

From: Robert Stacey
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 11:45 AM
To: Travis Pike
Subject: I enjoyed your film immensely; I've been to St. Peters Italian Hall on several occasions at St. Joseph's Day.

Dear Mr. Pike.

I want to thank you for a most enjoyable morning. At breakfast, our activity director announced that a documentary movie "about singing and seniors" would be shown at 10 am. Had she told us that it had won two awards for creative excellence, the crowd that attended might have been even larger. Fortunately, I was among the several lucky residents that went to the screening.

To my delight, "Volunteers for Verdi" turned out to be a fascinating behind-the-scenes revelation of an opera company's production process from start to finish. I was particularly impressed that the entire narrative had been culled from interviews with members of the opera company, and still never became a "talking heads" piece. "Volunteers for Verdi" managed to introduce each character within the actual timeline of the rehearsals and production, and then, as they told their stories, show us informative and entertaining scenes of the preparations for the staging of the opera. The movie flowed beautifully, never dragging on like so many documentaries we have seen. Outstanding highlights were the expressions, nuances, and personal idiosyncracies of the dedicated players who made the production of Verdi's Opera "Don Carlo" come to life.

I confess to a tinge of pride as "Volunteers for Verdi" introduced the wonderful mix of backgrounds and talents of the local Angelinos who lived near my old neighborhood in Silverlake. I have already recommended it to my friends, but I wanted you to know just how well received your film was. Congratulations on a job well done.

Robert Stacey