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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*The original memoir that inspired the hit Broadway play,  
winner of two Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize*

### I AM MY OWN WIFE

The True Story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf

by Charlotte von Mahlsdorf

- “Nothing short of breathtaking.... A terrific story.” — *New York Times*

Cleis Press is proud to announce publication of *I Am My Own Wife: The True Story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf* by Charlotte von Mahlsdorf (\$12.95, trade paper, ISBN 1-57344-200-3, June 2004). Cleis holds exclusive English-language rights to the title. The Broadway hit of the same name won two Tony Awards in June 2004: Best Play and Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play. It has also won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

*I Am My Own Wife* is the memoir of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. As a child in prewar Berlin, Charlotte von Mahlsdorf wanted nothing more than to try on the pretty taffeta dresses she saw in shop windows and to dust and oil her furniture collection to a shine. She would have made a perfect hausfrau. The only problem was that Charlotte was a boy.

Hailed by the *New York Times*, *Time* magazine, and the *Village Voice*, here is the amazing story of a mild-mannered transvestite who triumphed over a violent childhood and the brutalities of both the Nazis and Communists to carve out a dignified life as an open cross-dresser in East Berlin. Charlotte's tale, like her life, is a surprising and provocative weave of sex, politics, and history. In her memoir she tells of her lifelong pursuit of sexual liberty.

- **The play by Doug Wright is currently running on Broadway at the Lyceum Theater. It is scheduled to travel to Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. in 2005.**

**Quotes:**

“As a child, Lothar Berfelde loved to wear an apron and polish porcelain. Given his druthers, he would have chosen to live quietly in the 19th century, perhaps as a housekeeper in a well-appointed home near Berlin. Instead his life took a bumpier course....” — *Time* magazine

“Charlotte’s been smacked and pawed for decades by a gallery of rogues and brutes...and she’s resisted. In drag. It is not the transgendered soul that is perverse, but the situation in which it lives.” — *the Village Voice*

**I Am My Own Wife**

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