BEYOND THE SCORE

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

An Eye For Design: Lighting Design in the 70's

IMPORTANCE OF LIGHTING DESIGN

MORE THAN JUST LIGHTS

MAGIC TO DO

JSK Stories

C. BALDWIN

"I FEEL THAT LIGHT IS LIKE MUSIC. IN SOME ABSTRACT, EMOTIONAL, NONCEREBRAL, NONLITERARY WAY, IT MAKES US FEEL, IT MAKES US SEE, IT MAKES US THINK, ALL WITHOUT KNOWING EXACTLY HOW AND WHY."

- JENNIFER TIPTON

Importance of Lighting Design

Lighting a show is one of the most important aspects of a production. Without any light, we wouldn't see the performance! It takes thinking outside the box, understanding of technical aspects of the stage, and quick problem solving. Unlike costume and makeup designers, who are able to work with the performers for weeks and sometimes months, the lighting designer typically only has a couple weeks to experiment with the actors and their design. It takes a lot of bravery to see your work for the first time with the actors on stage! In addition, lighting designers need to collaborate with the other designers to make sure the light is balanced and showing off all elements of design on stage. It wasn't until 1970 when lighting designers were more recognized and awarded Tony Awards.

More Than Just Lights

Lighting designers are doing more than just turning on the lights. They are helping to tell the story! Lights can evoke emotion, shift the mood, and highlight important aspects of the plot. Some important theatrical lighting designers who emerged in the 1970's included Ken Billington, Jules Fischer, and Jennifer Tipton (pictured left).

Magic To Do

Pippin, light designed by Jules Fischer, was a huge hit when it premiered on Broadway in 1972. Fischer won the Tony Award for his design on this production. Let's take a look at the following musical number from *Pippin*, "Magic To Do". Just click on the photo!

After watching, consider the following questions:

What were some interesting things you noticed about the lighting design?

What colors would you use to describe the light?

How did the lighting highlight or hide certain aspects of the staging?

SOURCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_Tipton
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Award_for_Best_Lighting_Design
https://playbill.com/article/from-sweet-charity-to-pippin-to-wicked-ben-vereen-takes-us-through-his-luminous-career
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pippin_(musical)
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/obituaries/roger-hirson-dead.html
https://playbill.com/article/looking-back-at-the-original-broadway-production-of-sweeney-todd

All other graphics were used from free stock image site: pixabay.com