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## **MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE**

### **A stage production by the Organic Underground Collective**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

TORONTO, October 30 – CANADIANS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (CJPME) is proud to present the play MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE in Mississauga at the MIST Theatre at the University of Toronto's Erindale campus. There will be two performances: on November 14 and November 15 starting at 7:30 PM

MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE is a one-woman play composed from the journals, letters and emails of Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old American who, while attempting to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian home in Gaza, was crushed to death by an Israeli Army bulldozer on March 16, 2003. Corrie's writings were edited by Guardian editor Katherine Viner and British actor/director Alan Rickman, who also directed the first production in London in April 2005 at the Royal Court Theatre.

Rachel Corrie's writings present audiences with a messy, articulate, Salvador Dali-loving chain-smoker, with a passion for the music of Pat Benatar. After (reading/hearing, etcing about injustice/suffering/human rights abuses in Palestine), Corrie left the comfort of home and school in Olympia, Washington State, to work as an activist in the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The play has been surrounded by both controversy and impassioned proponents, inspiring political activism even as it depicts Corrie's increasing despair over what she sees in Gaza. North American productions of the play were cancelled in New York and Toronto in 2006 due to objections from influential supporters of Israel. A production was staged later that year in New York and in May 2008 in Toronto.

The Mississauga production of MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE is being staged by the Organic Underground Theatre Collective, based at an activist coffee shop collective in Belleville, Ontario, that sells fair trade/organic coffee (characterised as "a mug of justice"). Mississauga is the third venue for the company, following sold-out performances in or Belleville and Kingston.

There will be two performances of MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE at MiST (Multimedia Studio Theatre) (CCIT Building, room CC0150), at Erindale Campus, 3359 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga: on Friday, Nov. 14, 7:30 pm and Saturday, Nov. 15, 7:30 pm.

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#### **About CJPME**

*Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) is a non-profit and secular organization bringing together men and women of all backgrounds who labour to see justice and peace take root again in the Middle East. Its mission is to empower decision-makers to view all sides with fairness and to promote the equitable and sustainable development of the region.*

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