

jewish film festival

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS: LOOKING AT OURSELVES

July 11, 2001

Fiscal Sponsorship Program
 New York Foundation for the Arts
 155 Avenue of the Americas, 14th Floor
 New York, NY 10013

To Whom It May Concern,

I enthusiastically write you in support of Steve Brand's application for NYFA fiscal sponsorship for his forthcoming film on the noted Jewish Theologian and teacher Abraham Joshua Heschel.

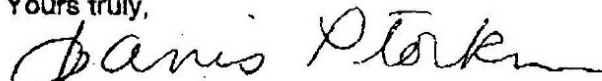
Steve's film KADDISH remains one of the most important films we have presented at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival is the first and largest festival of its kind, has been at the forefront of presenting independent Jewish film and video for the past 20 years.

When we first presented KADDISH in 1984 it was a ground-breaking statement of the legacy the survivors of the Holocaust have left their children. It was if a taboo between two generations had finally been lifted. We knew the message would reverberate across continents we programmed the film at the first ever Moscow Jewish Film Festival that we produced in 1990.

I believe KADDISH is an important film because it was the first film about children of Holocaust survivors to ponder the meaning and form of religious Jewish identity in a post-Holocaust world, as well as being a mesmerizing portrait of one family's response to the Holocaust experience. The film presents a vision of survival and hope transcending victimization. As we approach our 21st Annual Festival, it remains among the most powerful and thought-provoking Holocaust-related films we have ever presented.

For those reasons I think Steve is remarkably able and ready to tackle the work of Jewish activist and theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel. His independent filmmaking credentials are impeccable and his creativity is a match for the challenge of translating Heschel's ideas into film images. I greatly look forward to seeing the film and to programming it at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival in the near future.

Yours truly,



Janis Plotkin
 Executive Artistic Director
 San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

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346 NINTH STREET
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
 TEL: 415. 621. 0556

2800 TENTH STREET, 251-B
 BERKELEY, CA 94710
 TEL: 510. 548. 0556

FACSIMILE: 415. 621. 0568
 E-MAIL: JEWISHFILM@SFJFF.ORG
 WEBSITE: HTTP://WWW.SFJFF.ORG