

COMPANY MANAGER

An average day for me involves dealing with a lot phone calls, emails and texts; mostly things like ticket requests, holiday requests, physio requests (or cancellations), train delays or cast members calling in sick.

I attend meetings, deal with scheduling rehearsals, events, press, holidays, power cuts (!), Health and Safety, Training, and sort out any issues that arise on a daily basis across every department backstage - my work mantra is "Leave it with me!" I also look after the weekly payroll for everyone backstage.

At the theatre I have to let everyone know who is off that evening and who is on, so that the dance captain can work out the details of the covering for that show.

Occasionally we have guests in to watch the performance and I'll make sure they are looked after in the interval or maybe give them a post-show backstage tour.

The people I work with mostly are the cast and the Resident Director, as well as all backstage Heads of Departments, the Musical Director, the Theatre Manager and the Production Managers and Administrators at Cameron Mackintosh Ltd to ensure everyone is aware of what is going on that week that might affect them. It's all about communication.

The kit I can't do without is my iPhone and external battery, my black Collins week-to-a page diary, those disposable propelling pencils (I hate using pens) and my Nespresso machine at home. I honestly don't think I could get out of bed some days if I didn't have that!

The best part of my day is usually that moment at warm-up when Stage Management let you know the entire cast are actually in the building. The worst part of my day is I hate having to tell anyone off!

The most glamorous part of my job is I've been really lucky to work in some amazing places and meet some wonderful people. I met Kylie a few years ago and I worked on We Will Rock You for a few years so I got to know Brian [May] and Roger [Taylor] quite well!
And a few years ago I did a gig in Buckingham Palace and I was so in awe of the place. The weather was beautiful and the stage was in the Palace garden, so we used some of the rooms in the back of the Palace as dressing rooms and offices. That was exceptional.

The least showbiz part of my job is I spend a lot of time sorting out broken dressing room furniture or blocked sinks and air conditioning!

The advice I'd give to anyone wanting to do my job would be to get a really good grounding in Stage Management first. To do this job, the attributes you have to have are to be a good listener, and it helps if you have a lot of patience. It's quite a chaotic world so you do need to be quite organised and good at organising others. Also the ability to make a good cup of tea and have a laugh!