OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

Stopping the show for the front of stage

Two pauses at a UK arena, a stadium stop in Argentina, a stage rush in India, and who calls a show stop at your next gig

Correct as of 9 November 2026

A show stop is a planned procedure.

10 minutes, about, then the show carried on [1]



OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

The facts, as reported

10

minutes, about, then the show carried on [1]

2

hours, nearly, to clear a ground [2]

3

lights, water, help in the pause [1]

What was reported

LA PLATA	BHAGALPUR
Pressure on the front barrier [1]	More people than the ground held [2]
Music off, house lights up [1]	Barricades breached, stage rushed [2]
Water, help, then restart [1]	Nearly two hours to clear [2]



The pit

Water and help during the pause

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

More stops and near misses

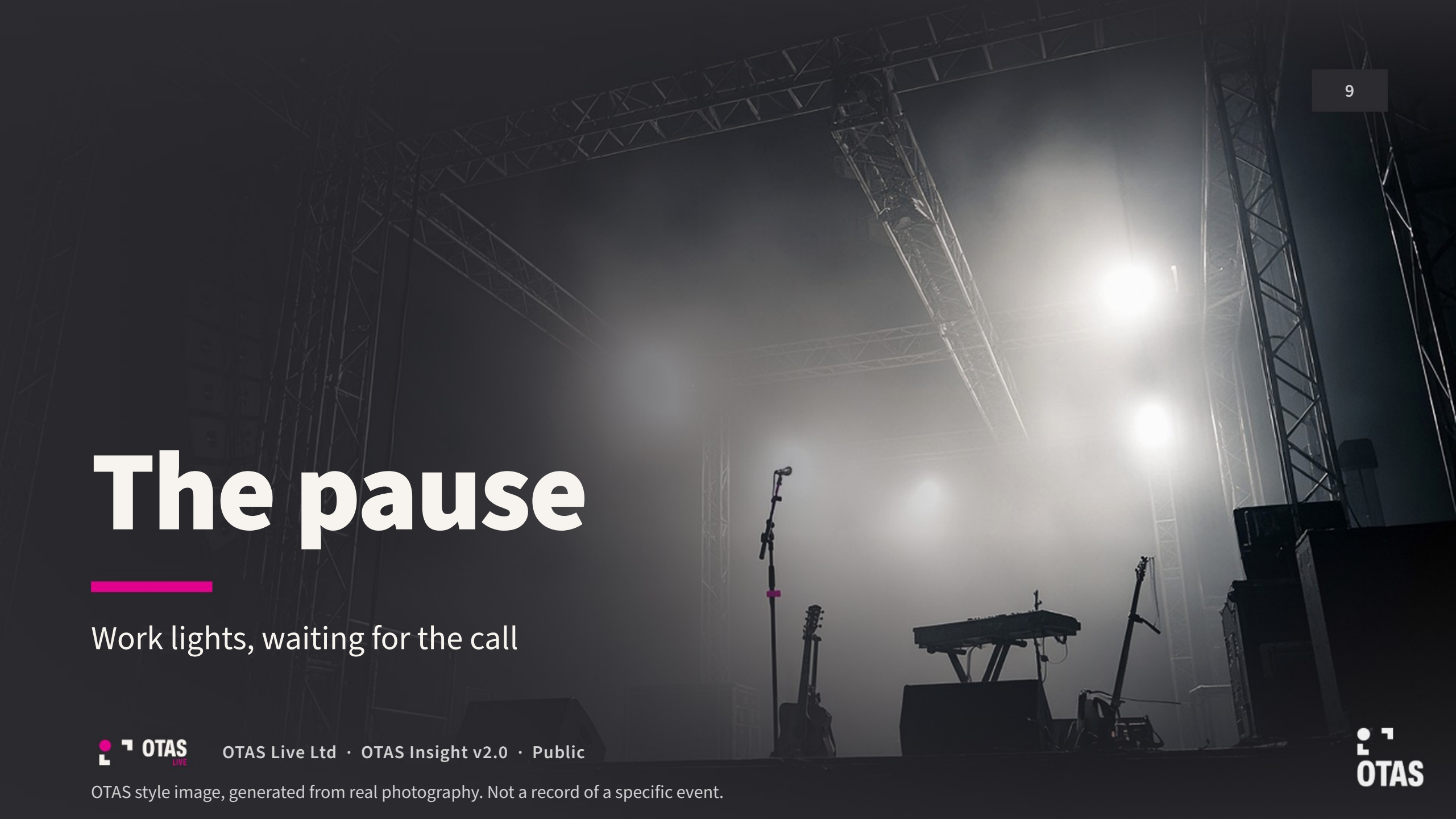
2026	2025
Chicago: paused, fans fainted [12]	Cuttack: paused until calm [13]
US campus: 10,000, barriers fell [11]	Two fainted, to hospital [13]

Two events, two outcomes

LA PLATA	BHAGALPUR
Barrier held [1]	Barrier breached [2]
Stage spoke to the crowd [1]	Stage rushed [2]
Show carried on [1]	Show abandoned [2]

What UK guidance says

THE FRONT	THE PIT
Crowds move forward [4]	Water over the barrier [3]
Protect the stage front [4]	Lift people out [3]
Incidents develop quickly [4]	Side escapes for the crowd [3]



The pause

Work lights, waiting for the call

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

05

The medical side

THE GUIDANCE	PLAN IT
10% less survival each minute [14]	Time the defibrillator route
Cover fits the event [15]	Medics on the show channel

The show stop script

THE STOP	THE RESTART
Stop for a moment	Keep that space
Two steps back	Look after each other
Hands up for help	Only once agreed

A show stop, from first sign to restart

1	2	3	4	5
Front builds	Spotted and called	Show stops	Pit team helps	Check and restart

OTAS guidance.



