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To whom it may concern,

By way of introducing myself, I am a Canadian filmmaker who has completed eleven feature films. I've won the U.S. National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Experimental Film twice, also won an International Emmy, and have served on juries at the Venice Film Festival and the Berlinale. Most recently I was a guest lecturer for two weeks, in December 2013, at Bela Tarr's Film Factory at the University of Sarajevo.

Adam Stangeby took the initiative to introduce himself to me during the Fall term of 2013 at the Innis College, University of Toronto, where I was a visiting instructor for an undergraduate course. Adam, though not one of my own students, stood out as by far the most insightful and articulate of all the students I encountered at that university. We got to know each other well, with each passing day he impressed me more. He's an extremely talented man with determination, drive and confident graciousness.

Adam's written work is remarkable, of very highest level. Adam has his own strong voice and style. He's a wonderful storyteller with keen intelligence, empathy, intuition and a near omnivorous range of interests – potential to burn! His background in cinema theory and history provides a structural backbone for the development of his stories. One can't help but be impressed in conversations and emails with him how observant of human nature he is. This he will bring to bear in his creation of screenplay characters.

For all of these stated reasons and more, I see Adam as someone who is ready to move forward with his screenwriting as he surely heads toward professional opportunities.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms, please accept Adam into your graduate program. He will do you great credit. I wish him the best for his bright future.

Most sincerely,

Guy Maddin