

# CRIR

Christiania Researcher In Residence

Copenhagen 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2008

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of filmmakers Robert Lawson and Richard Jackman of Bus No. 8 productions. Lawson and Jackman have been guests of the Christiania Researcher in Residence (CRIR) three times, first in 2005 when Mr. Jackman stayed for a week in our residence while studying the architecture of Christiania, and then in 2006 and 2007 when both men were in Christiania to shoot their documentary, "Christiania: Our Heart is in Your Hands."

The Christiania Researcher in Residence program offers residency for artists and academic researchers with a specific interest in Christiania as an important field of study. During the last year the CRIR house has hosted researchers from Denmark, Norway, England, Belgium, Lithuania, Sweden, Austria, France and The United States. Christiania's insight and experience into local organization, alternative architecture, lifestyle, culture, sustainable environments, quality of life, democracy and innovation is unique in the world and could generate important knowledge that may inspire new urban thinking.

The dedication that Lawson and Jackman have devoted to documenting and understanding Christiania's unique culture is encouraging to us as we face a difficult period in Christiania's history. During their two-week stay in 2006, they and their camera became a familiar site in every corner of Christiania, and amused us as they slowly peddled through Christiania, filming from the front basket of one of our famous Christiania bikes. That they became so familiar in a community that is often wary of cameras was a significant achievement.

On each of their visits they have given public presentations of their work. Following his stay in 2005, Richard Jackman presented a Powerpoint presentation of his observations of Christiania's unique building culture, "Building Anarchy," which sparked heated discussion and left us with many ideas to ponder. In December 2007, Lawson and Jackman presented a work-in-progress screening of their documentary in Byens Lys, Christiania's cinema, that was very well attended and generated much discussion.

Christiania's future depends on many things, including support from society outside of Christiania, and outside of Denmark. I am excited that Bus No. 8 is making Christiania's story known to a larger audience in the United States, and look forward to providing them what support we can in the future.

Yours sincerely



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