



INVITATION

The War Archive is delighted to invite you in a presentation on
The Making of the documentary series “The World at War”

Saturday 13 Decemebr 2014 at 7.30 pm

The presentation will be in English

PRESENTER: TED CHILDS:

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Arheion Polemou (War Archive) has always pointed out proudly that it has under its roof one of the biggest collection in private hands of video documentaries on matters of war, and WWII in particular. Place of honor in this collection was always given on the monumental WWII documentary produced by Thames Television in 1973, **“The World at War”**

Its path breaking 26 Episodes plus 9 more added chapters, form the peak of documentary-making which still, after more than 40 years, remains fresh and immediate. One of its pioneering innovations was the extensive use of personal interviews with participants, and not just veterans, of the war, as in the 1970s a lot of them were still alive. The use of several directors for individual episodes added tension and dynamism as well as using Sir Laurence Olivier as the main narrator. In truth, no expenses were spared to make, this, the documentary of all time. Incidentally the series are available in Greece with Greek subtitles.

The Arheion is very proud to have invited Ted Childs, a director of two of the Episodes of the World at War, and one of the best known directors and producers of major TV series in English television, to come to Athens especially in order to meet with our friends and supporters and talk to us about the unique experience of participating in the making of the The World at War. But even more exciting is the fact that Ted, as part of his research for the series, got to know personally major participants of the war and especially key personalities of the Nazi party who were still alive in the 1970s. He got to know well Grand Admiral Karl Donitz, the last Fuhrer of Germany, appointed personally by Hitler before he committed suicide, and Albert Speer, one of the most controversial Nazi war criminals to escape the noose, minister for war production and the nearest thing to a “personal friend” that Hitler ever had. Ted also knew ”Bomber” Arthur Harris, Marshall of the Royal Air Force and the architect of the fire bombing of Germany.

Ted will be sharing his reminiscences of directing the Episodes and of meeting and knowing these extraordinary people. Ted directed Episode 10 “ Wolf Pack: U boats in the Atlantic 1939-1944” and Episode 12 “The Whirlwind: Bombing Germany, September 1939-April 1944”

We are delighted to have the privilege to have with us a major figure of English Television and a major director of war documentaries as well as, one of the very few people alive today to have met key Nazi figures and to have got to know them personally.

As part of this presentation, the Arheion will organize between now December 13th the screening of some of the Episodes of the series. When you notify us of your participation please let us know if you wish to attend these screenings and we will let you know of the details

Thank you for your friendship and support, and looking forward to meeting you all personally this time in Athens ! We also wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Andrew and Anabella Freris

TED CHILDS

Ted Childs commenced training as a programme director with ABC Television in 1962. He went on to produce and direct a wide variety of factual programmes and documentary films, including episodes of *This Week*, then the ITV current affairs flagship **and also the acclaimed *World At War Series***.

He was one of the founding fathers of Euston Films, the film production company established by Thames Television in the early 1970's. Whilst there he produced *The Sweeney*, *Special Branch* and *Quatermass Series*, together with a number of theatrical and television films, as well as writing and/or directing films and series episodes for both ITV and the BBC.

In 1984, Ted was appointed Controller of Drama at Central Television and, subsequently, Managing Director of Central Films. In this dual role, he acted as executive producer on an extensive range of films and series for ITV. These included *Inspector Morse*, *Soldier Soldier*, *Peak Practice*, *Sharpe*, *Brother Cadfael*, *Chancer*, *Gone to The Dogs*, *Kavanagh QC* and *Thief takers*.

Following the acquisition of Central Television by Carlton Communications, Ted opted to assume a freelance role. He has continued to write and develop new television drama and films as an executive producer. As such, he was responsible for the *Heat Of The Sun Series*, the *Morse* film *The Wench Is Dead*, the television films: *Into the Blue*, *Goodnight Mr. Tom* and *The Waiting Time*, together with a *Kavanagh QC* film special, the *Monsignor Renard Series* and *The Remorseful Day*, the final episode in the *Morse* canon. In 2004/5 he was responsible for developing *The Brief*, a serial format based upon the life and times of a maverick but able barrister played by Alan Davies. Ted served as executive producer on two series of *The Brief*. He has also acted as executive producer on *Lewis*, a television format derived from the *Morse Series*.

In 1991, The Production Guild honoured Ted with its annual *Award of Merit*. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Television Society (RTS) in 1992. During 1994-98, he acted as an honorary lecturer in Media Management in the School of Finance and Management Studies at the University of Nottingham. He was Chairman of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) in 1994 and 1995. Ted received the RTS *Award* for outstanding creative contribution to British Television in 1995. In the same year he was awarded the RTS *Baird Medal* for outstanding contribution to British Regional Television. In the 1997 New Year's

Honours List, Ted was made an OBE for services to Broadcast Television. Also, in 1997, he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Moving Image Society (formerly the British Kinematograph and Television Society.) In May 1998, Ted received the BAFTA *Award* for outstanding creative contribution to television. Ted received the Broadcasting Press Guild's *Harvey Lee Award* for outstanding contribution to broadcasting in December 2006, In 2010 he was re-appointed a BAFTA trustee and a director of the BAFTA Board of Management and served until 2012.

The Arheion is looking very much forward to your presence in this event.

We ask you however to let us know whether you will be coming either by replying to this email at afreeris@wararchivegr.org and/or by contacting Maka Dokhnadze at the phone of the Arheion, 210-8676390 ,or mobile phone 69-98088220 **by latest Monday 8 December**. Please do note that space is limited. Tell us also if you wish to join the Episode screenings.
