

TESTIMONIALS for TwoCan: Lauren Patman & Anna-Maria Casson

Omar Elerian: Director, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

Working with Anna and Lauren has been a truly wonderful experience. Their care, attention to detail, organisation, and problem solving attitude were absolutely crucial in helping deliver a very complex production. I'd never worked with CSMs on a job share before, but they made the experience incredibly smooth. I appreciated how they've been able to develop a perfectly synchronised work practice that I think should be the blueprint for any similar job sharing endeavours. In fact, it felt a lot more like I had two full time CSMs rather than them being on shifts, and the whole company got the very best of both of them throughout the process

Sara Masry: Actor, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

Working with Anna and Lauren as a stage management pair was my first experience of job-sharing SMs, and since then I now wonder why more people don't do the same. Both Anna and Lauren went above and beyond in supporting the company. Indeed I felt more comfortable in the knowledge that this notoriously taxing role was shared and therefore more sustainable and inclusive. This production in particular had many serious challenges which TwoCan handled with the utmost care, professionalism and much-needed gentleness. I believe that the combination of job-sharing and both Anna and Lauren's commitment and supportive approach were instrumental in carrying us through.

Imogen Clare-Wood: Producer, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

Anna and Lauren work extremely well together and were brilliantly calm, collected and competent across a very challenging production process. They communicated clearly and the job share was no disruption to the administrative and practical running of the show. Having both on hand during tech and previews was a fantastic additional support to the production, and I would certainly work with them again.

Lauren Popko: Running Wardrobe Manager, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

During technical rehearsals, Anna and Lauren tag teamed with each other ensuring that whoever was leading the session had the utmost energy and efficiency while the other was providing support in the background and keeping up on information to be sent out to the company. Bengal Tiger had an unusually large number of emergency cast changes which Anna and Lauren took on with grace. Lines of communication were kept strong amidst the (sometimes) continuous chaos and I felt extremely well supported. In times of crisis they both made an appearance (like when the DSM and ASM both fell ill: Lauren managed the entire backstage track while Anna covered the book). I really can't say enough about these two women. They were an absolute pleasure to work with and created a wonderful energy for the backstage team.

Vicky Featherstone: Director, This is My Family

TwoCan Stage Manage is a brilliant concept - brought wonderfully to life by the wondrous Anna and Lauren. You really do get two for one. Anna and Lauren were thoughtful, witty, clever, and always patient and attentive. I loved loved loved working with them and we all felt we had been part of making something special. This was hugely down to their diligence and detail and expertise. As you can see I cannot speak highly enough of them. I seriously recommend all of you who can work with them to do so. You will not regret it.

Sam South: Producer at The Almeida

Anna and Lauren work fantastically well job sharing as Company Stage Managers. Communication between them is seamless and the production has benefitted from the knowledge of two experienced CSMs on the team. During tech it has been invaluable to have one CSM running tech and the other available to the team to answer questions. There's very little added cost to their job share model, so it's quite literally two for the price of one.

Lennie James: Actor, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Working with Lauren and Anna has been an enormously enjoyable and rewarding experience, I confess I'd never encountered dual CSMs before and was curious how it would work. For me, from now on, Anna and Lauren are the blueprint. They are each excellent CSMs in their own right, but together they are nothing short of formidable. As a company we never felt anything less than supported, informed, guided and our working environment protected. That is to be expected from any decent company stage manager, but with Lauren and Anna it was all much more immediate, easy and present. Never did we have to ask the same question or make the same request twice. There was no lag. The synergy between them is such that asking one is like asking both and questions are always answered, requests heeded and concerns addressed clearly and concisely. Any company able to have Anna or Lauren as their CSM is lucky. A company that has them as dual CSMs is, in my opinion, nothing short of blessed.

Vicki Mortimer: Designer, Alma Mater

Having worked with Lauren and Anna-Maria as a job-share, I can genuinely recommend it. Their combined skill and experience - as well as their complementary strengths - resulted in a powerfully supportive delivery of company and stage management roles. Their shared attention to detail in communication meant that there was always a smooth transition at handover between them.

Ian Dickinson: Sound Designer, Alma Mater

I had the pleasure of working with Anna and Lauren on a recent production at The Almeida. At the debrief meeting for this show the main point I wanted to put across was how well the job share had worked, how fantastic it was that The Almeida was supporting it and even more so especially during a particularly stressful period. At each stage of the process myself (and I believe the rest of the creative team) felt fully supported and at all times completely informed. One might worry in that scenario that the ball might occasionally be dropped, but that was never the case and in fact I suspect the attention to detail was even greater than if there had been only one person in that role. I cannot recommend them enough on both a personal and professional level and more than happy to be contacted in the future to discuss further if helpful.

Tom Horton: Production Manager at The Almeida

Anna and Lauren have worked on several Almeida productions. Job shares can feel like a risky choice with potential communication issues. However, as Head of Production, I can't recommend this CSM team strongly enough. They are incredibly organised and thorough in all aspects of company and stage management. Everyone at the Almeida feels genuinely supported and confident to make the best work with this SM team.

Kendall Feaver: Playwright, Alma Mater

Anna and Lauren were absolutely fantastic as stage managers. They brought clear communication, calm problem-solving, and a level of professionalism that made everything run smoothly, no matter the pressure. What really stood out was how seamlessly they worked together—nothing ever fell through the cracks, even in the busiest, most demanding moments. Our production had its share of challenges, but Anna and Lauren were the steady presence that kept everything on track. On top of their impressive skills, they brought so much care and empathy to the team, always listening, accommodating, and making sure everyone's individual needs were met. I'd be thrilled to work with them again!

Danny Sapani: Actor, King Lear

I absolutely loved working with Anna and Lauren, our Company Stage Managers, while playing the King at the Almeida. We lost our CSM after the first day of tech, which was a challenge. Thankfully, the hugely experienced Anna and Lauren stepped in to save the day. They worked great as a team. We were very lucky to have them. They were warm, friendly, efficient and hugely supportive. As a team they produced many benefits.

Jessica Hung Han Yung: Lighting Designer, Alma Mater

Lauren and Anna are brilliant in how they approach working as a team. The way they collaborate is seamless; both have such positive professional attitudes and whenever a challenge arises they handle it with such care and open mindedness.

Alev Lenz: Composer, Alma Mater

In 2024 I worked at the Almeida on a production in my role as a composer and had the pleasure to meet Lauren and Anna-Maria and experience their job sharing the CSM role. I personally really enjoyed having two points of contact, especially because I felt comfortable that I was never asking too much of one person, because there were two! I felt confident and comfortable to ask for what I needed and I felt really well taken care of.

It created a very relaxed environment to work in. Additionally, I enjoy meeting people and am a big believer that sharing experiences enriches the creative mind; so it was great to get not one but two intelligent and competent colleagues that had two sets of experiences and skills to share. I had two brains to pick, which I thought was wonderful!