

Love's Ultimate Journey *the Actual* & Dance



A love story with an unexpectedly happy ending.

A Book by Samuel A. Simon

*“A poignant reminder of
all we take for granted
in our lives.”*

-William Kennard,
Dance Chairman ATT. Former U.S.
Ambassador to the European Union

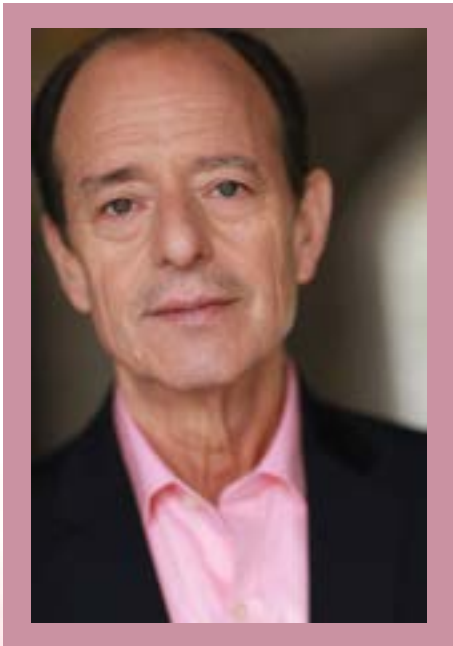
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About Samuel A. Simon

Sam Simon describes himself as being engaged in his fourth age of life, as a playwright and performer. The lawyer and original Nader's Raider likes to say that this is the best of his life found hint as did the story of The Actual Dance itself. After his wife was diagnosed with stage-three breast cancer.

He wrote the play. The Actual Dance, which inspired this memoir. In 2012 and began performing in 2011. The play has been performed hundreds of times since then. Both the hook and the play are autobiographical.



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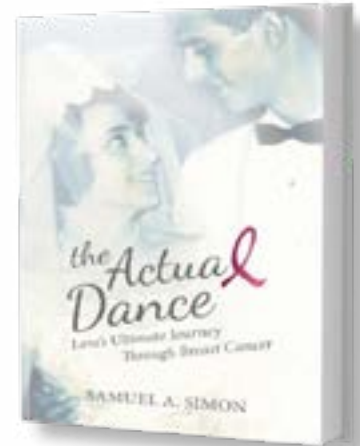
the Actual Dance

Love's Ultimate Journey Through Breast

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Dance Chairman ATT. Former U.S. Ambassador to the European Union



A love story with an unexpectedly happy ending.

The Actual Dance is told through the eyes and heart of a husband as he struggles with his worst fears during what everyone expects to be his wife's losing battle to breast cancer. Determined to support the "other half of his whole," he provides the positivity his love partner demands and the caregiving she needs. He doesn't share his fears, even as he becomes more certain of her upcoming demise. He also keeps his visits to the virtual ballroom—where each one of us will exit into eternity—secret until he begins to wonder if he's losing his mind. Like the play upon which it was based, The Actual Dance will take you on an emotional but uplifting journey and reward you with a universal life affirming lesson of hope, faith and love.

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Praise for The Actual Dance

“When a born pessimist falls for a born optimist, they experience life’s trials and triumphs together. When said optimist Susan gets serious breast cancer, Sam must face his biggest fears. Will he dance alone in his dream waltz of despair, or will Susan’s grit and grace beat his demons? This startling memoir is a celebration of love and hope, where the sick heal the caretaker and the caretaker learns humility and happiness.”

-Rabbi Naamah Kelman. Dean of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion campus in Jerusalem, Israel

“The Actual Dance is a dialogue of great sensitivity and emotional complexity of a man and his struggles dealing with the most important women in his life who were diagnosed with breast cancer- his wife, his mother and his mother-in-law-and with their survival and/or death. In this book, the true impact of the diagnosis of his wife’s breast cancer is often hidden in the deep recesses of his emotions and his life. The dance is a metaphor for the swirling in and of his life. Anyone who reads this book will be profoundly affected.”

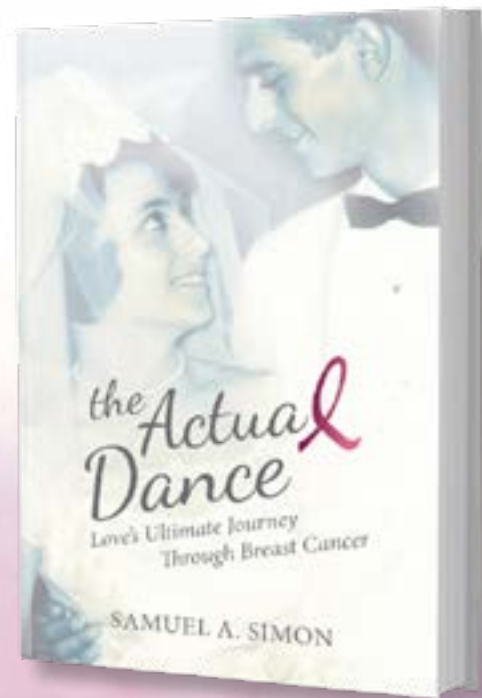
-Richard Binder, M.D., acclaimed metal sculptor and retired oncologist

“Through the terror of a dreaded cancer diagnosis, The Actual Dance is a poignant love story bearing witness to all its messiness. Sam’s experience of his wife Susan’s breast cancer explores the power of hope to overcome despair. It’s a tender story of navigating the dimensions of fear, punctuated by optimism, to overcome the unimaginable odds.”

