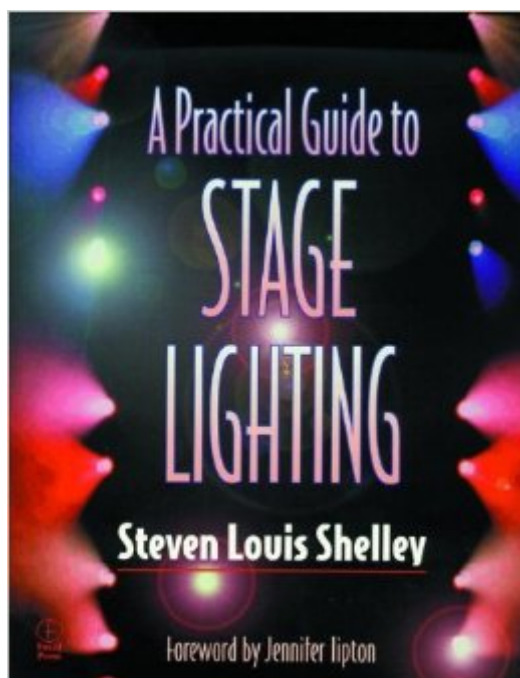# A Practical Guide To Stage Lighting

Synopsis

Combining theory and application, A Practical Guide to Stage Lighting provides a comprehensive analysis of lighting systems along with step-by-step examples and illustrations of the technical tools and methods. Readers will benefit from experience-based tips, techniques and traps to avoid in preparing and executing a lighting design. Anecdotes illustrate why some techniques succeed while others fail.Existing textbooks about theatrical lighting analyze artistic vision and visual concepts, which are important for the aspiring designer. These texts do not, however, provide any information about the mechanics required to produce those visions. This book addresses the realities of working in the theatre using practical methods to squeeze flexibility out of a lighting system and present solutions to common problems.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A Practical Guide to Stage Lighting" is destined to become the definative source of instruction in the field of theatrical lighting. With the books emphasis on the process of light design it gives the reader the tools necessary to create the art. Whether your goal is to become a good stage electrician or a good designer the explainations in this book will allow you to work and communicate quickly and efficiently during that precious time allotted for load-in, hang and focus.Steve Shelley, by taking a chronological approach to light design, illustarates exactly what goes into a successful design. He defines his terms, explains why he does things, and provides anecdotes and insights that make the book entertaining and easy to read.The final section of the book on how to focus

lights will teach you more about creating and implementing a light design than any other book you have, can or will read.

Steven Shelley has done it again. After the triumph of his lighting templates, Shelley branched out and wrote a fabulous book on stage lighting. You don't need to be an expert lighting technician to understand this book. Shelley uses easy to understand terms and metaphores. This book is perfect no matter if you are like me, a struggling lighting designer just out of college, or have been in the business for 30 years, you*will* find something new in this book... I highly recommend it.

Mr. Shelley starts from the idea that you, the reader, have some lighting design ideas that you want to achieve. He then leads you through a complete tool kit to assure that you will be able to accomplish your designs within the realities of limited stage time and limited budgets. The material is invaluable, and the presentation is highly enjoyable. Bravo!

if you are looking for some nuts and bolts, this book works. But it is still shy of the full hardware store (no paint section). This is a book for a lighting professional. I didn't have a problem with that. The book focuses too much on hardware. The section on colored media (gels) wasn't sufficient. The sections on special effects aren't sufficient. As a good general primer for lighting it is adequate. However, in terms of lighting effects and the things you can do with lighting to give you "WOW" factors for your shows, it is not adequate. This book was published in 1999, so it doesn't have anything on LED equipment. It also doesn't have anything on movers. It lacks a good explanation of DMX 512 control and more modern lighting consoles. I would not recommend this book. Lighting has progressed quite rapidly since this book was published. If it had more on lighting design or lighting basics, it might be better.

Thanks Steve! I met Steve and bought his book at the 1999 USITT Expo in Toronto. When I returned to The University of Illinois in the fall for the first semester of my sophomore year, I found that this was the textbook for one of my lighting design classes. I agree with the previous reviewers, this book is great. Steve takes you from zero to hero on the design of a sample show. From the first call to the last curtain Mr. Template himself outlines what a typical lighting designer does, and reminds us what a typical designer FORGETS to do! He provides many thorough checklists to make sure you've got your bases covered when you're in an unfamiliar space or dealing with unfamiliar people. Steve even let's us in on some of the more humorous stories involved in his lifetime of

experience. From the classroom beginner to the top-notch LD, this book is a strong tool to carry in your travel case.

I would say this is NOT the first book to buy or read for someone wanting to learn stage lighting design. The books does not cover the basic theories.But - it offers a very good guide to the real-world contraints and demands of lighting. The author give very concrete and useful suggestions and advice. Analysing a complete design ('Hokey') step-by-step is a clever move. It is also the perfect book for those who want learn how to accurately document their designs to last nut and bolt. Even with my 20+ years in lighting and lighting design, I found this book a worthwhile addition to my collection of lighting textbooks.

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