

Careers Behind the Stage

The show runs on people you never see.



You're planning a one-night concert. You have **6 crew spots** to fill from these 9 roles. Your show has five needs, listed below. Each role helps with some of them, and no two crews have to look alike. Choose your crew.

Event Planner

Runs the whole event, from budget to schedule.

Helps: Starts on time · Stays safe · People know

Stage Manager

Directs the show in real time from backstage.

Helps: Starts on time · Stays safe

Sound Engineer

Mixes and manages the audio.

Helps: Audience can hear

Lighting Designer

Designs and runs the lights.

Helps: Audience can see

Safety Manager

Manages crowd safety and emergency plans.

Helps: Stays safe

Stagehand

Moves and sets up equipment.

Helps: Starts on time · Can hear · Can see

Box Office Worker

Handles tickets and entry.

Helps: People know and get in

Costume Designer

Designs and fits what performers wear.

Helps: Audience can see

Content Creator

Makes posts and videos that promote the event.

Helps: People know and get in

Show needs (check each one your crew covers)

- ☐ The show starts on time
 ☐ The audience can hear
 ☐ The audience can see
 ☐ Everyone stays safe
 ☐ People know about it and get in

Crew Sheet

Build Your Crew

Role	Why I picked it

Pick 6 roles. Then check off which show needs your crew covers.

Reflect

What did you have to leave out? What could go wrong because of it?
Which of these careers would you want to try?

Look It Up

Pick one role and find its [Career Profile](#) in Pathful. What does it require?

Time

30 to 35 minutes

Grades

9 to 12

Best For

End-of-year units, summer programs or an Arts, A/V Technology and Communications lesson

What Students Will Do

Students plan a one-night concert by choosing 6 crew roles from 9. They choose roles to meet five show needs, justify each choice, reflect on what they left out and look up one role in Pathful.

Before You Start

- Print one page per student. The educator page is for you only.
- Every role counts the same: students choose 6 of the 9. No role is worth more than another. Each is needed to run a show.

How to Run It

1. (3 to 5 min) Read the scenario. Point out the five show needs and the "Helps" line on each card.
2. (12 to 16 min) Students pick their crew and fill in the crew sheet with each role and why they picked it. They choose exactly 6.
3. (3 to 4 min) Students check off the show needs their crew covers.
4. (8 to 10 min) Students answer the Reflect and Look it up questions.

Answer Key

Many different crews work. For example, an Event Planner, Sound Engineer and Lighting Designer cover all five needs with just 3 roles, and a crew of Stagehand, Box Office Worker, Content Creator, Safety Manager, Sound Engineer and Lighting Designer does too. Accept any 6 roles. If a need is left uncovered, students should say what could go wrong. Every role helps with at least one need, so no choice is wrong.

Discussion Prompts

- What would you cut first, and why? Does cutting a role mean it matters less?
- Which role would the audience never notice but would miss immediately?

Support and Extend

- Short on time? Do the crew sheet in class and assign Reflect and Look it up as homework.
- Support: read the five needs together and match each to two roles, then let students choose.
- Extend: students rewrite the plan for a bigger event with 8 crew spots.