

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

### 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: Justin McManus