



A Pace-Setting Production Company Defining the Future of Entertainment

Surge of Power Enterprises is an independent production company based in Southern California. In August, TMT Magazine named Surge of Power among the winners of the 2018 TMT Media Awards, with the title of ‘Best Superhero Comedy Production Agency’. Here, Executive Producer and Actor, Vincent J. Roth, takes a moment out of his busy schedule to talk about how Surge of Power Enterprises has become a pace-setter in the entertainment industry.

Surge of Power Enterprises is an independent production company that creates superhero media with a comedic flair and numerous celebrity cameos. Our media consists of SAG (Screen Actors Guild) feature films, short films and web series episodes under our “Surge of Power” brand, portraying characters of our own creation. Our flagship character, Surge, is cinema’s first out gay superhero!

Ultimately, we aim to please our audience by appealing to those who enjoy the superhero and science fiction genres, entertaining them with humour and appearances of celebrities known for their work in those genres. Fans enjoy seeing their favourite celebrities return to the screen in new roles. This also allows former stars to rekindle their flame and show audiences they are still performing.

Our overall mission is to promote equality. Science fiction fans and comic book readers already have minds that imagine people with superhuman abilities, distant planets with thriving species, alien cultures, parallel dimensions and alternate realities. From the outset, these tend to be open-minded

people. We think this is an ideal audience for cinema’s first out gay superhero. Our stories are filled with traditional straight characters with some gay characters woven into the fabric of our world without the stereotypes, tokenism and cliché tropes that gay characters are often relegated to in conventional media. We also present other minorities in respectable ways, such as having strong women in positions of power and interracial couples. It is important to us to present all types of people as equal, as strong, as capable, as flawed and as beautiful as each other.

This acts to differentiate Surge of Power Enterprises from other companies – alongside our humour, our celebrities and our main character, Surge. We aim to tap into a tone rarely seen in modern cinema. Indeed, not since the Batman TV show starring Adam West has there been a campy superhero in the mainstream (the Hollywood Reporter has called our humour “so gleefully campy”). Humour is often a common vehicle for introducing gay characters to mainstream audiences. Look at the TV show *Will and Grace*, which had a successful run and returned to the air 10 years later.

Our celebrities also differentiate us. Our first feature film, *Surge of Power: The Stuff of Heroes*, featured 20 celebrity cameos. Our sequel, *Surge of Power: Revenge of the Sequel*, contained over 50 stars with celebrities playing major roles stitched into the tapestry of our stories, as well as incidental characters and cameos. Our company has been called “the king of cameos” by more than one publication. One commentator even remarked that our sequel made a world record for the number of cameos in it.

Celebrities not only add to the entertainment of our productions, but also add to the credibility of our productions. For example, people take notice that Nichelle Nichols, best known for her fame as Lieutenant Uhura from *Star Trek* the original series and its subsequent movies, plays a recurring role in our movies as the powerful and regal Omen. People also notice that Lou Ferrigno, best known for his fame as the Hulk from *The Incredible Hulk* TV show, is in both our first movie and our sequel. Additionally, Linda Blair and Eric Roberts are in our sequel. Linda Blair is best known for her portrayal of Regan McNeal in *The Exorcist* movies. Eric Roberts has an extensive

list of movie accomplishments, including movies within our genre such as *The Dark Knight* and *Doctor Who*. We find that having household names lends legitimacy to our movies. The fact that celebrities like Nichelle Nichols and Lou Ferrigno returned for the sequel also speaks to our integrity – that they enjoyed themselves and wanted to come back. In fact, Nichelle Nichols reprises her role as Omen again in our third movie, *Surge of Dawn*, a short film that is now in post-production.

We are delighted to have star power not only in our movies, but also in our ongoing web series, *Surge of Power: Big City Chronicles*, which is about to finish Season 2 and can be seen on our website, on YouTube and on Facebook.

Finally, our third differentiator is that our productions feature cinema’s first gay male lead character. Our first movie started screening in 2004. None of the big studios nor the big comic companies like Marvel or DC Comics has ventured out with a cinematic openly gay lead. While gay characters have been showing up more in superhero TV shows and movies, no studio so far has featured a gay lead character.

When working on a production, it is not only important to have supportive talent, but our crew also needs to be supportive. Fortunately, we think our movies attract the right talent and crew who support our mission. We must be doing something right because our sequel won 4 awards during its film festival run and we are delighted that our company has won this award from TMT Media Awards. It is an honour and was completely unexpected.



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