration between DLP and Museum staff

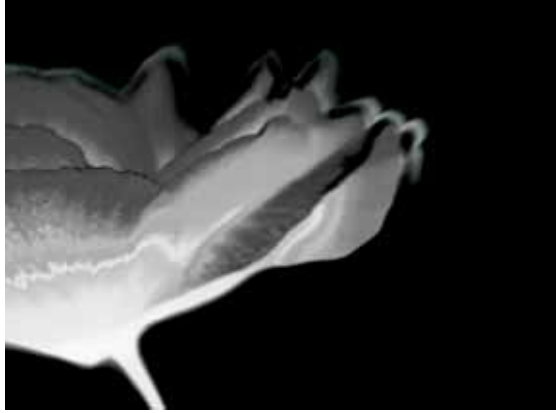
Visitor Experience

Visitors approach the Liberty Memorial Monument—and enter the Museum—with vastly different impressions of World War I. Many have no idea what years The Great War spanned. Some confuse it with World War II. Few realize it set in motion America’s place in the world over the course of the 20th century. And *very* few make a sharp connection between World War I and the most urgent—even volatile—scenes playing out across the globe today.

But whether they fully understand *why* they have come here, many are drawn to the monument—and many more to the new Museum—by curiosity as well as reverence for the power and sweep of the story they *sense* awaits them.

Once inside the Museum visitors cross a glass bridge suspended over a “field” of poppies, a provocative and thoughtful passageway to the Orientation Theater. In many places where artillery and shrapnel ripped open the earth, poppy seeds were exposed to light, germinated and flourished in the craters and trenches of dormant battlefields. Life pushed forth in no man’s land, becoming an emblem of our memory and tribute to over 9 million soldiers who sacrificed their well-being or their lives over the course of this four-year conflict.

The Theater experience sits at this point on the pathway into the Museum, beginning the story where the visitor “is” at that moment—in attitude, frame of mind, and for most, level of understanding about this complex and central story in American and world history.



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Black-and-white poppy
“apparitions”

Pre Show

1

Entering the theater, visitors enter a transitional zone between the dramatically welcoming field of poppies and the rest of the Museum. A simple music theme plays. On the screen a series of black-and-white apparitions softly flash onto the screen, then slowly dissolve away. The shapes of these images are recognizable as poppy flowers, presented as negative photographic impressions, flashes of memory that, along with the pre-show music, set the tone and beckon the visitor into the story.

Room lighting begins to dim, then the screen gradually fades to black. In the darkness, a narrator’s voice:

Main Show

Narrator

2

No one can say precisely why it happened ... which may be, in the end, the best explanation for why it did.

Images drawn from the movements
of the show:

The royalty of Europe

Industrial scenes

Urban poverty/squalor

Social unrest

3

Echoing the visual effect used during the pre-show, a series of images briefly appear in random sequence and position on the screen, providing momentary glimpses into scenes that reveal dramatically contrasting realities around the world at the turn of the 20th century. Each image softly flashes onto the screen then fades away, one after another. Archival imagery evokes a world at once modern and ancient, progressive and backward.

Nationalism

Colonialism

4

The causes of the war are as complex as the world it set aflame. To recall them is to enter a world of great and growing contrasts—visible signs of complex forces that seem destined to collide. It is a world on the edge of great change.

5

As the last of these images fades away, music sets a tone of timeless exploration, introducing the first of a series of brief “movements” in the show.



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11

6 (Note: The following subtitles are used to convey organization of the piece; they will not necessarily be seen on the screen)

The End of an Age

The screen dissolves to a map of the turn-of-the-century world, the view slowly zooming into Europe.

Turn-of-century map zoom into Europe

7 **Narrator**

At the turn of the 20th century, Europe is the center of the world’s economic and political power; the United States is not yet a major player on the global stage. The Five Great Powers of Europe—Great Britain, Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary and France—control much of the world.

