

# Performing Arts Virtual Learning 7 & 8 Stagecraft Lighting Design May 12, 2020



### 7 & 8 Stagecraft Lesson: May 12, 2020

#### **Objective/Learning Target:**

Understanding basic terminology and equipment used in lighting design



# What do you think?

As you have learned, theatre has its own language. Today we will explore the language of theatre lighting. Think about your understanding of these words:

**1. Throw...**you most likely thought of throwing a ball.



- 2. Gelatin...what flavor of jello ame to mind?
- 3. Color frame..



4. Dimmer...not as bright?

These lighting terms and more ahead.





# Terminology

**1. Throw**—The distance from a lighting instrument to the area to be lit. The distance the beam of light will effectively travel.

**2. Gelation** (gel)—Transparent color media placed on lighting instruments to produce different colors.

**3. Color Frames**—metal holders which fit into a lighting instrument to keep a color gel in place.

**4. Circuit**—the complete path of an electrical current. (Each outlet has its own circuit number to designate where each instrument is plugged.)



## Terminology Part 2

**5. Dimmer**—An electrical device that controls the amount of current flowing into a lighting instrument, thus increasing or decreasing the intensity of the light.

**6. Key light**—Accent of highlight on an actor's face, usually in the direction of the motivating light.

**7. Fill light**—Wash or soft light that fills in the light on the actor's face from the direction opposite of the key light.

**8. Dimension lighting**—Lighting an a actor from behind and/or the side, so actors do not look flat.



# Instrumentation

- The specific instrument used in a lighting design depends upon what kind of light the instrument creates and the desired effect the designer wishes to create on stage.
- Each instrument has a different **throw**, beam spread, intensity, and light quality.
- Some instruments require a gel to color the light
- LED instruments that have their color selected in the control board and it is created electronically.

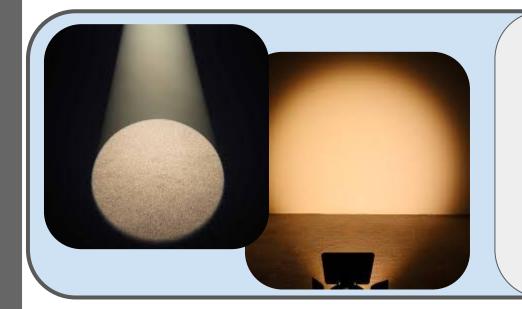


## **Additional Terminology**

On the last slide I used the terms "Beam Spread" and "Light Quality", allow me to explain.

The image to the right shows a light beam from a single light source. Take note of how the beam gets wider the further the distance that it travels, that is BEAM SPREAD.





The 2 images to the left demonstrate a simple explanation of LIGHT QUALITY. One beam is sharp edged and one is soft. This is a simple explanation that will be enough for now.



### **Types of lighting instruments**

#### <u>Ellipsoidal</u>



Different brands look different and they come in different sizes. The one on the left is what we have at Nowlin.



- Frequently called a Leko.
- A longer instrument with a strong beam of light that can be shaped with internal shutters.
- The throw of this light is long.
- It should be hung from the catwalks or rails.
- A gobo (metal template with a shape) can be used in this type of instrument. More about gobos to come in future assignments.
- Uses gel for color.
- Excellent for key and fill lighting, as well as special effects



### **Types of lighting instruments**

#### **Fresnel** pronounced freh-nell with the emphasis on the last syllable, the "s" is silent.

- Small instrument that gives a soft edged pool of light, which makes blending easy.
- The throw is medium.
- Can be focused in spot or flood position.
- Usually hung from the electrics over the stage.
- Uses gel for color.
- Provides excellent key and fill light or dimension lighting.
- Uses barndoors to block unwanted light.



Again, these look different depending on the manufacturer and size. This is a picture of the ones we have at Nowlin, the one on the right has barndoors attached.





#### **Self Assessment**

1. True or False: The beam of light spreads out as it travels from a lighting instrument.

2. What is the name of the item that will change the color of a light?

- 3. A light is plugged into a \_\_\_\_\_\_ and the intensity of it is controlled by a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. True or False: Dimension lighting keeps and actor from looking flat.



#### **Self Assessment Answers**

- True or False: The beam of light spreads out as it travels from a lighting instrument?
- 2. What is the name of the item that will change the color of a light? <mark>Gel</mark>
- 3. A light is plugged into a <u>circuit</u> and the intensity of it is controlled by a <u>dimmer</u>.
- 4. **True** or False: Dimension lighting keeps and actor from looking flat.