

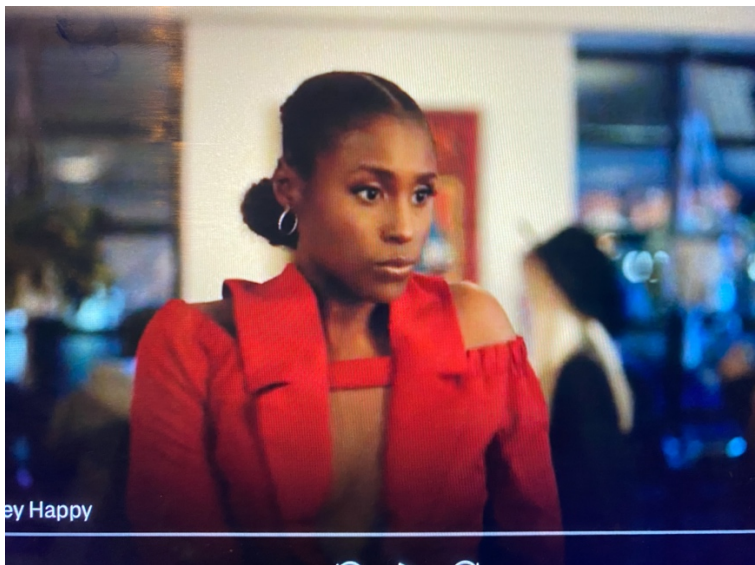
Insecure Cinematography

As I watched the episode 'Lowkey Happy' from the series Insecure, I incorporated my previous and recent knowledge of cinematography to analyze the episode.

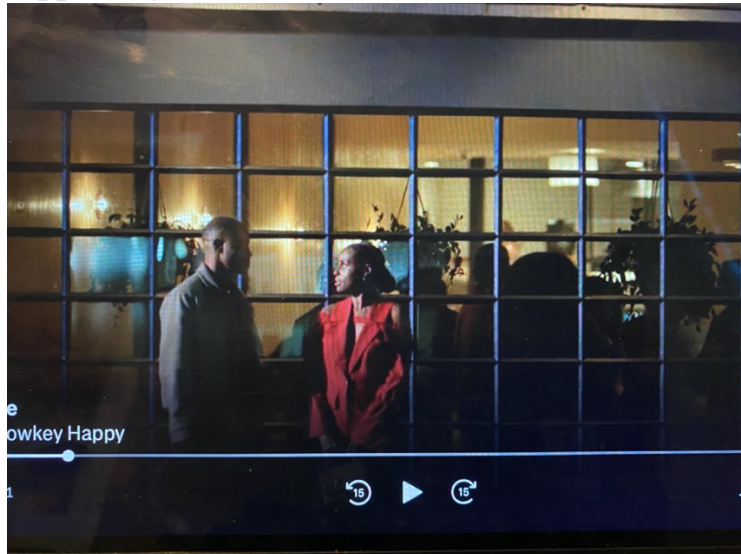
In the beginning scene at the bar, Lawrence is in the foreground and everything and everyone else in the background is blurred. The DP must've made the creative decision to use a specific lens for this particular shot.