Map features the 5 great powers

8 *Richly detailed black-and-white portraits, interspersed with early film footage, now fill the screen, evoking the pomp and ritual of the royals in Europe during this era—Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, France, etc.*

The royalty of Europe:
(Scenes and portraits)

Great Britain

Germany

Russia

Austria-Hungary

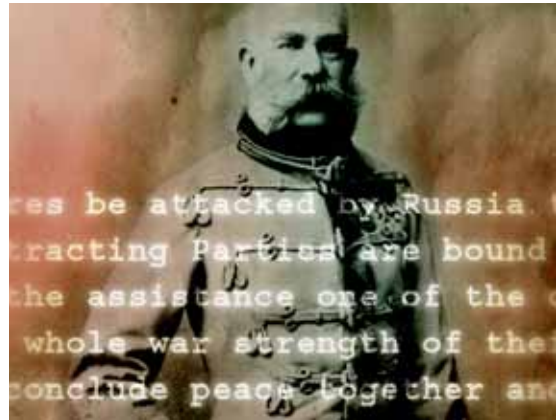
France

Other

9 The same powerful families have ruled Europe’s empires for centuries; nearly all the monarchs are related by blood or marriage to the family of Great Britain’s Queen Victoria.

10 From country to country, the forms of government have evolved in different ways, but the tradition of loyalty to a single monarch has largely endured—the destiny of millions subject to the will of one.

11 But the grip of Europe’s ruling aristocracy is waning. The pomp and ritual is becoming a pantomime of power, undercut by family rivalries, jealousies, and competition for territory and trade.



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Official scenes implying diplomatic relations
Groups of leaders
Documents that reflect agreements
Headlines that reflect agreements

12

Peace...is war held in check. A tangle of treaties, alliances, and secret agreements between countries has developed over time. Like a heap of straws delicately piled, a shift in any of these alliances is sure to trigger a cascading series of conflicts.

But with the dawn of a modern age *this* world is changing.

The screen fades to black.

13

Industrial Revolution

Suddenly, the heavy, percussive sounds of a period factory scene reverberate through the theater. Early industrial scenes explode onto the screen, revealing furnaces belching flames and the slow, heavy movement of machinery within the inferno of early 20th century European factories.

European Industrial scenes revealing:
Massive scale of machinery to man
Industrial infernos
Variety of industries

14

Narrator

The industrial revolution has moved from the age of wood and iron to the age of steel. These new engines of change are transforming life at every level of society across Europe and beyond.

Night street scenes
Automobiles
Railroads
Huge ships at sea
Airships/airplanes
European cities circa 1905-1915
Telegraph / Telephone
European trains speeding across countryside or past town

15

Electricity turns night to day. Automobiles are changing the speed of life, and a railroad revolution is changing its reach. Ships of enormous scale ply the seas. Airships and airplanes rise into the skies. Towns become cities. And cities become communication and transportation portals that span continents.



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Staggering output of arms: guns, artillery, etc.	16	Emerging from the blast furnaces and riding the rails of progress—alongside the promise of prosperity—are also weapons and machines of war unlike any the world has known.
	17	<i>Out of the industrial/technological imagery dramatically emerges a scene of giant guns, row upon row.</i>
	18	<i>The Voice of the People</i>
		<i>The sounds of industry recede into the distance as the scene slowly cross-fades to a full-frame image of a single face...then to long, lingering shots of the faces of men, women, children, the elderly, workers and the indigent staring back at the camera with surprise, desperation, hope, and hardened bitterness.</i>
Portraits of European people (stills and footage):	19	<p>Narrator</p> <p>Millions of Europeans—German, French, Slav, Russian, Italian and British—struggle to make a life amidst the changes occurring across Europe.</p>
Workers Elderly Children Families		
People working with emphasis on the people rather than the technology	20	Technology is providing the means for the rich to grow ever richer...for the powerful to gain more power. Yet for the first time in Europe’s long history, ordinary people can see the possibility—and now seek the means—to <i>share</i> in the modern world’s newfound prosperity. Expectations rise.
Evidence of worker unrest		
Contrasting scenes: Farms and/or small villages Industrial cities	21	Thousands migrate from farms and villages to the industrial cities. Many find success. Many more do not.
		<i>Imagery vividly evokes the grit of life for Europe’s working people in the squalor of polluted industrial cities.</i>



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Urban squalor (see Jacob Riis NYC photos and Ellis Island imagery; per LMM, acceptable substitutes)

Poverty

Tenement buildings

Homeless men, women & children

Breadlines

Socialist Movement

Rallies

Protests

Speeches

Signs

Headlines

22

There simply are not enough jobs. Nor is there enough shelter. Bright hope disappears into the dark squalor of poverty and polluted cities.

We see clashes that break out between those who want change and those who resist. Imagery evokes a vast movement, millions strong, that is sweeping the continent—working people embracing socialism.

23

A vast movement, millions strong, sweeps the continent; working people embrace socialism, an approach to work and to society that many believe will serve the *broad* populace rather than only a favored few.

