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## WALTZ WITH ME

### 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.

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.

**'Samuels has written the best play about the pain and passion of mother/daughter relationships.'**

**GUARDIAN (ON KINDERTRANSPORT)**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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.



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