

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Lighting - Introduction

Lights can be useful for:

- defining different locations on the stage
- Creating mood and atmosphere
- Highlighting key moments of action and directing the audience's focus.

Job of lighting designer

The lighting designer must also know the play very well. They work closely with the director to understand what they want to communicate in each scene and where the focus of the action onstage should be. They also work closely with the set designer, as they both play such a large role in the visual impact of a production. Often the realisation of the set designer's artistic vision depends greatly upon the way their set is lit.

The lighting designer designs lighting cues. That means they decide when to move from one lighting state to the next. A sudden change to a different lighting state is called a snap and a slow change where one state overlaps another is called a fade.

Just like set design, the style of lighting must suit the production.



Types of Lights – Technical Stuff

FLOODS are used to provide large area washes of light. They come equipped with a gel frame and are especially useful for lighting backcloths. The beam cannot be shaped, so generally other lantern types are more flexible.

FRESNEL lanterns give a soft-edged beam with large size variation. Used to create large washes of light (like the flood), sometimes highly colored, but as beam size and shape can be altered it is preferable to the Flood. They have external *barn doors*, which shape the beam but don't sharpen it like the shutters on the Profile.

PROFILE SPOTS will give you a sharply defined image in outline of any object. They are fitted with *shutters*, usually four, which can be pushed into the light beam, shaping its appearance on stage.

Coloured gels can be added to the front of some lanterns so that they throw coloured light onto the stage.

Gobos

Some lanterns can also be fitted with what is known as a **gobo**. This is a sheet inserted on a frame at the front of the light with a design cut into it. It filters the light, creating a picture effect on the stage. For example, a gobo could be used to create a dappled lighting effect to look like the leaves of a forest, or could be cut to create strips of light onstage which look like the bars of a prison.

