

Forget Me Not

By

Jess Williams

SCENE 1 - FOYER

*A group of guests mingle in the foyer, harp music can be heard. The area is well lit. A tour guide approaches after some time with a smile.*

## TOUR GUIDE

Noswaith dda. Are you here for the temple tour?  
Fantastic! Please come around.

Welcome to the Temple of Peace. My name is [NAME] and I'll be your tour guide this evening.

It will be my pleasure to show you around. We don't normally hold tours in the evenings but I am delighted to be showing you around especially for Halloween.

Can you imagine a ghost revealing itself tonight? Ha, we can only hope.

Sorry, I'm only teasing. God forbid we come across something or someone we're not supposed to. I'm not trained to handle that.

Don't worry though. You're in good hands. I've got my trusty notes here and although this is my first tour by myself, I know this building like the back of my hand.

Uh, before we begin, I thought it might be nice to go around the group and introduce ourselves. I like to think that everyone whose stepped into this Temple becomes a part of it's glory. All the more people to share it's story with. If you wouldn't mind starting, what's your name and where are you from?

*TOUR GUIDE goes around the tour group and allows everyone to introduce themselves.*

Excellent! Thank you, all. It's my pleasure to meet you all. So, shall we get started? Ydy'n ni'n barod?Barod!

The wonderful things that I get to share with you tonight, are some of the fascinating stories and the rich history of this building, that has been passed down by generations and cultivated by volunteers and community groups from the last decade. The history and heritage has been long forgotten but

from archivists and campaigns, we have restored a considerable chunk of history that we get to share with you tonight.

Some of you might have browsed these panels on the sides and if you have, hopefully they will make a bit more sense once I give you some context.

*TOUR GUIDE ushers the group to the panel for Peacemakers in the corner.*

There are specific key figures and generations of Peacemakers we would like to cover today, so I'll just crack on with the tour.

*TOUR GUIDE gestures around the Foyer.*

TOUR GUIDE

So, the full title of the building is the Temple of Peace and Health.

The idea had come from the year before in 1929 to be built but in 1930, all public building projects were cancelled. The reason for this being the start of the Great Depression, when stock markets around the world crashed.

What was unusually unusual about this building is it was only one of two buildings that was erected during the Art Deco movement in all of Wales.

The other being the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea, which is basically a bigger version of the Temple of Peace, same architect, same classical Art Deco design.

It's also an Iconic Film location. You may recognise it if you're a fan of Doctor Who, Sherlock Holmes, His Dark Materials. Varies sci-fi and fantasy shows due to it's unique design and architecture. Not only does it add a sort of social space, having a rich cultural history but also a fascinating film history as well.

*Operatic music begins from the Main Hall.*

TOUR GUIDE

Speaking of social space, there might be someone using the Hall for a rehearsal. Shall we take a look?

SCENE 2 - MAIN HALL

*The tour moves from Foyer to Great Hall and PERFORMER is singing.*

TOUR GUIDE

Very sorry to eavesdrop. That was great, by the way, *bendigedig*, it's just we had the space booked for this tour.

It's just...we weren't notified you would be here.

*PERFORMER doesn't say a word or react in any way slowly heading towards the exit to the basement.*

TOUR GUIDE

Da iawn? Sorry about that, everyone.

Where were we? Ah, yes, I was about to explain the origins of the building. There are many soldiers we have to thank for their contribution to the war effort but there's one soldier in particular who started it all. David Davies.

David Davies was one of the key founders of the building. He was from a wealthy, philanthropic family from Llandinam, Powys, in mid Wales.

The bust behind you is the man in question.

*TOUR GUIDE gestures to a bust hanging above the entrance of the Great Hall.*

I know from the look of his bust that he doesn't look like much of a Peace Activist, and in fact he wasn't initially.

His Grandfather had been one of the great Victorian industrialists. Also called David Davies just to confuse us.

Around the time the railways were first being constructed, Senior David Davies worked as a Sawyer.

He was curious as to why there were no railways being built in Wales as they were all being built in England. They get everything, the greedy sods. So he then spearheaded the construction of the railway lines across Wales.

With what he earned from building the railways, he

sunk some pilot mines in Ronda which became the biggest coal mine in Wales. By the time he had his Grandson, this David Davies had quite a lot of money.

One of the privileged aspects about the history of this building is, you find that there's quite a lot of skeletons in the height of British Imperialism.

What's lovely with this place is even Wales' richest family wasn't from the Aristocracy. They didn't feel that they fit in with that part of society. They acknowledged that they weren't working class and they felt that because they didn't earn this money that it wasn't theirs and so they gave it back to society.

Eventually they spent their entire lives giving away this wealth and funded and sponsored a lot of organisations that were contributors to the Peace and Health movement in Wales.

David had two sisters, Gwendolyn and Margarete, who were most famous for Art Collections that are part of the museum of Wales.

That historic thing reflected the gender roles at the time as David was known for being more hands on while his sisters were more involved with the arts when reality, what we've found, is that his sisters were a lot more involved than originally thought.

