Preparation

“The Arabian Nights” by Mary Zimmerman became the perfect opportunity to execute the use of LED equipment to help accentuate the stories within the play with intense color. We began our research of LED lighting in early August of 2015. We visited two companies (ETC® and Philips® Varilite) to inquire about demoing their equipment. Through this we were able to obtain $75,000 worth of equipment for educational use.

Process

We put together a team of students in order to execute the plan. Amanda Warren (Senior at SFA) was the Lighting Designer. Brian Steele served as Master Electrician and organized crew calls and personnel. Travis Wilson served as Assistant Master Electrician, and tackled DMX-512 networking. Skyler Moore, served as Programmer/Board operator and Brittany Tennis served as Deck Electrician and wired the lanterns along with managing the hazers.

Final Result

“Lighting design is an art form that supports the artistic direction of a performance. LED equipment opens the possibilities for creativity, saving both time, money, and increasing artistic expression.”

– CC Conn, Professor of Lighting and Sound, S.F.A

Summary

1. We learned to work as a professional team to incorporate highly technical equipment into a production not typically available to an undergraduate theatre program.
2. We experienced the complications of exceeding our system and expanded it to facilitate the technology.
3. We increased our knowledge of LED technology and programming.
4. Mastering LED technology is critical in theatre education now because theatres everywhere are beginning to use LED technology in order to save time and money and increase creative capabilities.