

Lighting as Storyteller
a masterclass workshop
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My belief is that light is more than simply a tool. It is more than an uninvolved observer that facilitates visibility. It is a character, a communicator, and our collaborator in the art of telling stories. -Dawn

Overview/Course description

Lighting as Storyteller is intended as a masterclass for those who have dedicated themselves and their passion to the pursuing of the art of storytelling; for those who need to tell stories.

Lighting as Storyteller

- Will challenge students toward the understanding of the fundamentals and skills of theatrical lighting design and how lighting can serve as a character and/or collaborator in the process of creating story.
- Will help to expand each student's ability to successfully communicate through and about lighting.
- Will explore and interrogate the process by which we create with lighting.
- Will develop practical skills, (while exercising some existing ones) necessary for the generation of lighting supported story.

Structure

Active participation will be required. We will be exploring options for storytelling and we will follow where the story leads. There will be presentation of practical tools for working with light, and opportunities to demonstrate the understanding of those tools. Everyone will be expected to create with these newly developed skills.

Goals/aims and objectives

To master the fundamental concepts of light and lighting design.

To develop a finer observation of light

To learn how to use the controllable qualities of light to

sculpt
define
direct
influence
and tell story

Philosophy

Light and Darkness are commonly used as metaphor in most societies. Think of the times we have referred to the light or darkness within another person, a character --“She was full of light.” Or as an entity itself, “it was a story with a lot of darkness in it,” etc.,. There is good reason for this. It is by light that we see the world around us, and it is in darkness and shadow that we feel fear and confusion. Our world is driven by the existence or absence of light. As storytellers of the human experience, we short-change ourselves if we forget this. Light is a shape shifter, it can be a character, a communicator, or a collaborator assisting us as we create story.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Day 1. Physical and Psychological Properties of Light

Observing light

Controllable qualities of light

- Intensity
- Direction
- Movement
- Color
- Form
- Distribution

General purpose of lighting

- Accents vs
- Washes

Observing light re-approached

Functions of Stage light

- Visibility
- Selective Focus
- Modeling
- Mood
- Composition
- Information

Other lighting systems

- Backdrop wash
- Overhead template wash
- Specials

Creating with Light
Angles
Color
Texture

Psychology; experimentation with the influences of light

Day 2. The Supporting Materials of Lighting Design

Paperwork
Plots
Magic sheets
Sections
Hook-ups

Basic Electricity

Basic nomenclature.
Hanging positions
Conventional lights
LEDs and Moving Lights
Protocols & Cables.

Bringing it together

Draft basic plot

Day 3. The Lighting Designer as Interpretive Artist

Color Theory
Fundamentals of Light Color Theory
Activity Demonstrating power of wavelengths

Focusing
Focusing for visibility; throw, beam, and field
Sculpting with focus
Manipulating audience attention with careful focus
Focusing activity

Cueing
Approaches to cueing
Breaking down the script
Finding the flow in non-scripted events
Cue writing activity

Day 4. The Lighting Designer as Artistic and Business Collaborator

Working in the Space
Site Survey (Theatre)
Found Spaces

Effective Production meetings

Learning from rehearsals and run throughs

Director/Designer communication in Tech

Begin Presentations

Day 5. Light as Storyteller

Presentations

Though performance and instructor feedback, as well as discussion with fellow classmates, we will explore the following elements, in order to analyze the effectiveness of storytelling.

- Sculpting with light; form and focus
- Psychology of light
- Light as character

“Collaboration is not the abdication of your discipline, but the rigorous, fluid and purposeful application of it -- including the changes in your work, and in your artistry, that come as a result of ongoing artistic interaction.” -Steven Dietz