JOSEPH IBRAHIM

LIGHTING TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

josephibrahim.co // 917 769 9096 // jomar.ibrahim@gmail.com // linkedin.com/in/josephibrahim

Experienced Lighting Technical Director with 16+ years crafting high-quality CG lighting and rendering for complex storytelling in high-end, photorealistic visual effects. I bridge traditional expertise with next-generation capabilities in USD pipelines, real-time production, and AI-enhanced workflows, focusing on technologies that amplify human creativity rather than replace artistic vision. I thrive in collaborative team environments with excellent communication skills, adept at working closely with VFX and animation teams to deliver visually stunning results.

EXPERIENCE

LIGHTING TECHNICAL DIRECTOR // **JOSEPH OMAR LLC** // 2009 - present

Freelance Lighting, Look Development, Texturing & Compositing

My work focuses on lighting, look development, texturing, and compositing for films, commercials, video games, and creative campaigns. I have collaborated with leading studios and brands including MPC, Framestore, The Mill, Method Studios, Hornet Animation, Buck, and Imaginary Forces.

- **Advanced Pipeline Development:** Develop multi-camera layouts through Solaris (USD) workflows in Houdini, while creating physically plausible shaders for Renderman, Arnold, and V-Ray that achieve photorealistic results
- **AI-Enhanced Workflows:** Implement AI pipeline techniques with Python scripts to optimize rendering and reduce production time, while ensuring technology enhances rather than replaces creative decision-making
- **Collaborative Excellence:** Adhere to high standards for final imagery through strategic collaboration with compositing teams using Nuke, while executing look development alongside supervisors that consistently exceed expectations
- **Technical Problem-Solving:** Drive project success by applying analytical skills to work through challenging technical issues and meet tight deadlines
- **Specialized Character Work:** Develop and enhance fur-based character aesthetics using advanced Solaris and USD workflows for short film production
- **Feature Film Contribution:** Craft lighting and enhance fur-based character aesthetics for key scenes in feature films
- **Team Leadership:** Foster team excellence by mentoring junior artists and maintaining clear communication with production leadership
- **Humanistic Technology Integration:** Pioneer development of ethical AI tools that help VFX artists work faster while preserving creative agency and artistic intuition
- **Real-Time Innovation:** Leverage Unreal Engine for both real-time preview and path-traced final rendering, enabling rapid creative iteration

OWNER & PHOTOGRAPHER // **JOSEPH OMAR PHOTOGRAPHY** // 2015 - 2020

Editorial & Commercial Photography

Specialized in using advanced lighting techniques and digital compositing for editorial and commercial photography, significantly enhancing brand narratives through visual storytelling

- Directed and produced fashion shoots, leveraging visual effects to create engaging content for social media campaigns
- Produced, managed and directed 750+ natural light fashion photoshoots, coordinating talent, makeup artists, location scouting, and stylists
- Applied advanced lighting techniques from visual effects and film background to create distinctive photographic styles
- Enhanced brand narratives through compelling visual storytelling for commercial client

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EXPERIENCE

MENTOR // **ACCESS: VFX** // 2023 - present

Professional Development & Industry Guidance

- Empower a group of 6 recent graduates in animation and visual effects by offering guidance on technical skills, creative development, portfolio review, interview tips and industry networking
- Led and developed workshops for emerging creatives demonstrating industry-standard tools and AI-enhanced workflows, including look development, lighting techniques, and post-processing
- Designed personalized feedback loops and learning paths for each student, echoing studio environments, to simulate real-world production pipelines and expectations
- Translated complex VFX concepts and AI-assisted workflows into digestible guidance for graduates entering the industry, emphasizing how technology can enhance rather than replace creative thinking

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TECHNICAL TOOLKIT

Lighting & Rendering: Maya, Houdini, Katana // Arnold, V-Ray, Renderman, Redshift, Karma // Nuke // Adobe Substance 3D Designer, Adobe Substance 3D Painter, GAEA 2 // Unreal Engine (Real-time & Path-tracing)

AI-Enhanced Workflows: Runway Gen-3, OpenAI Sora, ComfyUI/Stable Diffusion, DiffusionLight // Houdini HDA // Python & MEL Scripting // Shader Writing // Physically Plausible Shading

Production Technology: Linux-based Operating Systems // USD/Solaris Workflows // Self-directed research in neural rendering, machine learning, agentic setups, and LLM-assisted lighting automation

Creative Philosophy: Advanced understanding of lighting as storytelling tool // Approach to AI integration that preserves artistic agency // Mentorship in bridging traditional techniques with emerging technologies

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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Master of Science in Visual Effects, New York University

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communications, University of Delaware

Specialized Training:
Cinematic Lighting in Houdini — Rebelway
Procedural City Building in Houdini — Rebelway
Self-directed research in ethical AI integration for creative workflows