

## British Theatre and the Great War, 1914–1919

*Also by Andrew Maunder*

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# British Theatre and the Great War, 1914–1919

**New Perspectives**

Edited by

Andrew Maunder

*University of Hertfordshire, UK*

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*For Brian and Liz Maunder*



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Any errors and omissions in the volume are my own.

*Andrew Maunder*

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*Drama 1890s–1920s* (2010), *Impact of the Modern: Vernacular Modernities in Australia 1870s–1960s* (2008, with Robert Dixon), *The Theatre of Louis Nowra* (1998), *Our Australian Theatre in the 1990s* (1998), and *Australia Felix* (1988).

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# Select Chronology

Year	History	Culture
1914	<p>Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife assassinated in Sarajevo.</p> <p>4 August: Britain declares war on Germany.</p> <p>7 August: British Expeditionary Force lands in France.</p> <p>Defence of the Realm Act gives government wide emergency powers.</p> <p>Battles of Mons and Ypres.</p> <p>German navy shells British coastal towns.</p> <p>Britain: Carl Hans Lody is the first German spy executed.</p>	<p>James Joyce, <i>Dubliners</i>.</p> <p>Bernard Shaw's <i>Pygmalion</i> premieres in London.</p> <p>Wyndham Lewis's Vorticist magazine <i>Blast</i>.</p> <p>Gustave Holst, <i>The Planets</i>.</p> <p>D. H. Lawrence, <i>The Prussian Officer</i>.</p> <p>Ralph Vaughan Williams, <i>The Lark Ascending</i>.</p> <p>Charles Cochran produces the revue <i>Odds and Ends</i>.</p> <p>Futurist exhibition in London.</p> <p>Mary Pickford in <i>Hearts Adrift</i> [film].</p>
1915	<p>Herbert Asquith forms coalition government.</p> <p>First Zeppelin air-raid on Britain.</p> <p>Battle of Loos.</p> <p>Gallipoli campaign.</p> <p>Ocean liner <i>Lusitania</i> is sunk by the Germans; 1,198 killed.</p> <p>Edith Cavell executed in Brussels on charges of spying.</p>	<p>John Buchan, <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i>.</p> <p>Pablo Picasso, <i>Harlequin</i>.</p> <p>Harold Brighouse, <i>Hobson's Choice</i>.</p> <p>Rupert Brooke, <i>1914 &amp; Other Poems</i>.</p> <p>D. W. Griffith, <i>The Birth of a Nation</i> [film].</p> <p>Walter Ellis, <i>A Little Bit of Fluff</i> (1241 performances).</p> <p>Franz Kafka, <i>The Metamorphosis</i>.</p>
1916	<p>'Easter Rising' in Dublin.</p> <p>Conscription introduced in Britain.</p> <p>Battle of Jutland (sea).</p> <p>Battles of Verdun and the Somme.</p> <p>Woodrow Wilson re-elected US President.</p> <p>Tanks used for the first time.</p> <p>David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister.</p>	<p>Claude Monet, <i>Water-Lilies</i>.</p> <p>D. W. Griffith, <i>Intolerance</i> [film].</p> <p>Oscar Asche and Frederick Norton, <i>Chu Chin Chow</i>.</p> <p><i>The Battle of the Somme</i> [film].</p> <p>Nat Ayer and Clifford Grey's revue <i>The Bing Boys are Here</i>.</p> <p>H. G. Wells, <i>Mr. Britling Sees It Through</i>.</p> <p>Emergence of the Dada movement in Switzerland.</p>

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1917	<p>Germany uses submarine warfare to try to starve Britain into submission.          Russian revolution (March).          Battles of Arras and Ypres (Passchendaele).          United States declares war on Germany.</p>	<p>Charlie Chaplin in <i>The Immigrant</i> [film].          J. M. Barrie, <i>Dear Brutus</i>.          T. S. Eliot, <i>Prufrock and Other Observations</i>.          Bruce Bairnsfather and Arthur Elliot, <i>The Better 'Ole</i>.          De Stijl artistic movement established in Holland.</p>
1918	<p>Food rationing in Britain.          German Spring offensive launched.          Battle of St Quentin and second Battle of Amiens.          September: Allied troops break through Hindenburg line.          Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates, flees to Holland.          11 November: Armistice signed.          Influenza epidemic (to 1920).          Representation of the People Act extends franchise to men over 21 and women over 30.</p>	<p>Frederick Delius, <i>A Song Before Sunrise</i>.          Siegfried Sassoon, <i>Counter Attack and Other Poems</i>.          Rebecca West, <i>The Return of the Soldier</i>.          Paul Nash, <i>The Void of War</i>.          John Drinkwater, <i>Abraham Lincoln</i>.          Phonograph record sales estimated at 100 million.          Marie Stopes, <i>Married Love</i>.          Scott Sidney, <i>Tarzan of the Apes</i> [film].</p>
1919	<p>Paris Peace conference (to 1920).          Irish War of Independence.          Russian civil war.          Nancy Astor elected MP.          Save the Children established.          Industrial strikes in Britain.          Adolf Hitler joins German Workers' Party.</p>	<p>Virginia Woolf, <i>Night and Day</i>.          Lillian Gish in <i>Broken Blossoms</i> [film].          P.G. Wodehouse, <i>My Man Jeeves</i>.          George V attends Royal Variety Performance, 'A Pageant of Peace'.          Southern Syncopated [jazz] Orchestra tours Britain.</p>

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