**The 4 Qualities of Light**

Reference: J. Michael Gillette. *Theatrical Design and Production*, 4th edition. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company. 1999. Chapter 12: Lighting Design

1. **Distribution:** (a) The direction that the lights approach the actor. (b) The shape and size of the area that the light is covering. (c) The quality of light—its diffusion or clarity.
	* *Factors determining the distribution of the light:*
		+ Where the light is focused
		+ The type of light
		+ The focus (spot or flood) of the light
		+ The use of "masking" devices: shutters, barn doors, etc.
		+ The direction (angle) of the light
		+ Where the instrument is placed
2. **Intensity:** Intensity is the actual amount, or level of brightness, of light that strikes the stage or actor. Intensity can range from total darkness to painfully brilliant white light.
	* *Factors determining the intensity of the light:*
		+ Type of instrument
		+ Wattage of the lamp
		+ Length of throw
		+ Size of the pool of light
		+ Color of the gel
		+ Amount of electricity reaching the lamp (dimmer level)
		+ Reflective quality of the make-up, costume and setting
3. **Movement:** Movement is any *change* in the intensity, color, direction, distribution, or texture of the light. Such a change is a light cue.
	* + 1. The timed duration of the light cues.
			2. The movement of onstage lights, such as a lantern or candle.
			3. The movement of an offstage light source, such as a follow spot or kinetic/moving lights.
4. **Color:** The color of the light reflected by the performer and the background.
	* *Factors determining the color of the light:*
		+ Color of the gel
		+ Color temperature of the lamp
		+ Intensity of the lamp (dimmer level)
		+ Color of the costume, make-up and setting