

Topic 044

Visibility:

VISIBILITY depends on many factors, not just the intensity of a source or the brightness of an object. Color, contrast, distance, movement and the conditions of the eye and visual system all play an important role towards visibility. The stage lighting designer is more concerned with the brightness of an object than the intensity of its light source. He soon learns that objects of higher brightness generally draw attention on stage. Light attracts! Conversely, darkness conceals – but may also put the audience to sleep. One of the prime jobs of the lighting designer is to actually keep the audience awake. This is not as funny as you may think when you consider what we do to an average audience member. Usually late, after dinner and a few drinks we seat the audience in comfortable chairs – and then turn off all the lights! The lighting designer must use the power of light to keep the audience awake and direct their attention to the stage by providing proper visibility, interest and selective focus.