

Topic 049

Movement

Movement in light is generally taken to mean any change in INTENSITY, COLOR, FORM or DIRECTION. Dynamic changes in all of these qualities take place in nature on a regular basis. Movement may also include the physical movement of a source, such as; a search light, police beacon, color wheel, special optical effect, moving projections, mirror ball, etc.

Movement may be rapid or very subtle, slow and imperceivable. Such may be the case of a designer that provides a slow shift in sunlight from one side of the stage to the other throughout the duration of a play. The audience may not notice the shift, however they often may 'feel' the result of the change emotionally. A sunrise or sunset might also change so slowly that the movement in light is imperceivable and the audience may only feel the result and not actually see it.

Up until recently movement was probably the least utilized quality of light, by the stage lighting designer. This all changed in the 1980's when the automated lighting fixture was born. The modern automated fixture can now move physically – directing it's beam from one part of the stage to another. In addition the automated fixture can 'move' from one color or effect wheel to another, at any speed. The changes and combinations of intensity, form, distribution, color and movement are endless.