



## STANFORD MEDICAL YOUTH SCIENCE PROGRAM

Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stanford Prevention Research Center  
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We write this reference in strong support of Olivier Bonin and Madnomad Productions. We are an organization in the Stanford University School of Medicine with the mission of engaging multi-ethnic youth in health, medicine, and higher education opportunities. As part of our school outreach initiative we developed a Public Health Advocacy Curriculum that teaches high school students how the conditions in their neighborhood affect their health and encourages them to get involved in advocacy efforts. As part of our national dissemination strategy, we wished to develop a film to accompany the Curriculum that would easily describe its content and its impact on students and teachers.

Olivier came highly recommended from a Stanford colleague, and upon our first introduction we hired him with utmost confidence. Even in our first meeting we were struck by Olivier's commitment to and passion for our project. While still in the interview phase (and therefore doing this without financial compensation) he had reviewed our 10-lesson, 250-page Curriculum in order to understand what we were trying to promote. He approached us with helpful suggestions of how we could translate our ideas and objectives on screen. As a non-profit with limited funds, Olivier generously negotiated the budget for this project while never compromising quality or integrity. He even exceeded our interpretation of the contract to do what was in the best interest of our students and the final product. This included, for example, accepting a teacher's request to give a career talk to over 60 students.

We appreciated Olivier's engagement in every stage of production and as a result the entire process went smoothly and was a positive experience overall.

For our participant interviews, Olivier developed questions and led conversations with students and teachers from health classes at multiple high schools; other filmmakers would have simply recorded our staff conducting interviews, but given that Olivier mastered the Curriculum content plus had the professional film-related expertise, his involvement led to a more effective final product. Some Curriculum topics were sensitive yet Olivier was always respectful; he put interviewees at ease while also probing enough to solicit substantial responses. Olivier established a strong rapport with our population and they remarked how pleasant he was to work with.

Olivier generated many creative ideas for the film. For instance, one Curriculum lesson requires students to identify assets and barriers to health in their neighborhoods and Olivier actually accompanied an instructor in a car to tour one of the neighborhoods where such a mapping activity occurred, and walked with another set of students in their home and school environments. Olivier spent much time in the field collecting background-roll to support the content of the interviews and to realistically portray what students face while participating in the Curriculum. Throughout he never appeared rushed and was committed to keeping the film authentic. Olivier offered insight based on experience about what would set our film apart from the standard variety yet still be practical. While Olivier had a clear artistic vision for the final product he also always accepted our input. This was especially evident during the editing process, where he was exceptionally patient and generous accommodating our staff's questions and requests.

Olivier was punctual with his correspondences and meetings as well as attentive to deadlines – and at the same time flexible when we were not as prompt on our end. His staff was likewise personable, attentive to detail, and easy to work with.

The final 8-minute film is exceptional. It is both informative and compelling. The facts of the Curriculum are clearly conveyed and the effect that the Curriculum had on students and teachers is shown in a very moving way. The film will be disseminated nationally and we anticipate much positive feedback.

Needless to say we highly recommend Olivier Bonin and Madnomad productions. We will happily share more details of our process and final product with interested clients.

Sincerely,

Nell Curran, MPH  
Outreach Director

Judith Ned, EdD, Med  
Executive Director

Marilyn Winkleby, PhD, MPH  
Faculty Director