The Davies sisters funded most of the global execution work against war that organisations based here in the 30s and 40s used.

So it's an interesting bit of history.

As David is portrayed wearing his uniform, he was a soldier in the first world war and was very enthusiastic about the war effort. He encouraged lots of fellow Welsh men to sign up for the war. He was so horrified by his experience that he spent the rest of his life contributing to the Peace movement.

When the war finished, as there was talk of memorials going up, he very actively started promoting the idea that rather than just being a memorial and a tribute to those soldiers, as it is, but he also wanted it to be a community centre that brought people together to prevent war from breaking out for future generations. He actually proposed the Temple Of Peace be created

in London on the site of Debenture House by the Thames that was considered wildly radical by the board at the time and rejected. But when he kept on and the war memorial at Alexander gardens was unveiled, he essentially saddled up to the then Prince of Wales, pointed to what was an empty plot of land at the time and went "wouldn't it be a good idea to build a Temple Of Peace on that blank land over there?" And so the City of Cardiff Corporation agreed to give him the land and David Davies put in the initial costs to build the Temple.

He commissioned the architect Percy Thomas to design the building and Percy came up with this Art Deco design. Allow me to show you further. If you notice the line work in this building, which was a huge aspect of the Art Deco movement, the idea of these neat line and sleek edges were a sign of modernisation. It was believed that the intention of this building design in particular was to be a sign of purity, new beginnings, health. No bumps or bruises if you will.

*TOUR GUIDE guides everyone else further into the centre of the room.*

#### TOUR GUIDE

I can't talk about the creation of this building without crediting the wonderful Minnie James who opened the Temple at the opening ceremony. She has lost all three of her sons in the first world war so she was asked to open the building on behalf of the grieving mothers of the world. She was from Merthyr Tydfil, a housewife and was a very ordinary everyday woman so she was the perfect representation.

For this huge gathering of the greats - royalty and the rich - who came together to open the building for the people in 1938, they realised that the point of the building was supposed to be for the people of Wales, it should be someone from the people of Wales who should actually open it. When she opened it, she gave this speech. Please could I ask for a volunteer to take on the role of Minnie and read out her speech?

*TOUR GUIDE selects a volunteer and gives them a piece of paper with Minnie's speech.*

#### VOLUNTEER (WRITTEN ON A PIECE OF PAPER)

In the name of the women of Wales it is my privilege

to open the building.

I dedicate it to the memorial to those gallant men of all nations who gave their lives in the war that was to end war.

I pray that it may come to be regarded by the people of my country both of our generation and of those that are to follow as a constant reminder of the debt we owe to the millions who sacrificed their all; in a great cause, and as a symbol of our determination to strive for justice and peace in the future.

TOUR GUIDE

Thank you very much. Very nicely read. And that's the speech from the building's opening ceremony.

This building would not have been completed were it not for the grieving mothers and families in response to their loss. In fact, twenty-four grieving mothers came together in a campaign after losing their loved ones in service.

I can tell you from experience, my grandmother's parents lost someone in the war, and that kind of passed down the family. You'd hear about them before they talk about anyone still around. (laughs)

*The lights shut off.*

TOUR GUIDE

Huh, that seems fitting. Uhh (BEAT) is someone over there messing with the lights? Tessa, are you pranking me? You should know, I'm perfectly capable of managing this tour myself, so thanks for the assist but I'll take it from here. Not to mention you're kind of creeping me out. Tessa? You can turn them back on now.

We're going to ignore them. They're just... bear with me, everyone. The switches should be just here.

*The TOUR GUIDE flicks the switches, nothing happens. Nothing happens again the second time.*

TOUR GUIDE

Oh...ok so looks like we have a slight electrical problem. Sorry about that, um, we do have some torches in an event such as this one. Please stay calm, I'll just be a moment.

*TOUR GUIDE steps back towards the Foyer, leaving the group alone for a moment.*

*PERFORMER can be heard wailing in the background.*

*TOUR GUIDE talks into a radio in hushed tones before returning. Torches are passed around to the audience.*

TOUR GUIDE

Ok, everyone got one? Great, this should add to the ambience a bit.

*She laughs, the tour carries on to the next room. She gestures around the room to the main hall past that foyer.*

*The group continue back to the hall. The TOUR GUIDE tries to flick the lights on again. Nothing. She checks her phone quickly and returns to the group.*

TOUR GUIDE

Apologies again, it seems we still have some technical difficulties with the lights, we hope to get those fixed again in a moment. It only seems to be affecting the Main Hall so how about we move onto another room?

*Footsteps in the foyer from an unknown source.*

TOUR GUIDE

Is anyone there? Tamsin, I told you to cut it out. It's not funny (BEAT) Right, um anyway. That's the main hall, if you'll follow me...

*She turns and quickly heads towards the foyer.*

TOUR GUIDE

Sorry everyone, just looking around for Tamsin. I'm...not sure where. Oh! She's probably headed out to the next stop for us. If you'd all like to follow me down these steps. Take your time and watch where you step.

*TOUR GUIDE leads the group towards the stairs towards the Crypt.*

*END OF SAMPLE*