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***My Name is Rachel Corrie* Premieres in Chicago with Purple Bench**

This September, Purple Bench Productions brings *My Name is Rachel Corrie* to the Chicago stage. Edited by Alan Rickman (*Harry Potter* films, *Sweeney Todd*) and Katherine Viner (*The Guardian*), this moving play is a one-woman show adapted entirely from Rachel Corrie's emails, letters and journal entries.

A young, idealistic college student, Rachel Corrie traveled to Gaza in 2003 to protest the violence between Israel and Palestine. Working with the International Solidarity Movement, she acted as a human shield in efforts to protect Palestinian homes from Israeli bulldozers. Her tragic death occurred only months after her arrival in the region, as she was crushed while trying to stop a bulldozer from destroying another home. The situation surrounding her death was immediately controversial—was Rachel a naïve political pawn, or was she simply someone who believed in helping other people?

The play celebrates Corrie's passionate drive to help people and change the world by providing a window into her ideals, relationships and experiences in times of war and peace. In 2005, *My Name is Rachel Corrie* opened to rave reviews in London. Set for a New York premiere in 2006, the play met with controversy when the New York Theater Workshop indefinitely postponed its production due to mounting concerns about the play's content.

Purple Bench Productions is excited and honored to produce this Chicago premiere, directed by Emmy Kreilkamp and assisted by Matthew Zaradich. *My Name is Rachel Corrie* runs September 12 — October 5, Thursdays — Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m., at The Artistic Home (formerly Live Bait Theater), 3914 N. Clark St. General admission tickets are \$20. Tickets for the opening night gala are \$30 and a reception will follow the performance. Student tickets (with valid student ID) are \$15. Online ticketing will be available in August by visiting our website at www.purplebenchproductions.com. Ticket reservations can be made by emailing tickets@purplebenchproductions.com. Group rates are available. Media comps, with appropriate credentials, can be obtained by emailing stephanie@purplebenchproductions.com.

For more information on this production, visit www.purplebenchproductions.com.

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