24

Imagery conveys a sense of a growing tumult, a cauldron of emotion, long pent-up but beginning to boil over.

Reform efforts

Continue seeing unrest and socialist movement (from above)

25

The movement threatens established power. Religious and philanthropic, as well as legislative and political activists seek to quell the growing unrest. For most workers, it is a demand for justice.

Focus on Russian movement

Lenin

Rallies

Protest

Speeches

Headlines

26

Imagery includes mass demonstrations, pamphlets and newspaper headlines.

But for others, followers of Karl Marx, the movement is the gathering army of a revolution. The gulf widens between rich and poor, and fills with the growing sense of an approaching storm.



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31

27 *Imagery of mass labor demonstrations segues to signposts of national identity.*

28 ***Imagined Communities (Nationalism)***

Narrator

Alongside conflict rooted in *economic* disparity, a heightened awareness of *cultural* differences is rising across Europe.

A series of scenes reveal the vivid mosaic of European cultures and peoples at the turn of the century. Dress, language, music, and physical appearance are in striking contrast from Italy to Germany to France to Russia.

Series of images that reflect richly diverse ethnic contrast in Europe

Group portraits

Individual portraits

Ethnic celebrations

Different-looking communities

Different languages in print

Mix of images reflecting:

Telephone and telegraph

Railroads

Different countries/peoples

29 Over the centuries common languages, tying people together across large areas, have evolved. Now, with the revolution in communication and transportation, people in Europe have become *aware*—and proud—of distinct cultural differences.

Continue images of ethnic contrast

30 Loyalties are radically shifting from one's *monarch* to one's own people—those who share the same language, culture, and ethnicity. This is the rise of “nationalism”—a sentiment unknown in Europe only a century earlier.

Evidence of nationalism ??

Nationalistic movements in different countries

31 French, German, British—national identity has become a mark of pride and fertile ground for prejudice.

Emotion-packed movements unite laborers and the educated elite...

liberals and conservatives...

in common cause for their own kind, and, increasingly, *against* others.



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<p>Focus on Balkans: Portraits of the people Headlines Posters Evidence of resistance</p> <p>Map of Austria-Hungary showing different ethnic region Zoom into the Balkans</p>	<p>32 <i>Imagery segues to scenes of Slavic people in the Balkans.</i></p> <p>In <i>multi</i>-ethnic empires, nationalistic fervor fuels resistance to distant, antagonistic rulers. Nowhere in Europe is tension higher than in the Balkans, where Slavic people, aided by the Slavs of Russia, resist the rule of Austria-Hungary.</p> <p><i>Imagery—the eyes of a Slavic Serb— evokes the deep yearning and anger. The screen fades to black ...</i></p>
	<p>33 <i>The Desires of Empires</i></p> <p><i>... then fills with scenes from various European colonies in Africa and Asia.</i></p>
<p>Colonial scenes: Africa Asia Trade Shipyards loading in foreign countries Shipyards unloading in Europe</p>	<p>34 Narrator</p> <p>By the turn of the 20th century, dramatic colonial expansion has brought much of Africa and Asia under the control of Europe’s great powers for the first time. European leaders believe that to thrive, they must expand—acquire new territory, new markets, new resources. Competition has been fierce, often violent.</p>
<p>British Naval ships British Navy on the high seas Officers and sailors of British Navy British fleet</p>	<p>35 Using its vast navy, Great Britain has built an empire that dwarfs all others.</p> <p>36 <i>The screen fills with stunning imagery of the British fleet...then shifts to the vast military-industrial power of Germany.</i></p>
<p>Germany in colonial lands German shipping Portraits of German leaders</p>	<p>37 Ambitious Germany, coming late into the status of a great power, is aggressively expanding, challenging Great Britain’s commercial interests and colonial holdings.</p> <p><i>Imagery provides a portrait of an Empire in the thrall of its own indisputable greatness.</i></p>



