

## Spotlight

A lighting designer creates the lighting concept and equipment requirements for a production. They work most closely with the director and the technical director and the scenic, costume, and projection designers to create a lighting concept that communicates the feeling of the production and guides the audience's attention in specific ways throughout the performance.

## V-o-c-a-b-u-l-a-r-y

**BACK LIGHT**—the process of illuminating the subject from behind. In theatre, lights are hung upstage (towards the rear of the stage) and shine back towards the acting area. In other words, the lighting instrument and the audience face each other, with the performer in between.

**CYCLORAMA OR CYC**—a seamless, flat white or natural panel that is hung at the very back of the stage and is used in a variety of ways, including with traditional stage lighting to create special illusions.

**FOCAL POINT**—the central or principal point of focus for the audience.

**FRONT LIGHT**—the process of illuminating the subject from the front.

In theatre, lights are hung over the heads of the audience and pointed at the stage, so the performers can be clearly visible to the audience.

**GEL**—also known as a color gel or as a lighting gel, a gel is a transparent colored material that is used in theater to color light or to correct the color of existing light.

**GOBO**—a stencil or template placed inside or in front of a light source to control the shape of the emitted light. Lighting designers typically use them with stage lighting instruments to manipulate the shape of the light cast over a space or object—for example to produce a pattern of leaves on a floor.

**INTENSITY**—the degree of strength, force, energy, or feeling a certain lighting instrument emits or projects.

**SIDE LIGHT**—the process of illuminating the subject from the side. In theatre, lights are hung on the left and right sides of the stage, so performers are lit from the side. This type of lighting is often used to highlight dance and movement.

**TEXTURE**—the feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface or substance.

**WASH**—a general “fill” of light and color evenly distributed across the stage which is created using lighting fixtures and colored gels.

## More to Explore

<https://careers.broadway/>

<http://www.stagelightingprimer.com>

<http://www.theatrecrafts.com>

<https://www.usa829.org/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/darrynking/2018/10/26/what-do-broadways-best-lighting-designers-actually-do/#390c98e78db2>

## Extension Activity

Create a lighting design for the following scene. Be sure to decide what your focal point or points will be? What colors, shapes, and textures you will use to create the mood? And, how you will use the lighting to establish the scene's time and place?

**On a boat stranded in the middle of the ocean, a group of six sailors frantically devise a rescue plan before the storm clouds in the distance unleash a massive storm.**