

WORKING IN THEATRE: Company Manager

Name: _____



The **Company Manager** takes care of the everyday needs of artists involved in a production, from handling their payroll to setting up their travel and housing. Company managers are often hired by a theatrical tour to accompany them from city to city, making this a great job for someone who likes to travel. However, some theatres employ a full-time, year-round company manager who works with every group of artists that comes through that particular venue.



UNFAMILIAR TERMS:

“LIAISON” Communication or cooperation which allows a close working relationship between people or organizations, or the person who does this job.

“INTERNSHIP” An educational experience within a company or organization, designed to teach a student about a particular career path or field.

Note to students: You'll get the most out of this video if you watch it twice. Watch it once, and then read the questions below before the second viewing.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1 Megan talks about creativity in her work. Do you think creativity is important in a workplace? Why or why not?

2 Megan mentions that part of her job is keeping the artists happy. Discuss some things you think she might do to keep the company members happy (hint: she mentions that she also handles contracts and payroll).

3 She mentions the importance of respect, compassion, and support for a company manager. Discuss how a career outside theatre or the arts might also require these skills.

4 Megan trained as a stage manager but has found she is more passionate about company management. Research the job of a stage manager and discuss the differences.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1 What can you identify with or what speaks strongly to you in the video?

2 A company manager needs to understand what everyone in the theatre does, and spends time working with many different people. Are you more comfortable working with people one-on-one, or would you like a job that requires you to talk to many people every day?

3 Megan's job ensures that everyone in the company can do their jobs effectively; she "supports the creative process." Describe something you do in your life that depends on the support of others, or describe something you do to support others' goals or careers.

4 Megan trained as a stage manager but has found she is more passionate about company management. Research the job of a stage manager and discuss the differences.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES:

1 Take the Career Path Quiz. First, answer the questions for yourself, and then take it a second time as you think a company manager might answer them. What conclusions can you draw about your interests?

2 Research contracts for stage directors and/or designers. How much are they paid? Does anything surprise you about these contracts?

3 Megan says having an internship may be a good way to learn about all the jobs in theatre. Megan did hers at La Jolla Playhouse.

Visit [CTGLA.org/WorkingInTheatre](https://www.ctgla.org/WorkingInTheatre) and select "Company Manager."

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