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By the end of the class, you should be able to:

- Explain what lighting design is.
- Describe the functions of stage light
- Define the controllable qualities of stage light
- Explain the image of light to another person.
- Define the process for creating a light plot.

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What is lighting design?

- Lighting design is a process and a craft for creating an artistic result.
- It is more than the necessity of lighting an event happening inside.
- While lighting design primarily allows the audience to see the stage, it is more than this.

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What is lighting design?

- A good lighting design :
 - Influences the audience's perception of what they are seeing.
 - Sculpts or molds the actors, settings, and costumes.
 - Creates an environment that supports the play's design concept.
 - Unifies the other design elements.
 - Is inspired.

 Explain what lighting design is.

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Talk about lighting design

- To talk about lighting design, we need to develop a vocabulary that allows us to talk about design elements in lighting.
- Before we start to define that vocabulary, let's look at a few pictures of lighting and try to describe them

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Talking about design



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Talking about design



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Talking about design



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The functions of light

- Provide visibility
 - Seems simple, but it is very important.
 - Designer must make the actors, costumes, and the set visible to the audience.
 - At the same time, because light affects meaning, it is important that the audience sees the actors and objects only as the creative team wants them to be seen.
 - If the creative team selects to produce a show as a dark, brooding tragedy, then going in a completely different direction of bright and happy can upset the creative teams' vision.

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The functions of light

- Establish time and place
 - Designers make choices to establish time of day (Brightest day or darkest night) by determining how bright to make the stage.
 - High noon– how would it look?
 - A Dark and stormy night, the murderer has cut power to the building. How would it look?
 - Place can be established by how the lighting looks.
 - In a damp cave. How would it look?
 - In a tropical forest. How would it look?

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The functions of light

- Create mood and tone
 - One of the easiest and most difficult aspects of stage lighting.
 - It is easy to create a fantastic, dramatic sunset look on the stage, but integrating with the other elements is equally important.
 - Great mood and tone is rarely consciously noticed. Rather it is a powerful subconscious recognition.
 - This is where the skills of a lighting designer are truly shown.
 - One notable exception to subtle mood involves concert and club lighting. This lighting relies upon kinesthetic and energy befitting of the environment.

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The functions of light

- Provide focus onstage/create visual compositions.
 - Think about watching TV. The Director of Photography chooses what you see on the screen (Close up, wide shot, two shot, etc.)
 - In theatre, you can look anywhere on the stage. The director endeavors to create a well composed arrangement of the actors with visual interest, but you can look at the bookcase instead of the action.
 - The lighting designer endeavors to get you to focus on the action by not lighting areas of the stage that are unused, or applying additional light in an area to create interest for you to focus upon.

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The Qualities of light

- The qualities of light are an even more specific set of terms that we can use to describe the functions of light.
- We commonly use four terms when talking about the quality of light.
 - Distribution
 - Intensity
 - Movement
 - Color

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The Qualities of light

- Distribution
 - Ends up being a catch all for many things, but we can quantify it with a couple of statements:
 - The direction from which the light approaches the actor or object
 - The shape and size of the area the light covers
 - The texture of the light

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The Qualities of light

- Intensity
 - The actual amount, or brightness, of the light on the stage.
 - Intensity can be defined between pitch black and blinding brilliance.
 - A Lighting designer will choose an intensity appropriate to the scene

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The Qualities of light

- Movement
 - Timed duration of a light cue—a sunset happening on stage through the end of an act for example.
 - Physical movement of a light onstage (Such as a candle by an actor)
 - The movement of a light the audience cannot see, such as a follow spot on stage.

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The Qualities of light

- Color
 - An extremely powerful tool that a designer uses.
 - Designers use our perception of color to help guide or emotions.
 - Red means...
 - Purple means...
 - Pink means...
 - Using color like this helps color our emotions (pun intended) about what we are seeing.

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Use the vocabulary

- Now, let's revisit those photos we looked at before, and describe them with our new vocabulary to more accurately describe what is happening in each photograph.

