Optique 1200W.

MORE POWERFUL OPTIQUES FOR QUALITY PATTERN PROJECTION

Strand Lighting's two popular Optique zoom profiles are now available with 1200W lamps for both 220/240V and 120V regions, to give an even more powerful performance.

Originally the two different variable beam angle Optiques (8° - 17° and 15° - 42°) were only available at 1kW, but recent upgrades to the design have enabled a 1200W lamp to be used.

The Optique differs from conventional zoom profiles and ellipsoidal spotlights as they have a condenser lens as part of the optical system, giving a flatter, more consistent field than a zoom ellipsoidal. By utilising white plate glass lenses, Optique also gives a whiter light than other spotlights. Strand's Optiques have become extremely popular for gobo and shutter projection, as the flat field and crisp beam produce an excellent image. See Mike Robertson's article on page 14 where he explains their use in a production of *West Side Story*. ✍

SET LIGHTING TECHNICIAN'S HANDBOOK
by Harry C. Box, published by Focal Press ISBN 0 240 80161 X

After reading this book, most of the mystique surrounding the world of Hollywood film production will be revealed. Anybody contemplating a career in this industry, whether based in Europe or USA, will find this both an invaluable introduction and ongoing reference handbook to the work and working practices of lighting for Film and Television in North America.
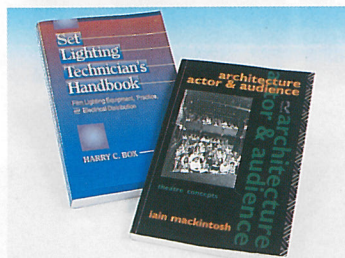
Starting right at the beginning the author clarifies who does what on the film set - Gaffers, Best Boys, Grip Department, DP, - and how they all work together as a team. He then describes general lighting equipment and the grip equipment used with the lights, explains theories and techniques of lighting, continues through a thorough explanation of electricity, supply and distribution on the set and finishes with useful chapters on specialist lighting equipment and the working practices required by the IATSE and NABET unions.

The chapter on Lighting Fixtures not only explains the basics of each type of instrument, luminaire, fixture or just plain light, but also provides some very useful tabular information on specifications of the major manufacturers' products. There is also an extensive section on HMI technology which is up to date with the latest developments in this field. Carbon Arcs are not overlooked and there is an interesting insight into these "brutes" for those of us unfamiliar with their operation.

Harry Box makes an interesting observation in his introduction to lighting techniques and theories when he states: " A film without sound is a Silent Movie.... A film without light is Radio !"

He covers the technical requirement for light by explaining film contrast ranges and film stock latitudes, f-stops and Depth of Field and the basic lighting requirements for a good picture. This is then all expanded with a chapter on how to manipulate the light to create the DP's artistic aims. He doesn't forget the often overlooked question of how to support the lights and associated flags, diffusers, etc., in all of those awkward situations.

None of this comes to anything if the electricity supply to the lamps cannot be reliably and safely provided and Harry Box's obvious experience in this area shows in the very thorough chapters on electricity and set distribution.

With the emphasis on special effects in modern films in mind, there is a very interesting chapter on the special circumstances and equipment required to help get these shots.

Finally, if, despite all this, you have set your sights on working in this industry, you ought to know something about the working practices and labor situation in North America. It's all there in the last chapter.

All in all, this is a very informative book and one that can be thoroughly recommended to any body with anything more than a passing interest in the business. ✍

STRAND book review

Strand Library

ARCHITECTURE ACTOR & AUDIENCE
by Iain Mackintosh, published by Routledge ISBN 0 415 03183 4

Although at first sight this book appears to be a philosophical thesis written exclusively for student architects on the design concepts of theatres, a second glance opens up a subject which will fascinate everyone who has experienced live theatre and is eager to know more about the inner working of 'theatre'.

Architecture Actor & Audience gives a unique insight into how theatre buildings have developed. Iain Mackintosh, Design Director of Theatre Projects Consultants, is certainly qualified to discuss the subject from every perspective. He has published widely on theatre history, was co-founder and producer of the British drama touring company, "Prospect", and has been responsible for the design of many new theatres and restorations, internationally, during his time with Theatre Projects.

Mr. Mackintosh explores the contribution theatre architecture has made to theatre-going since the time of Shakespeare's Globe. He explains the different styles of theatre design, and the fundamental rules which link audience to actor. Contemporary designs from around the world are analysed and their success and failures are discussed in relation to the actors' and audience's responses. His anecdotal and authoritative style make this an interesting book for any technically-aware regular theatre-goer.

This book will fascinate and inform a much wider readership than simply those directly involved in theatre design, as it gives a detailed insight into the experience and attention to detail used to create the essence of any live theatrical venue. ✍

StrandCAD™ LATEST SOFTWARE RELEASE

We have been overwhelmed with requests for CAD drawing disks since the StrandCAD project was launched in the last edition of *Lights!* Our objective was to provide detailed, full-size diagrams of Strand spotlights in plan and elevation as a design library for use with CAD packages.

The StrandCAD disk 1 includes all the European (220/240V) theatrical spotlight range, and it is available in two MS-DOS formats, .DWG for AutoCAD™ users, and .DXF for other CAD and drawing packages. We will be announcing a Macintosh™ version with the drawings condensed on a disk in PICT format soon.

Use of the library is subject to a nominal licence fee, and details are available directly from your local Strand head office listed on page 23 or by returning the attached enquiry card.

Also, we are announcing StrandCAD disk 2 which provides the same diagrams as disk 1, but as outlines only (in 1:25 and 1:50 scales). These are particularly suitable for drawing lighting plots.

Every licensed user of StrandCAD disk 1 will receive the second release (disk 2) automatically, plus regular details of additions to the StrandCAD library. Future disks will include Strand 120V luminaires, control consoles, dimmers, suspension equipment and studio lighting equipment. ✍
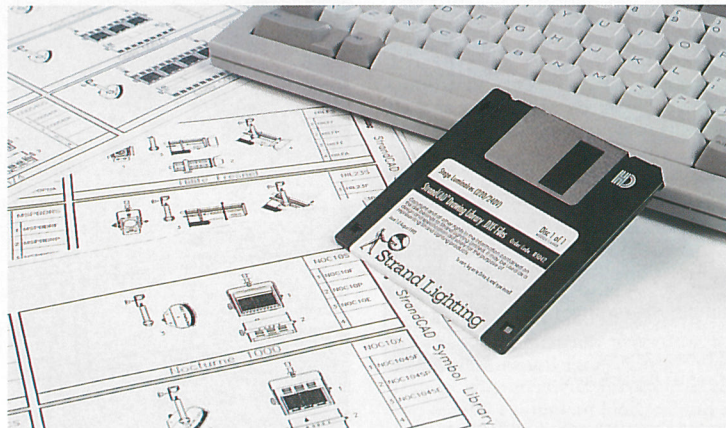
Anyone interested in further information should return the enclosed card.

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