-Roberta Baskin, award-winning investigative journalist, co-founder and former executive director of the

“Sam Simon has written a brilliant book addressing a subject that few have visited--the role of caregiver (or, as Sam self-identifies, “love partner”) to his devoted wife of more than 30 years, who has just received a breast cancer diagnosis. As the prognosis becomes more dire, Sam finds himself transported to a hall with a full orchestra playing the couple’s favorite song, ‘the actual dance’ of the title. This is a book for anyone who has ever loved and desires to grasp a fuller understanding of what that love truly means.”

-Frances Schwartz, educator in Jewish Studies, co-author of Jewish Moral Virtues and A Touch of the Sacred, author of Passage to Pesach



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Praise for *The Actual Dance*

“This beautiful book is a poignant reminder of all we take for granted in our lives. This book will cause you to think differently and more deeply about the day-to-day interactions with the one you love most in your life and certainly cause you to hug that person just a little tighter.”

-William Kennard, chairman of AT&T’s board of directors, former U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, former chair of the Federal Communications Commission

“The Actual Dance is beautiful, powerful, and timeless in its messages. I hope this is very widely read and absorbed.”

-James Fallows, award-winning and bestselling author, contributing writer at *The Atlantic*, a former editor of *U.S. News & World Report*

“Written from the perspective of a husband whose wife was just diagnosed with cancer. Sam describes his journey with the metaphor of a dance, ‘The Actual Dance,’ that is controlling his mind. A must-read.”

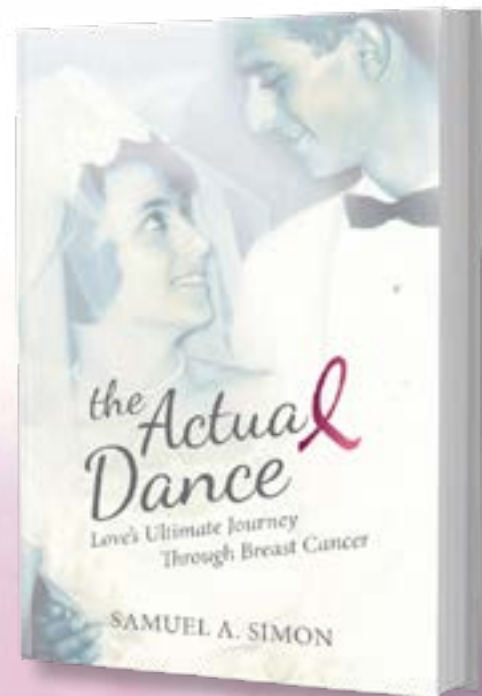
- Eileen Filler-Corn, 56th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, lawyer, former advisor to U.S. Senator Mark Warner

“A rarely heard voice in the breast cancer journey. Sam gives voice to the depth of his love and fear of loss. The story itself is a metaphor for a ritual we know will come. It is a story of what love really means.”

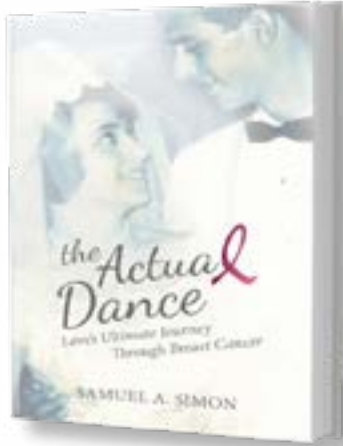
-Congressman Gerry Connelly, U.S. Representative from Virginia’s 11th Congressional District, former

“In *The Actual Dance*, Sam Simon weaves together the fascinating story behind his writing and producing a play of the same name with the real-life events he experienced while confronting his wife Susan’s cancer. The integration of these two realities strengthens the poignancy of each, and we, the readers, benefit profoundly. With intimate detail, Sam recounts the oft-untold emotional roller coaster of the caregivers who endure the life-threatening illness of a loved one. The story is universal, and I highly recommend it for everyone.”

-Reverend Robert Chase, former director of communications for United Church of Christ, founding director of Intersections International, award-winning video producer and director



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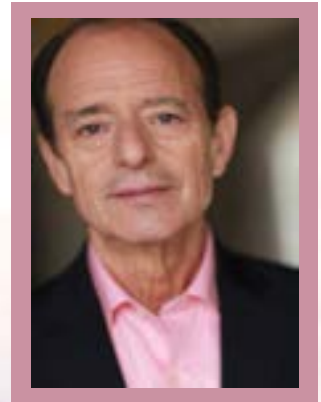
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