

Dear Tom, Nicole and Hagerstown International Film Festival Folks,

We were so surprised to be recipients of any award at this year's festival. Because, well, we didn't enter a film. We just love to watch them and be in a room of filmmakers. Each year, when we learn the dates of the event, we feel like we've opened a present. Time to be local yet travel all over the world through the stories and imagery of people who make art.

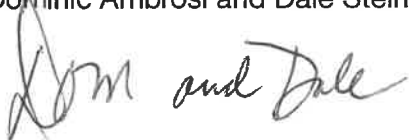
Creating blockbusters is perhaps also part of a filmmaker's imagery, but these films are not driven by visions of blockbusters. To us, these films are envisioned by, created by, rendered from whole cloth by people showing us what it feels like to be a human. Love letters to Darwin, showing him our best and worst efforts. Love letters to the viewer, showing us we should absolutely keep trying.

As viewers, we love watching a kaleidoscope of life experiences, perspectives, hopes, and discoveries reveal themselves on a bright screen in a dark room. The filmmakers alchemy of turning life into art, it's palpable. The artist's effort to be true.

Fidelity, the act of faithfulness to an idea or effort. We think we understand why you folks thought we deserved an award for our belief in art; our 'showing up' to this festival each year. And we love that. But, in the way all good art reflects upon truth and resonates beyond the story, we treasure this Fidelity Award because it reminds us that this festival 'shows up' every year, at great effort, and remains faithful in its belief and support that individual voices are vital, unique voices are vital, and that art is those voices.

We thank you for inviting us, with this award, to tangibly share the achievements of your vision. We are honored to be part of your ongoing fidelity to offer us all the chance to travel the ocean currents of humanity together.

With great appreciation,  
Dominic Ambrosi and Dale Stein

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dom and Dale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.