

# How to tell stories with light (part 2)

## SUBMITTED BY KEVIN CAWLEY

The following project is an example of how lighting designer Kevin Cawley gets his message across to the public using the art of light to tell the story of how a theatre speaks with light to its audience.

### ISAAC THEATRE ROYAL

The theatre's façade had been damaged but not destroyed in the Christchurch earthquakes and has been rebuilt but it looks like a refurbishment. The design concept was the use of light and shadow on this historic façade. The key was the use of a theatrical production process: detailed focusing, then plotting or setting different scenes for each occasion. Several lighting acts show beauty, splendor and glory of the historic architecture.

We let the theatre needed to speak for itself: Look at my splendor, Look at what I do, and Entertain and enjoy yourself.

The photographs show the façade (scene 1) and under awning lighting (scene 2) for various uses of the theatre. Matt Mard did the lighting programming.

To have the Isaac Theatre Royal back in production is another ray of hope for the Christchurch community after five years of rebuilding after the earthquakes. ■



Act 2. Scene 1. This is where a production is in rehearsal. The façade gives a hint of what is to come in the following weeks. The light plotting for this depends on the theme and nature of the production. Act 2. Scene 2. Under the awning. The foyer is illuminated 4000 K downlights added to the mix to increase the brightness (things are about to happen).

Photo Murray Irwin.



Act 1. Scene 1. This is when nothing is happening in the theatre. A mix of warm colours accentuates the masonry of the façade.

Photo Murray Irwin.



Act 3. Scene 1. It's opening night so the façade preforms to its maximum, depending on the theme and nature of the production. (There may be colour and movement if appropriate.) Act 3. Scene 2. Under the awning. Along with the 4000 K and 5000 K sources four large custom-built chandlers and festoons proclaim "this is it!"

Photo Murray Irwin.