

Lester Cohen
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Re: Surisa Surisa

My name is Lester Cohen. I am a Production Designer based in New York. I have worked on many internationally acclaimed Film and Television productions, such as HBO's "The Undoing", for which I received a Primetime Emmy nomination.

I had the good fortune of meeting Surisa back in 2017 while designing a HULU limited series called "The Looming Tower". It is a project I am very proud of, but it was a uniquely complex shoot as we had units working in New York, Johannesburg, and Agadir, Morocco simultaneously.

The meticulous attention to detail Surisa brought to the table as our prop master in South Africa made a significant contribution towards the success of the show and the ultimate Emmy nomination. The South African leg of this production was quite extensive and contributed heavily to the show ultimately being a great success. The close attention to script breakdown and budgeting was a great asset to our production. In addition Surisa demonstrated a flair for devising practical solutions for the action props scripted. We were working with multiple directors and they were all impressed by her efficient and thoughtful presentation of the hero props needed during the shooting of the eight episodes.

I often describe working on a film set like time in a fox hole. Because of the very long hours and constantly evolving logistical and creative challenges you really get to know the character of your coworkers. I can attest that Surisa is uniquely talented and someone I would have no hesitation being in the trenches with. As her extensive resume illustrates, Surisa has the unique ability to do very impressive work under often stressful conditions.

Apparently Surisa started as a rushes runner and even served as a truck driver working her way up from the bottom. Upon learning that her career in film came without formal training, it became obvious why she has a deep understanding of all production roles and is well-equipped to trouble shoot a wide variety of problems.

Surisa has a great work ethic, and her colleagues are assured of a consistent, pleasant team player. Exposure to the UK film industry would be an invaluable opportunity for Surisa to not only sharpen her own skills but also to bring her extensive experience to bear in the industry of her home country.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lester Cohen', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lester Cohen
Production Designer

Member:
Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences;
Academy of Television Arts and Sciences;
Director's Guild of America;
Production Designers Collective;
Art Directors Guild;
United Scenic Artists IATSE local 829