



RENARD PRESS

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 25th January 2023

Contacts: Will Dady, Publisher • will@renardpress.com

RENARD PRESS ACQUIRES WALTZ WITH ME BY KINDERTRANSPORT PLAYWRIGHT DIANE SAMUELS.

- A stunning new play from the acclaimed, prize-winning writer of *Kindertransport*, which has been produced around the world, adapted for BBC Radio and used in GCSE English Literature and Drama syllabuses.
- The seventh in Renard's popular series of playscripts.
- A beautiful tale, based in fact, filled with empathy and humanity.
- Publication coincides with forthcoming rehearsed readings of the play in London.

Renard Press is thrilled to announce that it has acquired World rights to the new play by prize-winning and acclaimed playwright Diane Samuels, *Waltz With Me*. Inspired by true stories of the nineteenth-century educational pioneer and reverend mother Cornelia Connelly, the play is a beautiful and moving celebration of music, connection, relationships and personal sacrifice.

Synopsis:

When Maggie Byrne attends the retirement dinner of her old music teacher at the convent school she attended, she discovers she has more in common with the founding nun, Cornelia Connelly, than she previously realised. As events in Maggie's world progress and relationships break down, Cornelia's remarkable life waltzes and weaves through Maggie's, bringing them together through their shared love for music.

Inspired by true stories of the nineteenth-century educational pioneer and reverend mother Cornelia Connelly and an ex-student of one of the schools she founded, *Waltz With Me* paints a moving picture of the challenges of marriage and motherhood, the calling of vocation, the nature of personal sacrifice for a greater cause and the impact of faith, infusing live waltz, sacred and folk music through the unfolding drama.



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Diane Samuels is a playwright whose career spans thirty years. Her play *Kindertransport* was the winner of the Verity Bargate and Meyer Whitworth awards (1993/94), and has been performed in London's West End, off-Broadway and all over the world. Her plays for BBC radio include *Swine*, *Doctor Y*, *Hen Party*, *Psyche* and the *Woman's Hour* serial, *Tiger Wings*. Her recent work includes *The A-Z of Mrs P*, with composer Gwyneth Herbert, and *Song of Dina*, with composer Maurice Chernick, a new opera giving a voice to the silenced sister of the Bible's Joseph (of multi-coloured coat fame) and a creative collaboration with an international team of environmental scientists to create *Glacier Gifts*, a booklet celebrating glaciers and mourning their retreat due to climate change. Diane lives in London.

Renard Press Ltd
124 City Road
London EC1V 2NX
United Kingdom

020 8050 2928

Registered company number: 12559643

