

# M A N Y A



## A Living History of Marie Curie

by Susan Marie Frontczak, Storysmith®

This one-woman drama exposes the struggles and triumphs of Madame Marie Curie (née Maria Skłodowska) - an academically impassioned, vehemently private, fervently Polish scientist, mother, and teacher.

- Two-hour, full-length adult program. The year is 1915. Wrapped in a context of the outset of the Great War, this program spans childhood memories, romance, scientific discoveries, honors, the disruptions incurred by fame, the pain of loss of her husband, and emergence.
- One-hour program adjusted as appropriate for adults or for school groups grades 4 through 12. A 40 minute presentation from childhood through scientific discovery, followed by a 10 minute Q&A with Marie Curie, and a 10 minute Q&A with the author/presenter.

This program **honors a preeminent woman of science**: discoverer of radium and radioactivity, first woman in Europe to earn a doctorate in the sciences, first woman to lecture at the Sorbonne, and winner of two Nobel Prizes. Re-live the exceptional collaboration between Pierre and Marie Curie, companion scientists, who worked with the medical community to establish the first successful treatments of cancer. This program **honors the ethic of scientific altruism**. The Curies declined to patent their methods, insisting that to profit from the discovery of radium would be “contrary to the scientific spirit.” And, this program **honors Manya’s Polish heritage** - much neglected not only now, but in her own life, to her own dismay. Whether looking at Marie within her historical context or through the lens of a new millennium, this is a life that challenges our assumptions about what one person can achieve and the responsibilities of science.

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### Audience Testimonials

*"[Frontczak's] Curie portrayal last night... was strangely gripping. The words very intelligently composed, history so tightly interwoven with personal expression, [her] acting style - full of hesitations, the words riding a graph of emotion - one was immersed in the story and the person."*

- Jack Collum, Poet



*"Scientists in the audience applaud the accuracy of the presentation, while the non-scientists rejoice at the accessibility of Many's scientific descriptions."*

- American Museum of Science and Energy, Oak Ridge, TN

*"We have rarely seen a single-person performance as enthralling as Susan Frontczak's Many. Our audience, comprised of general public as well as Fermilab scientific staff, was quickly drawn into Marie Curie's character by the mannerisms and speech of Ms. Frontczak. Particularly impressive was the inspiration it seemed to provide for young women in the audience interested in science as a career. The evening, which ended with a standing ovation, passed much too quickly."*

- Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia IL

### About the Artist/Author

For 28 years Storysmith® Susan Marie Frontczak has brought literature to life, created stories from thin air, and honed personal experience into tales worth telling again and again. She plays in theatres, corporations, schools, libraries, and festivals internationally. Her Marie Curie presentations have taken her to 21 of the United States, Scotland, and Canada for over 190 performances.

In dramatizing the life of Maria Skłodowska, Susan Marie pays homage to their shared Polish heritage. Susan, like Many, enjoyed school, and promotes awareness that academic excellence can lead to outstanding achievement. Marie Curie's perseverance in purifying a grain of radium from a ton of pitchblende, in part, inspired Susan to major in Engineering, where she worked for fourteen years before pursuing full time storytelling. Susan has always viewed both science and art as valid outlets for creativity. It is her aim to reveal the human behind the scientist, while placing Marie Curie's life and accomplishments in a memorable historical context.



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[www.storysmith.org/manya](http://www.storysmith.org/manya) Demo Video or DVD available upon request.

