

# 'Benediction': First Clip For Terence Davies' Siegfried Sassoon Drama Starring Jack Lowden — TIFF



**EXCLUSIVE:** Here's a nice first clip for festival favourite Terence Davies' Siegfried Sassoon biopic *Benediction*, which will get its world premiere at the upcoming Toronto Film Festival.

*Dunkirk* and *Fighting With My Family* star [Jack Lowden](#) leads cast as WWI poet and soldier Sassoon. As we previously revealed, Peter Capaldi will play Sassoon in his later years.

Also starring are Geraldine James (*Downton Abbey*), Kate Phillips (*Downton Abbey*), Gemma Jones (*Ammonite*), Anton Lesser (*Game Of Thrones*), Jeremy Irvine (*War Horse*), Ben Daniels (*The Crown*), Lia Williams (*The Crown*), Jude Akuwudike (*Gangs Of London*), Suzanne Bertish (*Atlantic Crossing*), Simon Russell Beale (*The Death Of Stalin*) and Calam Lynch (*Mrs*

*Wilson*).

Sassoon was decorated for bravery on the Western Front and is remembered for his war poems that brought him public and critical acclaim in his time and after. He also became a focal point for dissent within the armed forces when he made a lone protest against the continuation of the conflict. Adored by members of the aristocracy as well as stars of London's literary and stage world, Sassoon embarked on affairs with several men as he attempted to come to terms with his homosexuality. At the same time, broken by the horror of war, he made his life's journey a quest for salvation, ultimately trying to find it within the conformity of marriage and religion.

Pic is produced by Michael Elliott of EMU Films whose recent credits include Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* films and Alan Moore's scripted debut *The Show*. It was financed by the BFI, BBC Film, M.Y.R.A. Entertainment, Lipsync and Creative England via the WMPF (West Midlands Production Fund, supported by ERDF). Bankside handles world sales rights.