

The Shocking Truth About How To Find Better Quality Lighting Design!

The Complete Guide To Avoiding Disaster!

Would I be correct in supposing that a Theatrical Producer would always consider quality lighting design for their productions? (Goes without saying really).

Yet, if it seems an expensive exercise, is quality lighting the most likely thing to suffer because of budget constraints?

Good quality lighting design never seems to get any cheaper – does it? (There's a very good reason for this...)

What immediately can spring to mind is that to make it cheaper, one needs to use a Lighting Designer who will accept less money. But alas, they will probably come with less experience and know-how... Well, that's what sometimes happens let's face it. The problem is that when cost is an issue, quality suffers. And it is so very apparent when it happens.

I know of several cases of Commercial Producers securing the services of young inexperienced people to light their shows. It becomes so obvious from the outset because little or no preparation is done. The project seems too much for them, they have no real direction, no proper design capabilities, they don't know how to handle the situations thrown at them, panic... and get it all wrong!

Costing the Producer unnecessary expense!

Then they have to do it again and again to get it right. Time and money is an issue and they really have not the experience to take the battering they get! (We all had to start somewhere but surely not as so to jeopardise the production quality).

The truth is... To obtain better quality lighting design; one needs to pay attractive fees. Fees which will encourage a Lighting Designer of solid experience, worldly wise and full of good ideas, to darken... well lighten one's doorstep.

Paying more for experience brings quality and freshness but will also, in a lot of cases, SAVE MONEY in the long run.

Here's an example of how not to do it: A producer is sending out a National Tour, which needs a touring lighting rig to travel with it. They invite, very late on,

a rather inexperienced LD to light the show and prepare the lighting hires. Thinking they will save money here by paying a low fee could be the worst thing they ever did... Why? Well, not having enough preparation time, the LD might prepare a rig to suit all eventualities (not necessarily to do with the actual show) with a good degree of "safety nets" (extra gear) and plenty of "just in cases" (more toys and unnecessary gear). He squeezes the hire budget as high as he can and the Producer thinks they are quids in. Not so...

If they had secured the services of an experienced LD in the first place, much earlier on in the game, he would have been able to plan ahead properly. He would have been able to visit rehearsals and all production meetings, keep the touring rig to the absolute minimum requirements, knowing exactly what everything will do before the event and would sensibly design a lighting rig for much less cost... thus saving them quite a lot of money!

And to get this sort of LD?... the Producer needs to pay them well. YES... OUT OF THE MONEY THEY CAN SAVE IN WASTED EXPENDITURE!

There are many experienced LDs out there trying to catch the attention of friendly Producers, from behind darkened production desks!

Well now... what do you do with the saved cash? Spend it on another aspect of the show, leave it in the bank, or pay the LD an attractive royalty perhaps?

You see where I am coming from? To avoid disaster, get the best you can afford and then spend a little more. One may even be able to save money in the long run.

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