

ILLNESS PRODUCTIONS LLC

To: The nominating committee for the MHA Media Award.

I am honored to nominate the film **NO LETTING GO** to be a recipient of the MHA Media Award.

The film was made to create a much needed dialogue about children's mental health. It was completely independently made, meaning the funding all came from private donors believing in our film and not from a major movie studio. After we had gather the necessary funds, incredible talent came out in force to help us with the casting. Among many others, Alysia Reiner (Orange is the New Black, Equity) Kathy Najimy (Hocus Pocus, Sister Act, Veep) and Lisa Gillan Roberts (Julia's sister) came onboard to play essential roles in the film.

Randi Silverman, my producing partner, mental health advocate and the real-life mom behind the story, sat down for 4 months to write the screenplay. Actually she voice dictated since she had just fallen on black ice and broken her wrist. It was a hard 4 months with many cathartic moments as she re-lived the years of raising a son with bipolar disorder, while trying to keep the whole family safe and together.

The mental health community has been incredibly supportive of the film, especially since it is the only film available to date that is really showing the struggles of such a young child. Everyone is affected; siblings, friends, teachers, counselors, grandparents and of course the parents. It was import to us to have a film that EVERY VIEWER, regardless of their own situation, could still identify with when they were watching it.

Dr. Lloyd Sederer wrote in the Huffington Post review:

"Its message of not letting go, never giving up... is one we all need to hear and see."

The film has won over 20 international awards, and is being distributed worldwide by Vision Films, a huge feat for an independent film. After a short theatrical run and on-demand, it can now be seen on Amazon and many other digital platforms.

The film is also being used as an educational tool for the non profit YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT, through screening events and community conversation around the country. The 501 (c)3 was founded by Randi and Wendy Ward in 2016.

YMH Project creates opportunities for individuals and communities to promote education, awareness and understanding how to take care and support the whole child, since we all have both mental health and physical health.

We can shift perceptions about youth mental health. Through mental health literacy, we can reduce the number of children who struggle with a diagnosable mental health disorder and improve life long outcome. YMH Project has been creating the tools to help.

I have included the NO LETTING GO Press kit as the supporting document.

Here is a direct link to the short trailer: www.nolettinggomovie.com/trailer

Private Link to the film link in its entirety: <https://vimeo.com/152738788>

Password: **vfclient720**

To read all about the film go to www.nolettinggomovie.com

And for information about YMH Project www.ymhproject.org

Please let me know if there is anything else you need.

Most Sincerely

Carina Rush

Producer

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SHATTER THE SILENCE

FAR FROM THE TREE

NO LETTING GO

ILLNESS

NO LETTING GO FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

<p>Accolade Competition 2015 Won 4 Awards of Excellence Best Film addressing Disability Issues Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush Original Score Alain Mayrand Leading Actress Cheryl Allison Supporting Actor Richard Burgi</p>	<p>Helios Film Festival, OH 2015 Official Selection</p>	<p>Palm Beach International Film Festival, FL 2016 Nominated Best Feature Film Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>Sydney Indie Film Festival 2015 Won Festival Award Best Female Lead Cheryl Allison Nominated Festival Award Best Film Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush Best Screenplay Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>Vancouver LiftOff, 2016 Nominated Festival Award</p>
<p>Awareness Film Festival, CA 2015 Nominated Merit Award of Awareness</p>	<p>Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, IA 2016 Best Feature Finalist Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush Best Cinematography Finalist Oren Soffer</p>	<p>Reading Film FEST 2015 Won People's Choice Award Narrative Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>VOB Film Festival, NY 2016 Official Selection Narrative Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>Vero Beach Film June, FL 2016 Nominated Festival Award</p>
<p>Back in the Box, Los Angeles, CA 2015 Nominated Best Film Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>LA Indie Film Fest, Los Angeles, CA 2016 Winner Best Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush Best Screenplay Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman</p>	<p>Shadows of the Mind Film Fest 2016 Canadian Premiere Nominated Festival Award</p>	<p>Voice Awards by SAMHSA, LA 2016 Won HONORABLE MENTION Narrative Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>YoFi Fest 2015 Nominated Festival Award Narrative Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>
<p>EyeCatcher International Film Festival, OK 2015 Nominated Best Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>LA Femme International Film Festival 2015 Nominated Best Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>Southampton International Film Festival 2015 Won 3 Festival Awards Feature Screenplay Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Leading Actress in a Feature Cheryl Allison Supporting Actor in a Feature Noah Silverman Nominated Festival Awards Best Feature Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush Best Score in a Feature Alain Mayrand</p>	<p>The IndieFest Film Awards 2015 Won Best of Show Feature Film Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush Won Awards of Excellence Leading Actress Cheryl Allison Best Feature</p>	
<p>Canada International Film Festival, Canada 2016 Won Award of Excellence, Feature Film Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>Long Beach International Film Festival, NY 2015 Nominated Best Feature Film Jonathan D. Bucari Randi Silverman Carina Rush</p>	<p>Achievement in Hair and Make-up Amy Wadford Jessica Mellow</p>		
	<p>NYC Mental Health Film Festival 2015 Won Festival Award Narrative Feature</p>			

In the Press

“No Letting Go is a...master class...Its message of not letting go, never giving up, is one we all need to hear and see”

-Dr. Lloyd Sederer, Huffington Post

“This film is an honest, gripping portrayal of what it’s like to learn that your child has mental illness... Far too many families suffer in shame and silence. Yet ‘No Letting Go’ also offers real hope.”

-Liza Long, Mental Health Advocate

“The true performance and at the forefront is CHERYL ALLISON who stars as Catherine Spencer... For any family dealing with this illness this movie conveys an experience... that hopefully helps to provide understanding.

-Marlon Wallace, Delmarva Life

“An incredible film.... You have told this story with great poignancy.”

-Pete Early, Best Selling Author & Mental Health Advocate

“No Letting Go...Worth Holding On”...”ALYSIA REINER was authentic and inspiring...” “14 year old Tim played brilliantly by NOAH SILVERMAN”....”The film moved me...”

-H. Whiddon, Vulture Hound Magazine

“A+”...”There is so much I love about this movie”...”Absolutely marvelous”

-Martin Hafer, InFLUX Magazine

“No Letting Go sheds light on early mental illness... illustrates how... behavior radiates throughout family friends and community.”

-Katie Walsh, LA Times

“...a must-see movie about childhood mental illness. No Letting Go is a powerful film that gives voice to families all over the world who are silently suffering... share this film with your family and friends. I think this film does an excellent job of bringing aware-ness without adding to the stigma that already exists.”

-Mama Bear, Mental Health Advocate

“A tremendously inspiring and moving film that captures both heartache and hope of a family living with mental illness.”

-Gregory G. Allen, Huffington Post

“Brought me to tears.... incredibly personal and realistic.”

-Luke Myers, Better Mental Health Magazine

“A sensitive treatment of important subject matter.”

-Frank Scheck, Hollywood Reporter