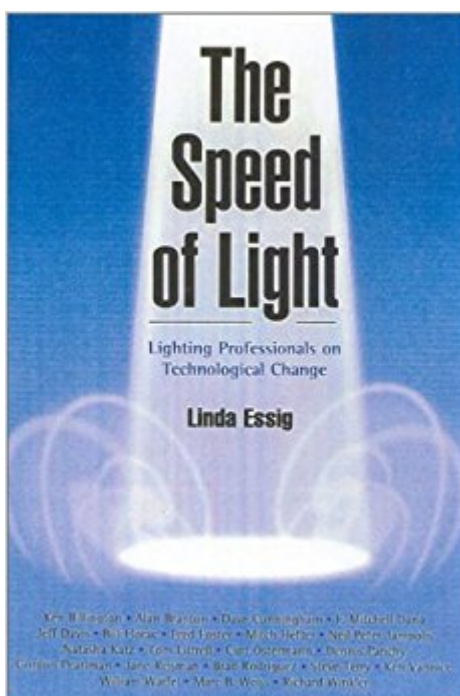


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The Speed Of Light: Dialogues On Lighting Design And Technological Change



Synopsis

Over the last twenty-five years, lighting design has undergone a series of radical changes. With the advent of computerized lighting control, automated lights, and a standard control protocol, lighting designers have acquired a set of tremendously powerful tools that allow effects never previously possible. Linda Essig has interviewed twenty luminaries of lighting design and engineering about these changes and how they have affected the art, science, and business of contemporary theatre. Among those interviewed are: Ken Billington (Chicago, On the Twentieth Century) Natasha Katz (Beauty and the Beast, Aida) Neil Peter Jampolis (Sherlock Holmes) Dennis Parichy (Best Little Whorehouse in Texas) Jane Reisman (Black and Blue). While discussing technical issues, these professionals let us in on the real nuts and bolts of their work: the problems of running an entire production from the back-up system, the politics behind the creation of standards, the extent to which "gizmoization" does or does not infringe on lighting as an art form. An excellent resource for teachers, students, and professionals, *The Speed of Light* analyzes exactly how lighting design has gotten to its present state - a fascinating story in the words of practitioners who know the field best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A professional lighting designer, Linda Essig is also Professor of Lighting Design and Chair of Theatre and Drama at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her design credits include productions for the Cleveland Play House, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Missouri Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and many others.

This book is essential !

While the subtitle promises "Dialogues on Lighting Design and Technological Change", you are instead presented with a bunch of old farts of the industry that reminisce about "the old days of lighting". There are four sections. The first boringly details how the first computerized light consoles became popular. This might be an interesting to read if it were a page or so, but it IS 30 PAGES long with 5 different people talking about how various boards came about and why they failed. The next section is about the creation of vari-lites and "intelligent lighting". Once again, nothing interesting or new. We are then presented with the birth of (gasp) DMX512! I learned so much about the history of dmx512 that I could ever care about. You learn such exciting things such as how at the USITT convention they bickered over which protocol to use. There is also another section, but by this time I had given up on the book and know that it just talks about lighting designers complaining about their students wanting to use intelligent lights in every show and how gobo's today are not what they used to be. To sum up, you could scroll through usenet discussions from rec.arts.theatre.stagecraft for 5 hours and get the same effect achieved from the speed of light. This book is one of the most boring books on theatrical lighting I have ever read...

The Speed of Light by Linda Essig is an important and interesting book covering the history of lighting design and technological changes in the industry. Lighting professionals and students will enjoy the dialogues from industry experts and others. If you are truly interested in the history of theatrical stage lighting buy this book!

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