



RHODE ISLAND  
COLLEGE

July 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to you to recommend Soren Sorensen's work as a filmmaker to your attention, particularly his documentary feature, *My Father's Vietnam*. Mr. Sorensen shot, edited, and scored this documentary, a highly personal yet richly contextualized account of two men who served alongside his father in the Vietnam War, and died in the course of that conflict. It's a striking film, the emotional power of which creeps up on one gradually, through personal interviews with friends and family, rare 8mm footage, and montages of some of his father's journalistic work and photographs. It's a striking film, one which manages to give a freshly human dimension to a historical moment we've been led to believe has already been represented fully – and yet here is evidence, found very close to home, that this will never be the case.

Since making this film, Mr. Sorensen has gone on to produce or direct a number of significant film projects, including several segments of a planned larger documentary on the career of Cuban bandleader and composer Omar Sosa, as well as widely recognized local films for Harvesting Rhode Island, Eat Healthy Rhode Island, and other community groups. With such substantial projects as these, and more in progress, he continues to make his mark. His particular gift is the manner in which he situates his subjects, even in the most complex cultural landscapes with a sense of their essential simplicity.

As a scholar of film and media history, a judge for the Rhode Island International Film Festival, and a lifelong lover of documentary film and music, I believe Mr. Sorensen to be the most promising contemporary documentarian I know. He has my highest possible personal and professional recommendation.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Potter, Ph.D.  
Professor of Film and Media Studies