

Topic 056

Visibility:

The function of providing visibility needs little further discussion except to point out that it also implies keeping light off parts of the stage that should not be seen.

Mood:

Though a separate function the enhancement of mood is also a part of the other three. Composition, motivation and the amount of light and kind of visibility all affect the mood of a production.



In performing the four functions of stage lighting the Designer works with four basic controllable properties of light: **Intensity, Distribution, Colour and Movement.**

Visibility Vs Mood

The first and most important principle of stage lighting is still considered to be VISIBILITY. This was probably also true for early lighting designers, using candles, oil lamps, gas lighting and electric arcs.

Usually the designer will light the actor first for visibility and then for mood and atmosphere second. There are times however when MOOD may wish to overpower visibility (at least temporarily). Today many concert designers may light a stage first for mood and impact and then second for visibility. In this respect, much of the general lighting might consist of strong colors, projections, or moving effects. Using the followspot or the automated lighting fixture, the designer can 'cut' through the mood lighting and add controlled, precise lighting to performers, any where on the stage.