

Marina and Me

Written and performed by Deborah Paige, with musical accompaniment by Nicholas Marshall.

Performed at the celebration of the lives of *Marina and Carito Rodriguez Vega - hearts of giants*
Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon.



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There is an installation of paper cut-outs representing the 4000 children and their carers who were evacuated from Bilbao to England in 1937 laid out on the floor like a river.

Maite nun zira is played

Deborah walks along the line of paper evacuees –

This is a story about journeys, sisters, love, friendship and growing up.

It starts here:

21st May, 1937. In the early hours of the morning 3861 Basque Children Board the SS *Habana* and set sail for Southampton. Worried parents. Much heartache and many tears have gone into the decision to send the children abroad for safety – away from the terrifying bombings in Guernica, the awful hunger and the prospect of Franco's forces doing their worst.

But only for three months, then it will all be over they say. That's what they say.

How long do you think it will take to get all these children onto the boat. Where will they all sleep. Who's that little girl, slung over the shoulder of the seaman who runs up the gang-way and dumps her at the top?

'Farewell, Safe Passage' says the Basque President, Señor Aguirre, before he climbs back down the gang-way.

Deborah as MARINA stands with suitcase in her hand, waving. A sad moment.

This is the first page of the script for the performance piece ***Marina and Me***. For a full copy please contact mail@deborahpaige.co.uk

Simon Martinez
25 June 2018