



14 September 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

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

My name is Layla Swart, co-owner of multi-award winning South African production company Yellowbone Entertainment. I have produced 8 feature films and a high-end series for Canal Plus and Showmax. We have worked with Netflix, Showtime, Multichoice and Amazon Prime to name a few. Our work has featured at Cannes, TIFF, BFI, Fespaco among others. Two of our feature films have been selected as the official entry to the Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Category. We are represented by CAA and I have established myself as one of the top producers on the continent.

Our 2018 feature film *Sew the Winter to my Skin* was developed as part of the Cannes L'Atelier program and went on to represent South Africa in the Best Foreign Language Category of the Academy Awards in 2019, it was on the set of this film that I had the pleasure of working with Surisa. A quick glance at this film will showcase how crucial and important the production design and art department were on this picture.

The film is a period film and an enormous feat for the South African film landscape, winning over 17 awards across the globe, a feat we could not have achieved without Surisa. Her meticulousness, passion and attention to detail render her a cut above the rest in her field.

There is no doubt in my mind that Surisa would be an asset to the UK industry, I believe a move such as this will enhance her career as there often arises a ceiling in one's home country, especially if that country is still navigating an industry in its infancy. I believe that the next natural step for Surisa on her career path would be to expand her horizons and contribute her unique and well-honed skillset to a larger industry.



With confidence, I can attest to the fact that Surisa is a leader in her field, the mark she has left on every production she has been involved in has been indelible, and we have all benefitted from her profound ability to execute her craft.

The UK will truly gain a remarkable asset in Surisa.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Layla Swart', written over a horizontal line.

Layla Swart

Producer

Yellowbone Entertainment

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Layla Swart

Biography

Edit

Mini Bio

Layla Swart has positioned herself as one of the top producers and editors on the African continent. Since opening her own company, Yellowbone Entertainment in 2017, Layla has been the sole producer on 7 feature films and the epic South African television series entitled Blood Psalms. Layla has recently opened The Post Office, a one-stop boutique Post production facility with a focus on high end content delivery. Layla's films have featured at Cannes, Toronto International Film Festival, London BFI, Busan, FESPACO and Palm Springs Festival among others. Layla holds a record of being the only South African producer to have 2 films selected to represent South Africa at the Academy Awards in two consecutive years - in the Best Foreign Language / Best International Feature Category (Sew the Winter to my Skin, 2019, Knuckle City, 2020) A midwife for the birthing of creative genius, Layla Swart & Yellowbone Entertainment have won multiple awards and plaudits, now repped by CAA's Africa division, Layla continues to contribute to the expansion and success of African content creation.

- IMDb Mini Biography By: TNT

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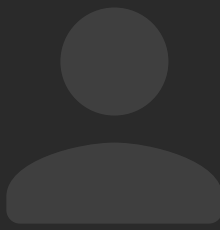
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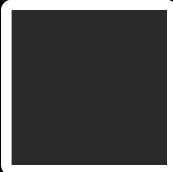
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Layla Swart

Awards

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2 WINS & 7 NOMINATIONS

South African Film and Television Awards



2023 Nominee SAFTA Golden Horn
Best Achievement in Editing - Feature Film
[Wild Is the Wind](#)

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2020 Winner SAFTA Golden Horn
Best Achievement in Editing - Feature Film
[Knuckle City](#)



2019 Nominee SAFTA Golden Horn
Best Achievement in Editing - Feature Film
[Sew the Winter to My Skin](#)

African Movie Academy Awards



2023 Nominee AMAA
Best Editing
[Gereza](#)



2020 Nominee AMAA
Best Film
[Knuckle City](#)



2020 Nominee AMAA
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2019 Nominee AMAA
Best Film
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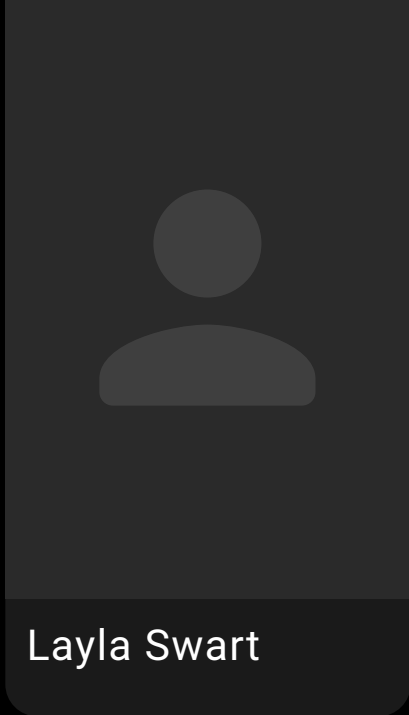
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