STOPWATCH

Name  Anna Pidgeon
Job    Stage manager
Where  Circus Oz

Why is it important?
One of the main roles of my job is to make sure everything runs to
time. I use my watch and its inbuilt stopwatch to time everything from
rehearsals to acts, shows and bump-outs. It's crucial the show starts on
time; and each performer has certain rituals before they get on
stage. It's important they have time to do those.

What do your colleagues think?
It's met with mixed regard! It's crucial for them to know what time
it is and how long things take. [But] if they're running late, my voice
telling people they only have
five minutes left of a particular
activity is not always what they
want to hear.

Unusual moment?
Our performers always go and get
to know the audience before the
show. Recently the band was out in
the foyer playing music. About
five minutes before show time I
called the front-of-house manager
and said, “Good to go in five?” She
said, “People are enjoying the band
and they won’t go inside”. The band
led them in, Pied Piper style, and we
went up on time.

How much does it cost?
My watch is an old retro Casio,
probably worth about $50. A stage
manager’s watch needs to be
reliable, with a backlight, as it needs
to glow in dark.

SUE WHITE

Photo: Jesi McGagna