



Cornell University

David J. Skorton
President

October 30, 2009

Greg Bennick and Patrick Shen
Transcendental Media
235 East Broadway
Suite 980
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Greg and Patrick:

I am delighted to provide the following statement, which you have my permission to quote in promoting your extraordinary film *The Philosopher Kings*.

The Philosopher Kings is a compelling, engaging, funny, heartbreaking, and ultimately profoundly wise documentary that portrays eight university custodians on and off the job, and opens our eyes to their creativity, intellect, and wisdom. The seamless interweaving of the custodians' stories, with a perfectly attuned score and striking cinematography, adds up to an unpretentiously artistic film with great emotional and intellectual impact.

Here at Cornell University, we are very proud that two of our staff members, Jim Evener and Gary Napieracz, were chosen to appear in the film. They represent the skilled building care personnel who work all across the campus, and they remind us of how little we often "see" some people with whom we work every day in an invisible partnership.

The film's premiere on our campus was a tremendously moving experience for me and for the hundreds in the audience. Like all fine works of art, this film enlarges our perspectives and brings a part of life into sudden, sharp focus. I don't know anyone who saw the film who didn't feel its impact.

This film doesn't patronize anyone. It touches on the hard lives of many of these people but doesn't dwell there for long. Instead, the impression that lingers in the viewer's mind is that of having had the good fortune to meet some truly remarkable individuals, people of strength, courage, and serenity. The filmmakers have found wisdom in unexpected places, and all of us privileged to see *The Philosopher Kings* are in their debt.

Good luck with promoting the film and please keep me apprised. I will send this statement to Presidents Tilghman and Brodhead to encourage their participation as well.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David".

David J. Skorton