



Loyola Marymount University
School of
Film and Television

Dear Sony x LMU Social Impact Filmmaking Lab Committee,

I'm writing to offer my highest recommendation for Adria Branson's application for the Social Impact Filmmaking Lab. Adria recently earned her MFA with a specialization in Editing. I had the pleasure of teaching her in both Advanced Editing and her editing capstone class, where students hone their creative portfolios, develop pedagogical skills, and transition to the professional world. Additionally, I was honored to present Adria with the Editing Specialization Award, one of two given out annually to graduating editors recognizing their dedication and excellence in the field.

Adria is an exceptionally gifted editor and engaged student. Easily within the top 1% of students I've taught. I am consistently impressed with her technical proficiency and her innate storytelling ability. From our first class, her work immediately stood out. Her edits demonstrate a meticulous attention to detail and an artistry that elevates the material. Whether fine-tuning pace or enhancing emotional beats through sound, she intuitively understands how to shape a story and draw the audience in. Her rough cuts are polished and she comes to class eager for feedback. Additionally, she offers insightful and specific feedback to her classmates in a kind and clear manner, and is a truly additive presence in class.

Her film, *Expiration Date*, tells an important and personal story. Both visual and metaphorical, it has particular promise: it is timely, and universal, as much as it is specific and unique. It is truly an Adria film. I see a bright future for her. She is tenacious and talented, collaborative and creative. She knows what she wants, and doesn't let this stop her from taking in feedback and adjusting her course. Her background in editing has only sharpened her instincts and skills as a writer and director; she understands what she needs to get during production, and what she can mold in post production.

I offer her film, and her, my full-hearted recommendation! Should you need more information from me, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lia Lenart".

Lia Lenart



Jessica Livingstone
Full-time Instructor in Production
The School of Film & Television

1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659

August 14th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Adria Branson for the 2025 Social Impact Filmmaking Lab. Adria is a bold filmmaker with a distinct voice whose work demonstrates strong directorial choices as well as meaningful storytelling. She understands the value of hard work and collaboration. Above all, she brings a singularly unique point of view to storytelling.

Adria's work often combines both a surrealist and absurdist in tone, yet the storytelling is deeply rooted in the rich tapestry of her unique background and upbringing. It is clear from her work that she understands cinematic language and strives to translate the internal story of a character visually. Her current project, "Expiration Date", deals with the generational trauma of African American woman. Adria will use the haunting metaphor of food rotting to express the traumatic elements of her experience.

Adria's filmmaking daring ability was revealed repeatedly in her many collaborations at LMU. The stories that she tells use filmmaking as a means of elevating underrepresented voices. Collaboration is key to her makeup and has resulted in her building a strong reputation within the school and has given her insight into every aspect of the process making her the truly strong director that she is.

Adria is a consummate professional. She is incredibly thoughtful open, honest, objective, forthright and clear. She can process whatever personal discomfort or emotional pain she is feeling into daring work that translates for an audience. She is incredibly specific about every choice she makes as a director and will instinctually pivot towards what is right for the story. This is apparent in every aspect of her work, from the performances to the camera work to editorial construction and beyond.

I can recommend Adria without reservation, knowing full well what a talented, dependable, and downright first-rate professional she is. She is more than deserving of this opportunity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Livingstone".

Jessica Livingstone
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