**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