

Prepping your Prompt Book - How to label your cues by Kade Mendelowitz

Take the cue list from the various designers and make notes (in pencil) for where the cues should be called. After the first day of tech / “cue to cue” you should even write in the warning and “stand by” calls you give to the board operators.

Many stage managers, after the second dress rehearsal, when they feel the cues are fairly set, like to color code their cues to make it easier to call the show.

“Warnings” (30 seconds before a cue) are good when there hasn’t been a cue for a few minutes...otherwise “standbys” (12 seconds prior to the cue) are fine.

*Note: When calling “Warnings” and “Standbys” say **that first** (before the cue number) so the running crew knows what you’re leading up to. When it’s time to call the cue, start with the cue number then.....**GO** (the word) is called when the button should actually be hit.*

In your book, of course, the cue go should have an indication **where** the cue is called. On a visual note, or exact expression / line.

Warning Lights 51

QUEEN GERTRUDE

O Hamlet, speak no more:
Thou turn’st mine eyes into my very soul;
And there I see such black and grained spots
As will not leave their tinct.

HAMLET

A murderer and a villain;
A slave that is not twentieth part the tithe
Of your precedent lord; a vice of kings;
A cutpurse of the empire and the rule,
That from a shelf the precious diadem stole,
And put it in his pocket!

Stand by Lights 51

QUEEN GERTRUDE

No more!

HAMLET

A king of shreds and patches,—

Lights 51 GO

Enter Ghost

Save me, and hover o’er me with your wings,
You heavenly guards! What would your gracious figure?

QUEEN GERTRUDE

Alas, he’s mad!

Stand by Lights 52

HAMLET

Do you not come your tardy son to chide,
That, lapsed in time and passion, lets go by
The important acting of your dread command? O, say!

Ghost

Lights 52 GO

Do not forget: this visitation
Is but to whet thy almost blunted purpose.
But, look, amazement on thy mother sits:
O, step between her and her fighting soul:
Conceit in weakest bodies strongest works:
Speak to her, Hamlet.