



# PEACE PLEDGE

BY GEORGE M. JOHNSON

A DISILLUSIONED FIRST WORLD WAR VET-  
ERAN, CHALLENGED BY A RECKLESS  
ANGLICAN PRIEST, RELUCTANTLY FIGHTS  
FOR PEACE IN 1930s BRITAIN, LOSING  
BOTH FRIENDS AND FAMILY BUT GAINING A  
SECOND CHANCE IN LOVE.

BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF CANON DICK  
SHEPPARD AND THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION.



**WILDsound Festival Winner:** “definitely worthy of a producer’s time... heart-warming.”

**Euroscript Screenplay Competition Honorable Mention:** “The premise is extremely in-  
teresting... and there are some very powerful themes about love, loyalty and freedom that res-  
onate strongly. The structure is strong...The treatment and script are well written.”

**ScriptDoctor “Contest of Contest Winners” Finalist:** “Definitely a timely and thought-  
provoking story... will have audiences staying in the theater after the lights have come up, ar-  
guing the pros and cons of pacifism.”

**Official Finalist:** Cannes Screenplay Contest and New Renaissance Film Festival, U.K.



# PEACE PLEDGE SYNOPSIS

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In the 1930s slump in Britain, WWI vet JOHN ELLIS has lost his job, now his wife ESMÉ, and his home. Taken in at St. Martin's church by charismatic Anglican priest DICK SHEPPARD, a self-loathing John reluctantly becomes involved in the peace movement. As a pacifist he faces increasing opposition from his former officer and friend, who once saved his life, blackshirt BURT DRUMMOND. This culminates in Drummond severely beating John during a peace rally. Dick faces his own challenges, including almost dying in a house fire and confronting an unfaithful wife.

Nevertheless, Sheppard successfully mounts a postcard campaign to renounce war and founds the Peace Pledge Union. It gains 136,000 members and notoriety because Sheppard publicly writes to Hitler advocating peace. Can the constructive pacifist approach avert a looming war? The movement has a chance of taking hold when pacifist Glasgow University students in a highly publicized campaign run by John elect Sheppard as Rector over Winston Churchill. Shortly after, the asthmatic, exhausted Dick dies of a heart attack.

Though devastated, John continues to spread Dick's message of peace. At a rally he glimpses a woman who resembles Esmé. He decides to seek his wife out at her family home and discovers that she is receptive to his plea to return to him, since Dick had found and convinced her that John was a changed man, Dick's last act of generosity before his death. John is overjoyed to discover that he has a son ADAM, born after Esmé had left. When war is declared, John, Esmé and other Peace Pledge Union members continue fighting against war, despite persecution.

As the credits roll, a much older John and his family have lived out Sheppard's ideal of "not peace at any price but love at all costs," as together they participate in a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament rally in Trafalgar Square.

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