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Use the vocabulary



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Use the vocabulary



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Use the vocabulary



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Goals check:

- ✔ Describe the functions of stage light
- ✔ Define the controllable qualities of stage light

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The Image of Light

- The image of light is a metaphor
- It is the mental picture or concept for a specific production
- Frequently the image is abstracted
- May not have a direct connection with any specific visual element in the play

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The Image of Light

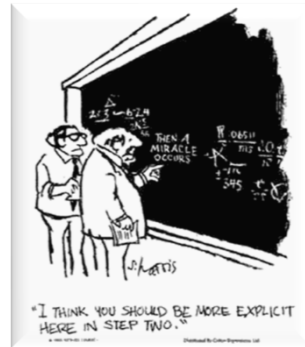
- Provides a visual image that summarizes thoughts
- A guide that helps determine placement, color, and intensity



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The Image of Light

- Image does not magically appear
- Comes as bits and pieces as you discover the play
- Your subconscious brings the answers
 - I describe it as the Ah AH! moment



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The Image of Light

- Script analysis informs the image
 - First reading is always the most important! You can never experience the play again as an audience member.
 - Second reading looks for ways to stimulate your imagination.
 - Third is for the mechanics of the lighting

This is a template, not hard rules to follow!

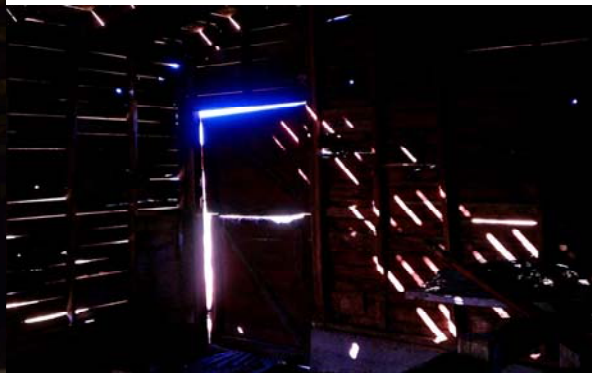
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The Image of Light

- Analysis of the image
 - To move the image of light from your mind to the paper we use the four qualities of light
 - Distribution
 - Intensity
 - Movement
 - Color

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The Image of Light



✓ ■ Explain Image of light

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Paperwork

- The Lighting key
 - Codification of the image of light
 - A drawing that indicates the plan, angle, and color of sources that illuminate the image of light
 - Lighting key will be used to find hanging positions when creating the plot.

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Images for 42nd Street



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Lighting Areas

- Lighting Areas
 - Understanding the angle of the light from your image translates to your lighting key.
 - Let's look at one of the images and some potential angles and how they relate to the final image.

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Lighting Angles



Mid Side >

High side front \

Low side front /

Back lighting

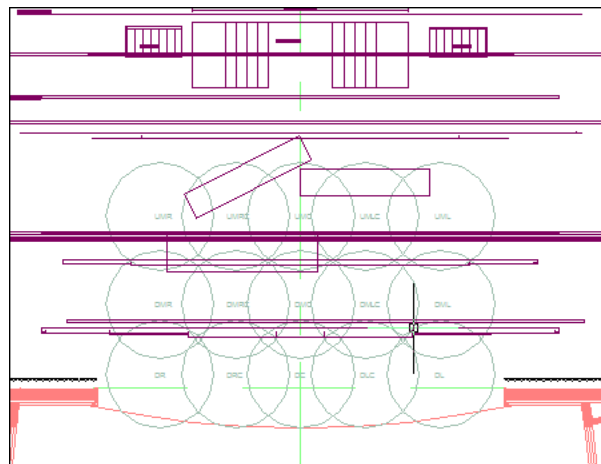
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Lighting angles and the key



