

Technical Theatre

Unit Six: Light Design

Marking a Script / Light Notes - Plot - Cues / Gobo Construction

The Importance of Developing a Light Design for Production:

As a student of design for theatre production, having the ability to successfully light a set onstage is very exciting. With light, an artist can take a set and transform it with color, texture, mood, and energy. Light directs the spectator's focus where it needs to be, and intensifies the environment. Light design is much more than identifying practical need for lights onstage, it is introducing an element of magic that may be the most memorable part of the show for many of the audience members.

The Assignment:

1. Take down all the **LIGHT NOTES** on the form provided. This should be any reference to lighting found within the dialogue. Ex: "Good morning, sir." Implies that it is morning and requires daylight. Don't forget to include practical lights. Ex: someone turning on a light switch.
2. Create a **LIGHT PLOT** for your set design, either in 1/4"=1' or 1/2"=1', depending on the scale of your instrument template and floor plan. This should be complete with all necessary information, presented in the standard manner. Use the McCandless System of light theory as much as possible. Use a light template show the type of light in each circuit and label the area in which each light will cover.
3. While creating the light plot, fill out the **INSTRUMENT SCHEDULE SHEET**. Here you will record the circuit number, the type of instrument, the baton on which it is hung, the area it is lighting, the gel color, and any notes, like if it needs a gobo, an iris, barn doors or other accessories.
4. Go through your script **slowly**, and mark the **LIGHT CUES** from pre show to post show. Review the script several times before numbering any cues, because chances are you will miss things. Once you have determined all the cues for the show, mark them by warn and go cues, numbered in order and in different color. Ex: WARN is yellow and GO is in green.
5. While marking the light cues in the script, fill out the **LIGHT CUE SHEET**. This will include the page number of which the of the light cue occurs on, the cue number, the fader (A/B or C/D) and the description of the cue.... Ex: lights fade to black; sconces up full; house full – house to ½ - house out.
6. Lastly, you will make a **GOBO** that you have developed the need for in your light design. First, **sketch** a design of your gobo and have it checked. Then, use thin metal or stiff aluminum to create the gobo. (a disposable pie pans work well) Using an exactor knife, cut out the gobo. Think about what color is needed for the gobo effect you designed. This will be presented in the final project of the semester.