**The 4 Functions of Light**

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

1. **Visibility:** The simple ability to see what is occurring on stage. Any lighting design will be ineffective if the audience has to strain to see the characters, unless this is the explicit intent.
2. **Selective Focus:** Directing the audience's attention to an area of the stage or distracting them from another.
3. **Modeling:** Altering the perception of shapes onstage, particularly three-dimensional stage elements.
4. **Mood:** Setting the tone of a scene. Harsh red light has a totally different effect than soft lavender light.

**What is the relationship between the functions and the qualities of light?**

* + - **Visibility** is determined by the intensity, color, and direction of the light.
    - **Selective Focus** is determined by the *intensity* and *distribution* of the light.
    - **Modeling** is determined by the *distribution* of the light.

##### Mood is determined by the *intensity* (Comedies are bright), *color* (Comedies are warm), and *distribution* (Comedies are evenly lit and have very few shadows) of the light.