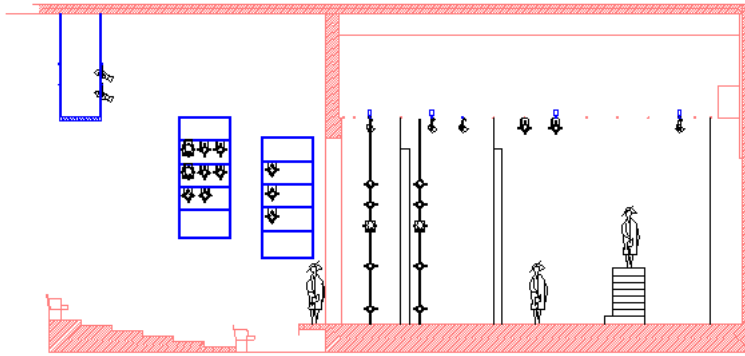
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Lighting areas



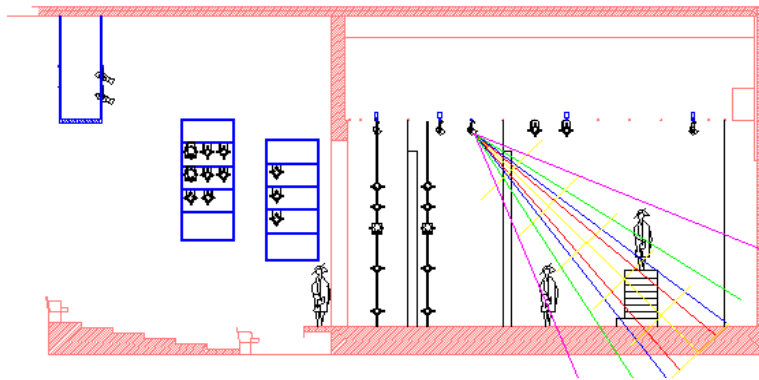
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Lighting Sections



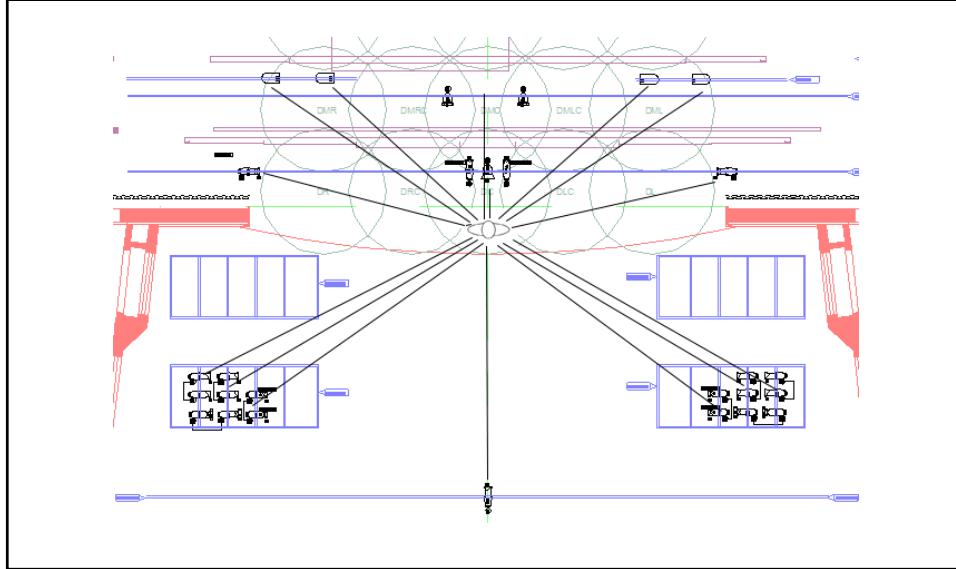
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Lighting Sections



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Using the key to place instruments



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Designing lights

- To create a light plot the designer:
 - Develops the image of light
 - Translates the image of lighting into a lighting key
 - Uses the lighting key in conjunction with the plan and section to determine instrument placement.

✓ Define the process for creating a light plot.

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