Stage Lighting Handbook

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The Stage Lighting Handbook is well established as the classic practical lighting guide. The book explains the process of designing lighting for all forms of stage production and describes the equipment used. This new edition includes up-to-date information on new equipment and discusses its impact on working methods.

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This book is a good overview of lighting design and lighting tech. The writing is frank and honest, the information is well-organized. I use it frequently as a designer to remind myself of things I might otherwise forget from time to time, or to get new ideas for how to light for this style. It is just an overview, and while it is highly practical, I would hardly call it comprehensive. Chapter titles include: Aims in Lighting, Lighting Instruments, First Steps in Lighting Design, Color, The Lighting Design Process, Lighting Opera, lighting Thrust Stages, Agenda for a Post-Mortem, Projection and Effects, and Light Education. This book is sort of like a letter from one experienced lighting designer to a fresh-faced lighting designer, unlike many stagecraft books. It does have the UK slant, as another reviewer mentioned, but that shouldn't be a great hindrance. If you have 10 books about lighting design, this should be one of them.

This book does an extremely good job of covering the basics of lighting design. It also includes a lot of pretty pictures and diagrams. I think the most useful part of the book is the appendix section,
with gel conversion charts, beam and field angle charts, and commonly used photometric data. While not perhaps the most comprehensive lighting book, it does a good job of covering the basics.

I read this book to help learn basic lighting design. This book teaches you all you need to know and more. Even though the book has a U.K. slant (only U.K. rigging is discussed) it is very informative.

I keep trying out other books for new lighting designers because I often share them with my high school students who take an interest in lighting (it is not a design class, so I cannot teach these kids design during the class). I find that Reid’s focus on the process of lighting a show and the principles at work makes this the best book available. For example, there is a chapter where he goes through the principles at work in making decisions about lighting by imagining that he only has one instrument and figuring out where and how to hang and focus it. Then he does this as if he has two instruments, then three, and so on. This kind of process-focused guidance makes this a great book for anyone trying to learn design by themselves.

I bought this book for my great-grandson, now eleven and just this year became part of his school stage crew. He has also started fooling around with the lighting system on my restaurant’s stage. (28’3”pw 10’7”ph 6’6” cl to lip 27’11”pl to cyc 39’ to grid - 21 double purchase lines 108 dimmers in rolling racks -- not much of a much I guess.) The only disappointment is that the book doesn’t cover LED instruments, which are the “now” thing to the point I converted half the Source-4s on my stage in the last four months and will finish it by fall. My GGS has fallen in love with the book and and has learned much from it, and now astounds his teacher with his knowledge. I also bought him Automated Lighting by Richard Cadina which is an ideal companion book. I am now looking for a book that covers LEDs.

This is a fabulous stage lighting book - not TOO basic for experienced lighting people, not too hard for beginners. I particularly like that there are chapters such as “Lighting the Musical” and “Lighting the Play”, etc, as different shows have different lighting needs - but it is not always addressed in lighting books. I highly recommend this book for lighting students or people who just need to know more about lighting to have better communicate with their lighting designers.

THE book was in amazing shape, like new. My son said it exceeded his expectations!! He is interested in lighting and theatre, he recommended it to a friend and now there are multiple copies
This book is very useful for the people who is starting with lighting. The book explains how to do a lighting design for different events like: an opera, concert, play, musical, etc. and describes how the lighting angles can create different effects. It also describe the different types of lamps and gives some tips for the design and cues.

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