



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Dunnville, Ontario, November 6, 2006**

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raising awareness: **dream's** film and speaker series presents  
**Nadja Halilbegovich**

Imagine you are thirteen years old and step outside your house for the first time in seven months only to have a bombshell hit the ground just feet away from you. For Nadja Halilbegovich, living as a teenager in war-time Bosnia meant living face-to-face with poverty, injustice and intolerance. On Friday, November 24, 2006, 7 pm, at Dunnville Secondary School, **dream**, in association with Dunnville and District Credit Union Limited, welcomes speaker and author Nadia Halilbegovich, to town.

Now 22 years old, and a graduate of Butler University for Vocal Performance and Theatre, Nadja has shared her poetry, songs and performances on Bosnia National Radio and across the United States and Canada. She has spoken at events such as *The Global Young Leaders Conference* and *The State of the World Forum* and has been included in *Courage to Give* by Jackie Waldman. In 2000, she was in Michael Collopy's *Architects of Peace*, along with the Dalai Lama and Mother Teresa. Later the same year, her message was brought to American teenagers with her feature in *Teen People Magazine*.

Upon graduating in 2002, Halilbegovich embarked on a nine-month speaking tour with the non-profit organization "Free the Children" promoting peace and tolerance to over 70,000 students across thirty-five states and four Canadian provinces. Nadja currently lives in Canada and her book, *My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary* (2006), has recently been published in the U.S. and Canada.

Nadja's story provides an in-depth worldview of the consequences of warfare. "Ms. Halilbegovich performance is spell-binding," notes Dr. Reza Kazemi, "she has the unique gift of transporting you into a war-torn country, of making you feel what it is like to live under such conditions and of challenging you to think and rethink your own responses to global intolerances."

For more information on how you can purchase season tickets to **dream's raising awareness: film and speaker series** or join as a volunteer or



community sponsor contact Dr. Reza Kazemi at 905.774.8841, or by email at [kazemi@mountaincable.net](mailto:kazemi@mountaincable.net). All proceeds from the event will help fund **dream's** community and youth programs.

**dream** is a unique, community-based organization of volunteers that builds Dunnville's capacity to better serve secondary students by providing academic, social and financial support to secondary school students. **dream** offers a four-year, youth mentorship, program and hosts other community services that include a field-school program in Ek Balam, Mexico.

**dream's** presentation of *Nadja Halilbegovich* is generously sponsored by Dunnville and District Credit Union Limited, Your Family, Your Community, Your Credit Union.

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