

## **SPOTLIGHT – Sarah Caselton-Smith, Deputy Stage Manager of The Red Shoes Tues 7 February 2017**

### ***Tell us a bit about your role in Matthew Bourne's production of The Red Shoes:***

I'm the Deputy Stage Manager on *The Red Shoes*, which means I predominantly, call/cue the show. During rehearsals I'm in the room taking down the dancers blocking, prop notes, wardrobe notes, wig notes etc. and pass them onto the relevant departments. Then moving into the production week I'll put all the cues for lighting, sound, automation, flying and so on into the 'book' or 'prompt copy'. Basically, if you see something moving or changing onstage I have the appropriate cue point in my book. There are around 500 cues in the Red Shoes. DSM's are also chief timekeeper and so I'm responsible for calling the cast and crew to the stage in time to start the show.

During the performance I sit backstage in the corner at the Prompt Desk which is a bit like mission control, with 6 monitors all with different views of the stage (see below).



I'll follow the musical score and along the way will call each cue on the right note in the music or when one of the dancers does a particular move. I will also keep check that everything is happening as it should, and being a live show anything can happen! The first time we run the show with everything is very exciting but nerve racking at the same time. There is one moment in the show that used to make me shake! At the start of the show the DSM waits for 'Clearance' from Front of House and then puts everyone on standby. Once everyone is ready I'll take a note of the time, then ask our Assistant Stage Manager, Sam to send on the Conductor, once I've given the conduction the green light for 'Go' we're off on the rollercoaster.

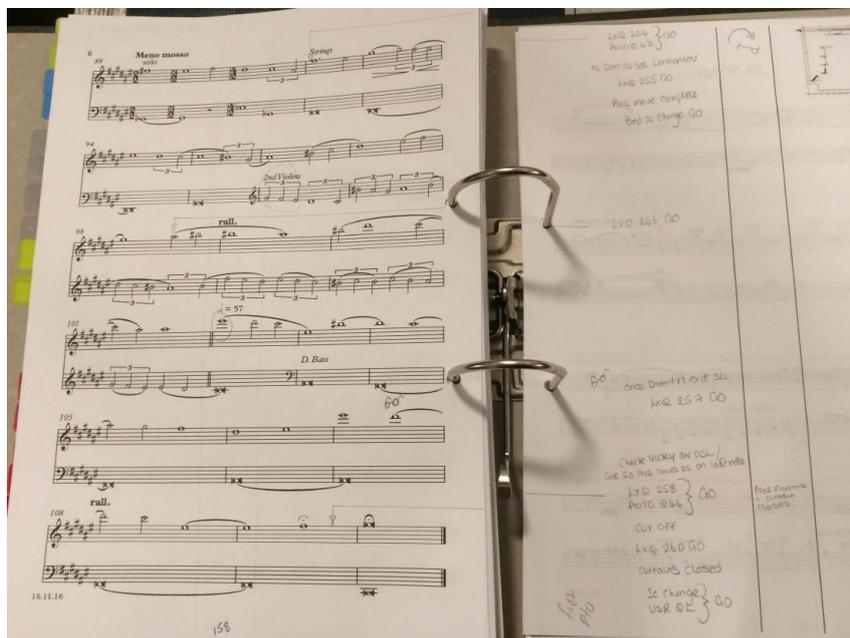
# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

## ***What is your favourite moment in The Red Shoes?***

I have lots of favourite moments in the show, but my absolute favourite is Backstage at Covent Garden and because of the stunning Cheap Digs music in Act II.

## ***What happens after the curtain call in preparation for the next performance?***

Once the curtains close at the end of the show, it's time for me to make a note of all the running times. I will tell the Company how long each act and the show as a whole have been and then let them know their call for the next day. Then it's off to the office to write the Show Report. The Show Report gives details of times, who was dancing, anything that has gone wrong, broken, been amazing or just needs mentioning and is sent off at the end of every day to the Producers, Heads of Departments and the Creatives so they know how each show has gone.



***A glimpse into some of the cues that Sarah gives in the show***