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HAND of the Peninsula
Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization which provides
support for families who
have experienced the loss
of a baby before, during,
or after birth.

This letter is written in support of Olivier Bonin and Madnomad Productions. HAND of the Peninsula is a non-profit organization comprised of parents who have experienced the loss of a baby before, during or after birth. We offer empathetic peer support to other parents and their adult relatives and friends during the normal mourning following miscarriage, stillbirth, interruption of a wanted pregnancy after prenatal diagnosis, or death in the first year of life.

HAND first engaged Olivier and Madnomad in January 2016 to develop a film that would be used in multiple ways, but primarily as a tool to support recently bereaved parents. Inherently we were embarking on a project centered around a very sensitive topic, and from the beginning, Olivier demonstrated a keen understanding of the nuances involved in creating and executing on such a project. From the initial meeting, it was clear that Olivier brought to the table the unique ability to both embrace our organization's vision while advocating for the aspects that he, as a filmmaker, knew would make the film successful. Olivier was open to feedback and didn't hesitate to make suggestions in a caring, thoughtful way, which was essential given the personal nature of the subject matter.

Olivier diligently contacted, coordinated, and scheduled time to meet with several bereaved families and managed the entire project in an incredible efficient and comprehensive way. He was communicative and punctual throughout. Olivier was incredibly sensitive to the interactions and interviews with the bereaved parents, who were speaking about their personal loss of a child. Given how difficult it can be for parents to speak about their losses to people they don't know, we were so thrilled with the final film and the beautiful way it captured the stories of each family. It is obvious that Olivier thoughtfully questioned our parents in such a way that allowed them to tell their stories comfortably and naturally, but also highlighted the points that we'd agreed upon were essential to the film.

The final film is stunning. The flow from subject to subject, parent to parent works very well and that is thanks to Olivier's ability to weave together the interviews into a hauntingly beautiful and helpful film--exactly what we hoped to produce when we embarked on this project. We plan to disseminate this film far and wide to help bereaved families, their friends and relatives, and health care providers who care for these families to understand the experience of losing a baby. In doing so, it is our hope that parents who experience such a devastating loss will receive the support that research demonstrates is critical to grieve in a healthy, productive way.

HAND of the Peninsula highly recommends Olivier Bonin and Madnomad Productions. Undoubtedly, it is uncommon to find a filmmaker who is so skilled and who is equally sensitive, and we are so grateful to have had the opportunity work with Olivier on this project,

Sincerely,

Paige Abramson Hirsch
President