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HELENA@HELENASPRING.COM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of SURISA SURISA's application for the Global Talent (Exceptional Talent) visa.

I am HELENA SPRING, widely regarded as one of South Africa's most accomplished independent producers having produced more than 30 motion pictures, including the first South African film to be nominated in the Best Foreign Language Category at the Academy Awards, the Independent Spirit Awards and for an International Emmy. I have also produced 6 of South Africa's all-time top 10 box offices successes.

More information on my work can be found here <https://www.helenaspringfilms.com/>.

I met SURISA in 2004. As a member of the art department she provided considerable skills as a set dresser to the film **YESTERDAY**

Nominee – Oscar Academy Award - Best Foreign Language Film 2005
Nominee Independent Spirit Award - Best Foreign Language Film 2005
Nominee - Emmy Award 2006
WINNER Peabody Award 2006
WINNER Best Film - Pune International Film Festival 2005
WINNER Human Rights Film Award - Venice Film Festival 2004
WINNER Cape Town World Cinema Festival - Signis Jury Award 2004

SURISA subsequently worked on 3 further films for me:

2005: **Mama Jack**

An all-time Top 10 South African box office hit

.

2007: **More than Just a Game**

Mention D'Honneur: 26th Milano International Federation Internationale

2019: **Poppie Nongena**

WINNER Best Picture Efebo d'Óro - December in Italy 2020
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Picture 2019
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Director 2019
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Lead Actor 2019
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Screenplay 2019

WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Cinematography
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Supporting Actor
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Supporting Actress
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Sound Design
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Editing
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Ensemble cast
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best costume design
WINNER M-Net Silverskerm Award Best Hair & make-up
WINNER GRIFF Best Lead Actress
WINNER BRICS IFF Best Film
Nominated Best Picture New Vision FF – December in Amsterdam

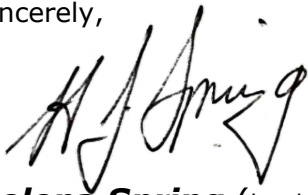
By the time SURISA worked on the above film she had risen in the art department ranks to being an ART DIRECTOR and doing PRODUCTION DESIGN.

SURISA has always demonstrated significant skill in all aspects of her work, and has been a pleasure to deal with. She will excel in an environment such as the UK which has greater scope and opportunities than those currently available in South Africa.

SURISA has a lot to offer and will be an asset to any art department team within the film and television industry. She is hardworking, committed and enthusiastic, and a great support to the vision of any film/tv director, managing her team well with a sound understanding of budgets and deadlines, as well as creative imperatives.

I am pleased to write this recommendation. For all of the reasons listed above, I believe applicant would be a great addition to the film industry in the UK.

Sincerely,



Helena Spring (her/she, they/them)

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Helena Spring

Biography

Edit

Mini Bio

Widely regarded as one of South Africa's most accomplished producers, Helena Spring has produced 30 motion pictures - including the first South African film to be nominated in the best foreign language category at The Academy Awards, The Independent Spirit Awards and for an international Emmy. She has also produced 6 of South Africa's all-time top ten box office successes.

Helena served as an executive member of the SA Independent Producers Organisation for many years, including two terms as its Chairperson. Based in Johannesburg she is a two time recipient of the Mbokodo Arts and Culture Award in the category Women in Film for her contribution to the development of the South African film industry.

- IMDb Mini Biography By: Helena Spring Films

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Helena Spring

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2 NOMINATIONS

Primetime Emmy Awards



2006 Nominee

Primetime Emmy

Outstanding Made for Television Movie

Yesterday

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South African Film and Television Awards



2020 Nominee

SAFTA Golden Horn

Best Feature Film

Poppie Nongena

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