

## **Paul Davies UK**

*The Authentic and stylised use of colour in light on stage; A comparison and analysis of US and UK lighting designers use of saturated and tint colours.*

I will review a survey I conducted of 80 lighting designers practicing in the UK and / or US which confirmed observations that the colour palette in use in North America is richer than that of UK lighting designers. The study was conducted on line in 2006 with the support of USITT, ABTT, USA, and ALD and the preliminary results are available at <http://pciknowledge.leeds.ac.uk/pdsurvey/>. There respondents were questioned about how they depict authentic weather states and period scenes on stage. I will then propose that the answers which included a high use of colour correction blues and stark lighting in the UK cannot be put down to any one cause but contributing factors include the equipment availability, the training of designers, the mentoring of designers, the organisation of theatre, cultural acceptability, theatre subsidy and even the climate. Conversely the US tendency towards saturated colour has been influenced to some extent by the training of designers, the equipment quantity and type available, and the high profile of Broadway / Vegas productions incorporating spectacle. Finally I will look at the way future developments and trends which could see a levelling of the design styles will I believe not be successful in changing the biases within the colour palettes.

## **CV**

Paul Davies BA(Bradford), PGCE-FE (Wales), MFA Lighting Design (Cincinnati)

Paul is currently a lecturer in Lighting and Sound within the Department of Drama at the University of Kent in England. His background is 20 years of professional work as a technician, and recently a lighting designer, in venues ranging from small scale arts centres to large civic theatres in the US, Canada and UK. His research interests beyond colour in light are in relighting process, touring, and theatre spaces. He was lighting supervisor for Opera North in England before retraining as a Lighting Designer at the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. Paul has also taught at Atlantic College, The Banff Centre (Canada) and the Universities of Cincinnati (OH, USA), Chico (CA, USA) and Leeds (England).