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<p>Continue sequence above, plus evidence of rhetoric:</p> <p>Posters and illustrations</p> <p>Headlines</p> <p>Speeches and gatherings</p> <p>German culture: architecture, fashion, street scenes, etc.</p>	38	<p>German rhetoric grows strident, laced with the ideas of influential political thinkers who believe the phrase, “survival of the fittest,” applies to nations as well as life in the natural world. “Colonization,” they say, “is a matter of life and death ... war is a biological necessity.”</p>
<p>Map showing Germany between France and Russia</p> <p>German troops</p> <p>German military training</p> <p>German arms</p> <p>German arms factory</p>	39	<p>At home, Germany sits between two powerful forces—France and Russia—both seen as ever-present threats.</p> <p>Abroad, Germany recognizes the forces already in place that can thwart its desires. To compete globally, Germany needs military might.</p> <p><i>Fade to black.</i></p>
<p>German Navy</p> <p>German shipbuilding</p> <p>British Navy</p> <p>British shipbuilding</p> <p>French Army</p> <p>French troops in training</p>	40	<p><i>The momentum of the show begins to build. Imagery, sound effects, quotes and narrative begin to weave together the threads of the story.</i></p>
<p>German Navy</p> <p>German shipbuilding</p> <p>British Navy</p> <p>British shipbuilding</p> <p>French Army</p> <p>French troops in training</p>	41	<p>Germany sets out to build a navy to rival Great Britain’s, and fields the largest army in Europe. Great Britain invests even more heavily in its navy. France builds its army.</p>
<p>Map of Europe showing the key players</p>	42	<p><i>Military imagery dissolves into a map of Europe as the narrative describes the rising tension across Europe.</i></p>
<p>Map of Austria-Hungary</p>	43	<p>Diplomatic relations have long been precarious, but the nations of Europe are now bristling with arms.</p>
	44	<p>The old web of treaties is in place: Russia, France and Great Britain, under certain conditions, are committed to supporting each other if conflict arises. Italy waivers. Germany has one true ally, the Austro-Hungarian Empire.</p>
	45	<p>But Austria-Hungary faces the threat of war from within.</p>



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		Thousands of ethnic Slavs are determined to break away from Austro-Hungarian rule. Russians stand ready to help their Slavic kinsmen.
Zoom into Serbia	46	At the center of Slav resistance is the tiny kingdom of Serbia, home of the secret society, the Black Hand.
Seal of the Black Hand	47	<i>Music evokes a deep and rising sense of angst as imagery of the seal of the Black Hand, and members of the society, dissolve into the foreboding pre-war artwork emerging across Europe.</i>
European artwork of the era		Europe seethes with anxiety. Artists, writers, and composers create brooding visions of an apocalypse. <i>The screen fills with imagery from paintings of the era that express the anxiety of people across Europe, anxiety born of deep social unrest and the growing threat of war. We see words from a writer of the day...</i>
Montage of scenes reflecting the movements of the video and scenes reflecting the times: Royalty Industrialism Social Unrest	48	Some Europeans have predicted that any conflict could unleash a new type of warfare so horrific and on such a scale that recovery will take decades—perhaps generations—to achieve.
Nationalism Colonialism	49	But to others, from intellectuals to politicians, and military leaders to common people, the idea of war has emerged not as a scourge but a solution. As German philosopher Thomas Mann (pron. ‘To-MOSS Mahn’) wrote, war would be “a purification, a liberation, an enormous hope.”
Scenes in Sarajevo 6/28/14 Maps of Belgrade and Balkans Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo The city	50	<i>Imagery takes us to Sarajevo, June 28, 1914, the official state visit of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.</i> Sarajevo, June 28, 1914. Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, makes an official state visit.



51

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia

Russia mobilizes in Serbia's defense

Germany declares war on Russia

France mobilizes in Russia's defense

53

Street scenes LMM option: vintage map of Balkans, pan from Belgrade to Sarajevo	51	The Black Hand leaders in Belgrade plot an assassination, then decide to abort. But word never reaches the seven assassins in Sarajevo.
Motorcade	52	The driver takes a wrong turn, the Archduke and his entourage, slowly pass by one of the assassins <i>Cut to black.</i> <i>In the darkness, two shots ring out.</i> <i>After a moment's pause, over a simple, closing musical theme, a series of statements slowly scroll up the screen...</i>
Type scrolls up screen	53	<p>A month later, over the course of a single week...</p> <p>Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia</p> <p>Russia mobilizes in Serbia's defense</p> <p>Germany declares war on Russia</p> <p>France mobilizes in Russia's defense</p> <p>Germany declares war on France</p> <p>Germany invades Belgium enroute to France</p> <p>Great Britain declares war on Germany</p>
Black-and-white poppy apparitions	54	<i>We hear a single, final deep, percussive beat.</i> <i>Fade to black.</i>
	55	<i>Lighting in the theater slowly fades up, the timeless pre-show music resumes, and visitors exit the theater to begin their journey through the Museum.</i>