

United Scenic Artists • Local USA 829, IATSE

• REPRESENTING •

Art Department
Coordinators

Art Directors

Computer Artists

Costume Designers

Lighting Designers

Production Designers

Projection Designers

Scenic Artists

Scenic Designers

Sound Designers

• FOR •

Major & Independent
Motion Pictures

Network & Cable TV

Broadway &
Regional Theatre

Opera

Ballet

Commercials

Industrial Shows

Special Events

• AND MORE •

LIGHTING DESIGN EXAMINATION – EASTERN REGION

Dear Applicant,

The United Scenic Artists Lighting Design Examination is a screening process for admitting those individuals who earn a living by designing lighting professionally, and those who possess employable skills as a lighting designer, supervisor or assistant. The professionals we are looking for can be found working on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in Regional Theatre (LORT), Dance, Opera, Concert and Cabaret, Major Rock-and-Roll Tours, Industrial Shows and Freelance Television. Since the Union is a professional organization, the Lighting Design Examination makes no distinction between Track A and B. Students are advised not to take the Exam until *after their final year of studies*.

The following items must be submitted to the Lighting Design Exam Committee at the Union office by the appropriate deadlines, as specified on the Date Schedule:

- A) One (1) Completed Application
- B) Five (5) Copies of Current Résumé (including specific history of employment, *especially dates of production*)
- C) Five (5) Copies of Completed Production Questionnaire
- D) Four (4) Letters of Recommendation (minimum) from professional, *not academic*, contacts (i.e., designers, directors, producers or electricians) which are mailed directly to the Lighting Design Exam Committee
- E) One (1) \$200.00 Combined Filing & Exam Fee on a Personal Check *only*
- F) Three (3) Self-Adhesive Mailing Labels addressed to You

The Lighting Design Examination consists of a forty-minute (40-minute) comprehensive Interview and a forty-five-minute (45-minute) practical exercise. During the Interview, a panel of working designers will view your portfolio and application materials and discuss your work-related experience. Within two (2) weeks following the Interview, you will receive written notification of the panel's decision by mail. Since this Interview is the more important part of the Exam, we stress the importance of demonstrating **your best work**. We encourage re-drafting of light plots and sections, and re-writing paperwork if necessary.

AT YOUR INTERVIEW

You must present a portfolio of **three (3) complete lighting designs**. Of the three, at least **two (2) must have been actual productions**, at least **one must be staged in a proscenium setting**, and at least **one (1) must have been produced in a non-academic situation**. Each of the three designs must provide all necessary information for an electrician to ***pull the show from a rental shop, and hang and cable it in your absence***.

Each design must include a minimum of the following or you will be disqualified from continuing with the exam:

- Light Plot
- Section (read note* below)
- Channel Hookup
- Instrument Schedule
- Shop Order (Equipment List, read note** below)
- Magic Sheets

For the drafting, 1/2" scale is preferred but 1/4" is acceptable for large venues. Only folded blueprinted or plotted drawings will be accepted, with the exception that an original drawing may be used as an accessory to the finished section drawing.



29 West 38th Street
15th Floor
New York, NY 10018

tel: 212-581-0300
fax: 212-977-2011

www.usa829.org

*Note on **Section** drawing: The drawing you present should be a working drawing reflecting your design process. It **must** show how you determined the **trim of each lighting position**, the **focus direction and beam angles of units** typical to your design, and the **placement and trim of the masking**. A generic section of the venue is not acceptable, nor is a beautifully drafted but uninformative drawing.

Note on **Shop Order: An equipment list generated from Lightwright, Vectorworks or similar program is **not acceptable unless** you have annotated it to include **specific information that would allow the show to be put out to bid** and an **electrician to pull the show from a rental shop**. If you used stock equipment from an existing inventory, you must still produce a shop order as if the **entire inventory** was rented equipment.

Your portfolio will be judged on the above criteria in addition to other criteria pertaining to the thoroughness and professionalism of your work and presentation and your adherence to and knowledge of current industry standards.

You may present photographs or renderings as a visual aid to assist the judges in understanding the scenic elements of the productions, but the panel will not consider lighting in any photographs to be representative of the actual productions. Projection equipment will not be available.

Be very selective in preparing your portfolio, as your time with the panel will be limited. We suggest you present your strongest work first, since there may not be enough time to thoroughly discuss all productions.

Please note that although your portfolio materials will be returned at the end of the interview, the committee may make notes or comments upon your materials. You should retain your own duplicate copies of these materials.

Prior to your interview, you will be given a 45-minute exercise to complete. Details on items you must bring for this exercise will be sent with your appointment time.

If you have any questions about the exam itself, you may contact:

Debra Dumas	516-676-5991	DebDumas@verizon.net
Doug Cox	212-683-4610	DouglasJCox@earthlink.net

*Do not call the Union Office as they cannot answer questions or take messages for the committee! Also note: your initiation and IATSE fees must be paid within three (3) months of being notified of the recommendation for membership, after which time your membership recommendation will be forfeited. **Please do not apply if you cannot afford to pay the full initiation and IATSE fees within three months of being recommended for membership.***

Thank you for your interest in the United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829.

Sincerely,

THE LIGHTING DESIGN EXAMINATION COMMITTEE