

Stage Management: Calling the Shots

Stage managers work on productions from the beginning to the end. Acting as the communication point for all areas of the production, stage managers work hard to organize productions and find solutions to problems. From setting up rehearsals to calling cues, stage management keeps shows running smoothly. These individuals are part of the Production Department.

Stage Management is Responsible for

- Acting as a communication point between departments that work on shows
- Setting up for and cleaning up after rehearsals
- Creating paperwork, rehearsal and performance reports, recording blocking notation
- Scheduling rehearsals
- Running technical rehearsals
- Calling cues during performances
- Upholding the integrity of the production
- Ensuring a smooth process for each production

Jobs in Stage Management

- Production Stage Manager
- Stage Manager
- Assistant Stage Manager
- Production Assistants
- Stage Management Interns

How to Get Into this Field

Stage managers often begin working in other parts of a theatre, where they gain good, basic knowledge of theatre's different technical fields. Many community colleges and universities have theatre programs; those are great places to start. In addition, look for opportunities in community theatre in any technical area or assist a stage manager to gain more experience. The more a stage manager knows about each production area, the easier it is to communicate information and trouble-shoot potential issues.

Qualities That May Help

- Project management, attention to detail, organization skills
- Strong written and verbal communication
- Leadership and project management skills
- Ability to multi-task
- Work well under pressure, calm in stressful situations
- Good sense of humor