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## Student designers appraise Elation lighting on Yale's Carlotta Festival

**David DeCarolis and Yichen Zhou employ Fuze MAX moving heads in lighting design for three student-produced plays on annual theatre festival**

In partnership with dry-hire rental house Main Light, Elation Professional provided Fuze MAX™ series moving head luminaires to David Geffen School of Drama at Yale for use on the school's annual Carlotta Festival, which showcases plays written, directed, acted and designed by students.

The Carlotta Festival features three fully produced new plays by graduating playwrights performed in rotating repertory. The plays presented in this year's festival, which ran May 5–12 at the Iseman Theatre, included *littleboy/littleman* by Rudi Goblen (directed by Jacob Basri); *Furlough's Paradise* by a.k. payne (directed by Leyla Levi); and *Color Boy* by Esperanza Rosales Balcárcel (directed by Jecamiah M. Ybañez).



### Learning experience

David Geffen School of Drama is one of the top theatre programs in the U.S. and offers one of the best theatre design and technology programs in the country. The Carlotta Festival demonstrates to students the significant artistic, technical, and managerial challenges of producing new plays in repertory, in circumstances similar to those in professional theatre, and is an invaluable learning experience.

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When third-year MFA candidates David DeCarolis ([daviddecarolislighting.com](http://daviddecarolislighting.com)) and Yichen Zhou had the opportunity to design lighting for the plays—DeCarolis for *littleboy/littleman* and *Color Boy*, and Zhou for *Furlough's Paradise*—DeCarolis decided to contact Elation Professional to enquire about fixture choice.

Elation Product Application Specialist Nick Saiki steered the designer toward two of the company's newest state-of-the-art moving heads, the [Fuze MAX Spot™](#) and the recent NAB Product-of-the-Year award-winner, the [Fuze MAX Profile™](#). Main Light supplied six Fuze MAX Profile and five Fuze MAX Spot luminaires to the school for the production.

### **Fuze MAX**

Specially designed for precision lighting applications such as theatre, with the Fuze MAX Elation has taken a full-spectrum RGBMA LED engine (92 CRI) and combined it with the best features of high performance moving lights such as a wide zoom, gobo wheels, animation, dual frost, prism and iris (plus framing in the Profile version). Lumen output is 21,000, rivaling 1000W/1200W-class discharge fixtures.



DeCarolis says he used the fixtures to accentuate or heighten the more theatrical or psychological moments of the plays, for example using more saturates or primary colors, and accessed their full feature sets for textures, effects, specials, color and animation. “They were an integral part of my designs and I used them in many of the moments of the plays that I am most proud of,” he stated. “We appreciated these fixtures so much and they really helped out with this production.”

For Zhou, the fixtures were most useful when creating specials to emphasize a particular look, such as with animation, but she also used them as fill lights and for angles. Colorwise she says she was able to produce naturalistic shades when producing isolated moments, pastels for example, and was able to blend them in with the rest of the rig, including incandescent fixtures. The Fuze MAX's RGBMA engine produces fully blended colors across an impressively wide breadth of the color spectrum, along with tunable dynamic whites.



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### **Framing**

Both designers say they relied on the Fuze MAX Profile's four-blade framing system to control the beam shape. Looking back, Zhou admits that she would have liked all of the lights to be framing units. "With *Furlough's Paradise's* smaller set it would have been nice to have had more framing fixtures," she said, a dilemma she got around by using a gobo in the Fuze MAX Spots as a type of shutter. Necessity is the mother of invention.

One plot was used for all three plays with the Fuze MAX Profiles working from over-stage positions and the Fuze MAX Spots positioned over the audience. Zhou adds, "I also enjoyed how quiet the fixtures were. I sat just beneath them during performances and they weren't distracting at all."

### **Color Boy**

Director: Jecamiah Ybanez  
Playwright: Esperanza Rosales Balcarcel  
Lighting Designer: David DeCarolis  
Set Designer: Suzu Sakai  
Costume Designer: Yu-Jung Shen  
Projection Designer: Hannah Tran  
Sound Designer: Stan Mathabane  
Production Electrician: Jasmine Moore

### **littleboy/littleman**

Director: Jacob Basri  
Playwright: Rudi Goblen  
Musicians: Jorge Banuelos and Jaylon Jamal  
Lighting Designer: David DeCarolis  
Set Designer: Suzu Sakai  
Costume Designer: Yu-Jung Shen  
Projection Designer: Hannah Tran  
Sound Designer: Stan Mathabane  
Production Electrician: Jasmine Moore

### **Furlough's Paradise**

Director: Leyla Levi  
Playwright: a.k. payne  
Lighting Designer: Yichen Zhou  
Set Designer: Omid Akbari  
Costume Designer: Risa Ando  
Projection Designer: Hannah Tran  
Sound Designer: Tojo Rasedoara



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Photo 1: littleboy/littleman; photo by Suzu Sakai and T. Charles Erickson; actors Andy Mendez and Marlon Alexander Vargas

Photo 2: Furloughs Paradise; actors Lauren Walker and Janiah Francois

Photo 3: littleboy/littleman; photo by Suzu Sakai and T. Charles Erickson; actors Andy Mendez and Marlon Alexander Vargas

Photo 4: Furloughs Paradise; actors Lauren Walker and Janiah Francois

### **About Elation Professional**

Based in California with facilities in Florida and Mexico City, as well as European offices in The Netherlands, Elation designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of innovative lighting products known for its superior performance, excellent efficiency, and outstanding price:value ratio, all backed by a hard-earned reputation for Total Support. Elation also offers an advanced line of lighting control products through Obsidian Control Systems, as well as a full range of dependable specialty effects called Magmatic. Our mission has always been simple: to provide best-in-class products and service while offering the best value:performance ratio in the industry. Elation products continue to be a part of the industry's most exciting projects across the globe. We invite you to take a closer look at

[www.elationlighting.com](http://www.elationlighting.com)

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