“Riveting. . . . Structured like a taut thriller, *Better This World* delivers a chilling depiction of loyalty, naiveté, political zealotry and the post-9/11 security state.”
—— Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*

“Poses thorny questions about government prosecutions of cases like the one involving [film subjects] Mr. Crowder and Mr. McKay, who were called terrorists but who were convicted of lesser charges. . . . The sheer amount of evidence in the film lends itself to a subtheme about surveillance . . . a hot topic on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.”

“Sharply focused and superbly put together. . . . *Better This World* is particularly relevant now, as its story of protesters in prison offers ironic counterpoint to the praise U.S. officials are giving activist youths on the other side of the world.”
—— John DeFore, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“Part conspiracy thriller, part mystery, part drama, and, in the end, part disaster movie. . . . Touches on questions about surveillance aimed at combating domestic terrorism. . . . Compelling.”
—— Linda Holmes, NPR

“A case of solid journalism that happens to be cinematically interesting. . . . a docu thriller with twists that will catch many by surprise.”
—— Robert Koehler, *Variety*

“There’s a larger tale here, artfully and hauntingly told, about civil liberties and homeland security measures in the post 9/11 age. . . . as the story unfolds the viewer is guided through the many shades of grey that aren’t immediately evident in the open-and-shut facts of the case.”
—— Dave Walker, *The Times-Picayune, New Orleans*

“Superb and shocking. . . . it forces people to think about two kinds of zeal — of paranoid governments and of active dissidents. . . . As such, it says more than almost everything airing in the period around the 10th anniversary of 9/11.”
—— John Doyle, *The Globe and Mail*

“An engrossing, emotional documentary. . . . The film begs certain questions: Is the government preventing crime, or creating potential criminals they can then convict of domestic terrorism? . . . And, perhaps most importantly, is this tactic really helping to keep Americans safe from domestic terrorism?”
—— Mary Pauline Lowry, *The Huffington Post*

“Mind-boggling. . . . I was lucky enough to see *Better This World* at last spring’s Sarasota Film Festival, where two other doc jurors and I gave it top prize in an extraordinary category.”
—— David Edelstein, *New York Magazine*
“Riveting . . . a fast-paced, emotional film. . . . explores the disturbingly fuzzy line between observing an alleged terrorist plot and encouraging one. . . . [The filmmakers’] access was mind-boggling: FBI and court documents, audio from jailhouse phone calls, tapes of federal interrogations, and great footage.”
— Michael Mechanic, Mother Jones

“Compelling. . . . A dramatic story of idealism, loyalty, crime and betrayal.”
— Chuck Barney, San Jose Mercury News

“Searching and provocative.”
— Chris Barsanti, Filmcritic.com

“Nonfiction cinema with the pulse of a Hollywood thriller, Better This World is one of 2011’s most electrifying new films. . . . Now, thanks to PBS and POV, it’s easier to watch than ever before, as it’s currently streaming online FOR FREE. Basically, this gives you zero excuses not to check it out.”
— Mike Tully, HammerToNail.com

“Very nearly perfect.”
— Cynthia Fuchs, PopMatters.com

“This profoundly important American story of friendship, trust, and betrayal. . . . explores the theme of personal responsibility and government accountability . . . . [It] asks the hard questions; but refreshingly, never imposes preconceived opinions of the filmmakers.”
— Alexandra Marie Daniels, TheWIP.net