

To whom it may concern:

I am happy to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ian Wagner. I worked with Ian in the summer of 2020 during the post-production of a feature film I directed called EVERY SINGLE SOMEONE. By the time the film was completed, Ian had provided all of the post-production sound services for the film. He recorded foley and ADR, sweetened dialogue, mastered for 5.1 surround sound, and even composed some (pretty good) original music to be used diegetically in several scenes -- all to industry standards that allowed us to shop the film to distributors and license the final package to VOD platforms.

I had never worked with Ian before this project, and I came to our initial meeting prepared with a lot of specific ideas and notes on what the film should sound like and what that sound should accomplish. Ian has a terrific ability to very quickly intuit creative intention, and based on that first meeting he was already off and running, not only applying ideas but iterating those first concepts into even better ones for further use. The film is presented as a fake documentary, and as a result, we determined that a lot of the audio should read as "lo-fi" to the viewer while still maintaining the level of polish necessary for professional exhibition -- a tricky balancing act, especially sonically, but Ian understood it and he achieved a result far above my expectations.

Ian is one of those collaborators that leaves ego at the door, and by example encourages others to do the same. His priority is the best possible final product. Working during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the entire film ecosystem was turned upside-down, Ian never wavered in his commitment to excellence, even as new responsibilities were added to his plate with the continued closure of industry infrastructure. I say sincerely that I could not have finished the film without his professionalism, respect, pragmatism, and healthy sense of humor.

It was absolutely a privilege to work with Ian. He is an individual that can elevate any creative group to new heights, and I strongly recommend him without any reservations.

Sincerely,

Samuel Marko