

Palimpsest *Palimpsest*
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PRESENTS

sa je puus
'If I can'

A new audio drama about
William Morris and his circle.

For performance twice nightly (7.30/8.30pm)
at Red House, November-December 2016.



Follow

Lizzie Siddal @MsTozerCreation

Jane Burden @RedHouseJaney

Georgina Macdonald @GBurneJones

www.palimpsest.co

WILLIAM MORRIS, 1834-1896

*And that wall would shut
the flowers and the trees
up with the sky,
trebling
the beauty
for my queen,
my Guinevere."*

ARTHUR
MORRELL

SOCIAL REFORMER AND VISIONARY.
POET. ARTIST.
FATHER, HUSBAND, CUCKOLD.

Topsy
Top



JANEY MORRIS, 1839-1914

*Must I grove
stone cold
forever?*

Guinevere
Helen

WIFE, MUSE,
MOTHER, LOVER OF ROSSETTI.
NEEDLEWOMAN.
OUTLIVED THE MEN BY A COUNTRY MILE.
AT HOME AT RED HOUSE.



LIZZIE SIDDAL, 1829-1862

*My grave,
my grave, your poems in my grave,
safely palled in my red
red hair,
because our baby is not there.*

Ophelia

PAINTER, POET, MUSE, MURALIST AT RED HOUSE.
WIFE OF ROSSETTI.
OPIUM EATER.



*He who tells this story
often goes mad
with the telling of it,
and he who
hears it,
always does.*

Lancelot
Paris

POET.
PAINTER.
HUSBAND.
LOVER.
ADDICT.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI, 1828-1882



GEORGIANA BURNE-JONES, 1840-1920

*"Lizzie was alive the day before she died,
and so were all of us."*

ENGRAVER,
PAINTER, WRITER, MOTHER.
CONFIDANTE OF WILLIAM.
RED HOUSE HABITUÉ.




Edward Burne-Jones, 1833-1898

*On hot autumn nights
apples bounced in through
open bedroom windows....
ripe and ready
for the picking.*

DECORATIVE ARTIST &
GLASS WORKER EXTRAORDINAIRE.
HUSBAND OF GEORGIANA.
LOVER OF MARIA ZAMBACO.




John Chambers plays William Morris

Emily Hibbert plays Janey Morris

Tegen Hitchens plays Lizzie Siddal

Oliver Bardell plays Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Evie Tyler plays Georgiana Burne-Jones

Guy Remy plays Edward Burne-Jones

"*If I Can* fuses the extant shards of poetry and prose of those Pre-Raphaelites that built and embellished Red House. Lizzie's poetry meets Georgiana's biography, Jane's letters merge with William's speeches, Gabriel's testimony melds with Edward's stained glass mottos; as if the very walls could speak and give up their secrets."

Katherine Tozer, writer

"Several recording sessions at Red House yielded much of the sonic material of *If I Can*. Some of it can be heard untreated, whilst some has been heavily manipulated into more abstract textures. These have been juxtaposed with musical composition, all of which takes as its starting point Chappell's Popular Music of the Olden Time (a birthday present from William to Janey). Melodies have been obscured, re-harmonised, and sometimes arranged into repeating patterns, like so much intricate wallpaper."

John Chambers, composer & sound designer.

"Red House has stood up until now as a deserted monument to an unwritten chapter in Morris' life. The commune of Pre-Raphaelite youth left their mark on the very walls. With Palimpsest's *If I Can* we no longer have to ask visitors to imagine the lives and loves of this group of extraordinary twenty somethings, their haunting voices now re inhabit the house. The piece is a perfect juxtaposition of those halcyon days, vividly remembered in Georgiana Burne-Jones' memoirs, set against a dark, Dickensian Christmas. It is a brave confrontation of the tragedies that befell the group during those all too brief five years in the 1860's."

*Robynn Finney, House & Gardens Manager
National Trust, Red House.*

Thanks

*Jill McCausland for voicing Georgiana Burne-Jones,
Nick Barber for Dante Gabriel Rossetti,
Katherine Tozer for Janey Morris,
Guy Ladenburg for Edward Burne-Jones,
John Chambers for William Morris
and Tegen Hitchens for Lizzie Siddal.*

The full *If I Can* poem can be read on
www.palimpsest.co/IfICan