

October 29, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known James Fortier for approximately six years and have worked with him on numerous productions. Jim was the DP for the award winning short drama, "Looks Into the Night" that I directed. He was a committed and creative partner in all aspects of production. His resourcefulness made a difficult project possible.

Two years ago as Executive Producer, I contracted Jim to produce/direct/and shoot- "Voices for the Land", a half-hour documentary on Minnesota authors and their connection to the land for PBS *eight*. This exquisite documentary was completed on time and within the budget. It is a beautiful testament to Jim's creativity and vision.

Presently, Jim is the writer and Assoc. Producer for the six-hour series, "Waasa Inaabidaa - We Look In All Directions", on the history of the Ojibwe tribe in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan that I am producing/directing for PBS *eight*. He has participated in all aspects of production and is an outstanding representative of his tribe. His creativity and practicality have served our project well. In countless ways, his professional skills and storytelling ability have been powerfully demonstrated.

The program Jim directed, "Alcatraz is Not an Island", deserves international exposure since it is an excellent documentary and breaks new ground in content and form. Indigenous producers and programs have not received adequate recognition or exposure in INPUT. While attending INPUT in Halifax, Nova Scotia, I became aware of the great interest of European producers in Native American topics. This program would be of great interest to international producers desiring more access to programming on indigenous people and their struggles. I highly recommend this program for INPUT, and Jim Fortier as the best representative to attend, since he can speak most effectively about the production and the perspective of Native Americans.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Norrgard
Producer