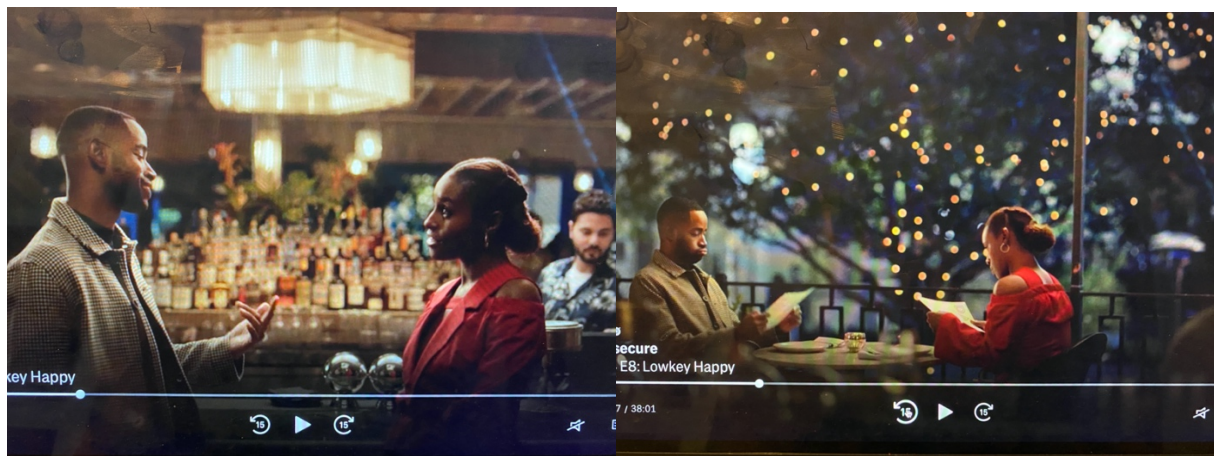
Soon after this shot, the main character, Issa, comes in wearing a deep pink top. There may have been coordination with the wardrobe department and the DP choosing the main character's costume and choosing to have her stand out from the rest or not.



When Lawrence and Issa are waiting for their Uber, I noticed that all shots follow the rule of thirds or the golden ratio to keep the background and what/who's in focus. Another note I made was the main character is center frame, while the supporting character is on a third, another creative decision made by the DP.



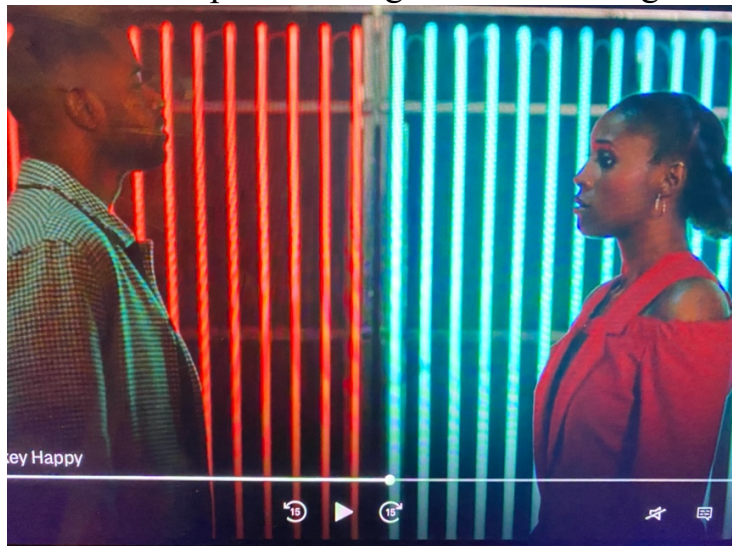
One main thing I appreciated about this series is how full and interesting the settings and sets are. There is always something to look at without having the background be too busy and distracting. Here are two examples of detailed backgrounds. On the left, Lawrence and Issa are talking at a bar, with beautiful lighting, and there is a gorgeous source of lighting and a bartender making a drink to look at besides them in their conversation. The example in the right is when they are seated at the restaurant. There is a stunning illuminated tree and casual pedestrians behind them, which builds their environment even more.



During their conversation at the restaurant the two hit a low point when they were discussing their previous failed relationship. Each character had something they were ashamed about reflecting on their actions. This was visually seen when there was a high angle of the camera, looking down on them.



As the night was ending, the characters decide to go to the art show being held outside near where they ate. One of the most visually appealing shots are from this scene. Lawrence and Issa are in front the illuminated wall which gave them a visual contrast of character that most likely added to the story of their relationship that I am not fully aware of yet. There is also a conscious lighting scheme that gave Lawrence a blue/green hue on his wardrobe contrasting his background color, and her reddish top contrasting her bluish background.



Lastly, when Lawrence invited Issa up to his apartment, but planned on meeting another woman, Condola, afterward, it drew a wedge in between the peaceful progress these two made that night. This was cinematically shown by both characters at the furthest point in the frame, showing them at their most distant all night.

