

Concert Production Runner

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The Concert Production Runner Definition:

A Production Runner, usually works directly for the show Production Manager, (PM) a runner is an (expediter, a high-end errand runner). The motto of this gig is, don't come back until you have "IT". Just like the road crew for a concert tour, a runner is the first one to arrive at the venue and the last one to leave after the trucks are loaded and the crews are ready to go. Many times the runner takes to and picks the bus drivers up at the hotel when it's time to leave. You have to be ready for a challenging task. Other duties are things like finding a certain shampoo, hairdryer, taking the performers bored children sightseeing, finding certain kinds of food that they didn't have in that area, picking a performer up at the airport charter or commercial . . . always a different menu of "running" and following specific instruction is at the top of the list.

Overview of the mission:

- 1) Most average size concert shows today will utilize three RUNNERS.
- 2) Often the job is to hurry up and wait.
- 3) Why it is important to understand and follow this principal.

Working with the Production Manager & the crew:

- 1) PMs are under a very lot of pressure during load-in and their entire production process. Sometimes curt, but, not to be taken personally. They have to deal with different people every day and try to mold them to how they need their running processes.
- 2) You must learn to evaluate their personality, in working with your own. Their position is do everything they ask, yours is satisfy everything they ask.
- 3) Some PMs allow you to run for their stage crew specialists, e.g. things they must get are technical and very specific. These are things to keep in mind for most of what you are doing.
- 4) Some PMs require that every run be cleared with him, make sure you know "his/her" process. Do not RUN for a stage technical person unless cleared by your immediate PM.
- 5) You should ask the PM to be sure that "you" are open to meals with their catering arrangements, usually, yes. Sometimes they will issue catering tickets for anyone without their road crew "All Access" tour passes or give you a TOUR WORKING PASS needed to access back stage near show opening.

Working around the headliner:

- 1) You must learn to respect a distance and not question the headliner unless approached by them. Entertainers are processing their own things, family, technical issues, personal and tour managers, etc. fans all ask the same redundant foolish questions, it gets tiring.
- 2) As with PMs, entertainers are also faced with pressure and responsibilities when on the road, noted above, leave that distance.
- 3) In essence the entertainer is the "employer" of the entire show, stage crews, local crews, busses, trucking etc. Our job is to satisfy any and all requests they may need to keep the flow, flowing.
- 4) If an occasion should arise, much caution should always be addressed in any contact with an entertainer. They can be unpredictable and if they wish detrimental to your work environment.

Review:

- 1) Consider remembering the explanation and context of the runner definition. Reviewing this over and over will help you maintain the important attitude needed for this unique work assignment.
- 2) Make sure you have an understanding of how the PM works with "his" stage crew. Much of this can only be learned after years of experience and attention to the job.
- 3) Remember your primary duty is to serve the Production Manager who is in service to the tour success with as little complications and missteps as possible in the effort to keep wide varying personalities manageable and communicating.