



## Behind the Stage

# A Typical Day...

*By Nicole Walters of Atlanta Ballet*

A typical rehearsal day would consist of setting up the studio, Production and Artistic meetings, prepping for any upcoming shows, and watching rehearsals. But, as a Stage Manager, there is no such thing as a typical day. You start the day with a schedule, but nothing ever quite goes as planned. There is always someone who needs something (music, props, etc.) or has a last-minute request that you will need to execute. As a Stage Manager, it is vital that you try to stay one step ahead of everyone and anticipate any needs or issues that may arise. However, there are those “emergencies” you never quite imagine or think could possibly happen.

I have had a few of these moments. Five minutes before the start of a performance, the theater lost all power. But, we decided that “the show must go on” and we came up with a plan to use a battery-operated boombox, megaphone, and flashlights. During another performance we experienced an earthquake, and I had to keep calling the show while also communicating with the crew, dancers, and making sure the hanging lights and goods were still secure. You can plan for anything, but you must be ready for EVERYTHING, and you must be confident and certain in the quick decisions you make.

I guess a typical day for a Stage Manager consists of constant problem solving and keeping one step ahead of everyone. If you can complete your to-do list for the day, it was a productive day :)