

## Heartfelt Films L.L.C.

February 26, 2013

Attention World Interfaith Harmony Week  
Awards Committee

Dear Distinguished Judges,

I have known Renée DePalma as a professional in the film and television industry for over 25 years. We have worked on a variety of films together over the years, as she served the roles of producer, co-producer, director, writer, and a member of the post-production editing team.

Renée was also invited by me to teach and lecture in the esteemed academic film programs at California State University college campuses, and she created one of the most in depth and innovative courses on documentary film producing, directing and writing that I have witnessed to date.

She has been awarded prizes for her own films on many occasions, as the content of her films often contains an effort to make a difference in her community or impact a social issue in a positive way.

Her award winning film "BELIEVE" was influential in helping to create programs across the United States to assist families and children who are homeless or welfare dependent. Her film "LET THE CONVERSATION BEGIN" won first prize in the international competition produced by the Council On American Islamic Relations for encouraging dialogue and cooperation between the Muslim, Jewish and Christian religious communities.

Renée continued her work as an interfaith and peace activist by joining the Executive Board of The Southern California Committee For A Parliament Of The World's Religions and serving as their Treasurer for four years. She went on to become a founding board member and Co-Chair of the Westside Interfaith Council For A Parliament Of The World's Religions, and was a speaker and panelist in Melbourne, Australia at the 2009 Parliament Of World Religions Conference. She has also served on committees with Unity-And-Diversity World Council, The Culver City Interfaith Alliance, Westside Interfaith Council, Peace Sunday, and Spiritual and Religious Alliance For Hope. She founded a program to offer interfaith counseling, meditation, and religious services to inmates in the Los Angeles County Jails and is a member of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Multi-faith Clergy Council.

In addition to her film talents and social service work, Renée is a person of exceptional character and integrity. She truly cares for others and works hard to encourage peace amongst the variety of religious, spiritual, and faith traditions. She co-founded the Spiritual Salons of Los Angeles in 2010 to offer a forum for ongoing monthly gatherings, breaking of bread, and dialogue between people of all faiths and walks of life. The Spiritual Salons are still thriving to date.



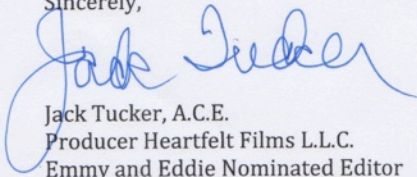
Since Renée holds degrees in both film and world religious studies, it was not a surprise to me that she found a way to merge those two worlds by creating and founding the World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival in 2013. This first annual film festival was a huge success, bringing people from India, Canada, Germany, Italy and around the United States to use spiritual interfaith cinema as a tool to encourage interfaith dialogue and discussion. This was a superb gift to the Los Angeles community, the promotion of global religious understanding and the practice of religious harmony.

Renée selected the first week of February to present the film festival because she strongly believes that the goals of the U.N. World Interfaith Harmony Week matched the goals that Los Angeles is aiming for in the interfaith work of the Southern California community. She succeeded, and produced a **five day world-class film festival** that was an outstanding example of what interfaith cinema, creativity, and spiritually inclined filmmakers can do to impact and influence religious cooperation and understanding.

I hope you will consider Ms. De Palma in your award selection. She certainly deserves it. She worked tirelessly for months to produce the World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival, and awarding her a prize would offer her a way to offset the 1<sup>st</sup> annual 2013 film festival costs and some seed monies to produce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual film festival in the first week of February 2014.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jack Tucker, A.C.E.  
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Emmy and Eddie Nominated Editor  
Recipient of the Robert Wise Award  
Founder of CinemaEditor Magazine  
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