The call

From control to the stage

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

08

Six things to agree

WHO AND HOW	WHAT HAPPENS
Who calls	The cues
The line	The pit
The words	The restart

Signs the front needs a stop

Signs 1 to 3 draw on the reports and HSE.
Signs 4 and 5 are OTAS guidance.

01 **People pressed on the barrier**

02 **Faces in distress**

03 **People being lifted out**

04 **The crowd sways**

05 **Pit calls go unanswered**

Five stages, from the plan to the restart



STAGE 1

Plan

Who calls, who restarts

STAGE 2

Brief

Same words, same cues

STAGE 3

Stop

Lights up, one message

STAGE 4

Help

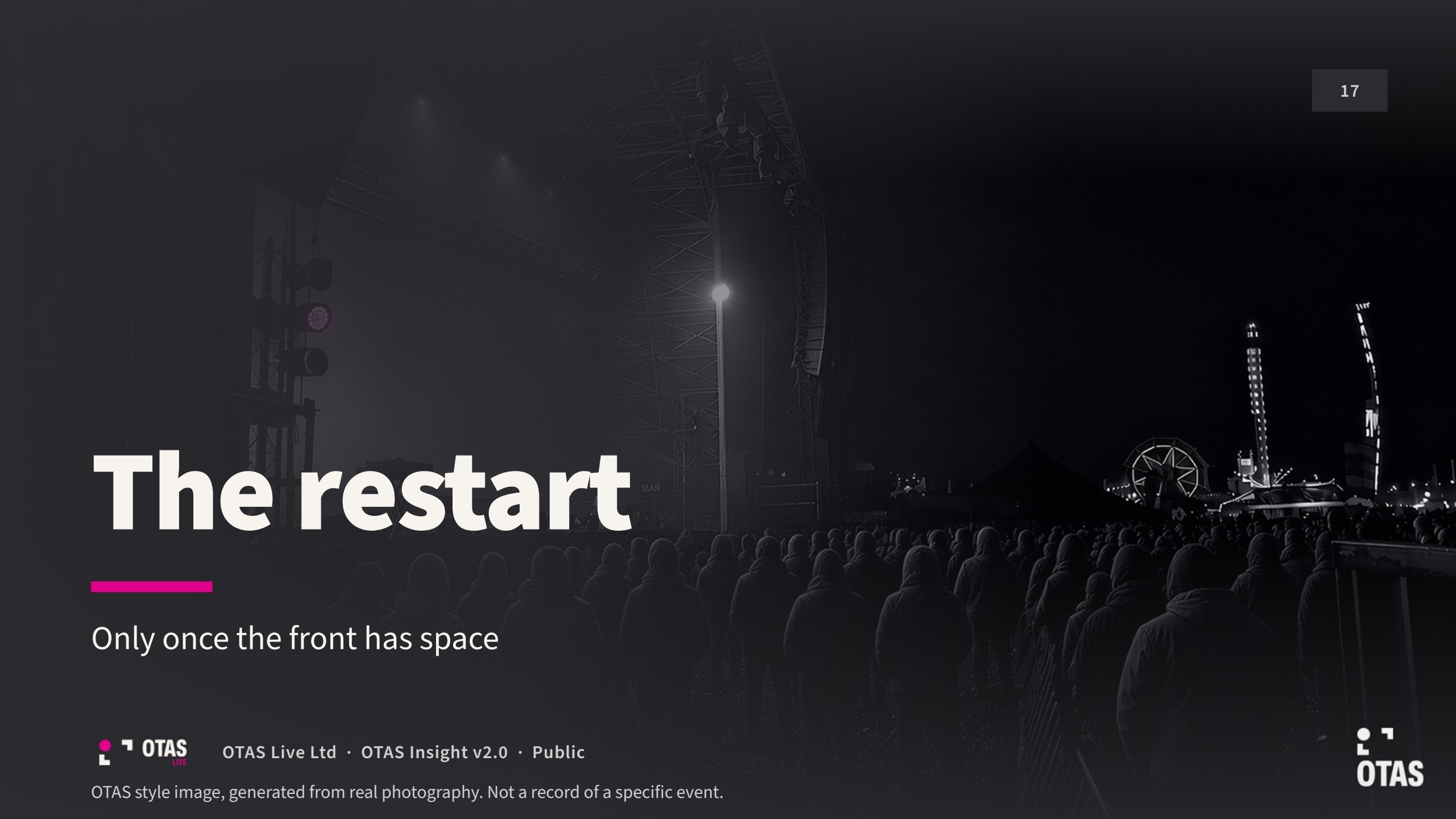
Water, lift out, first aid

STAGE 5

Restart

Check, then agree

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.



The restart

Only once the front has space

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

When the barrier is not enough

PLAN FIRST	ON THE NIGHT
Know the capacity	Stop early
A proper barrier [3]	Side escapes for the crowd [3]
Permission and police	People first

Roles in a show stop

WHO OWNS WHAT	BEFORE DOORS
Safety officer: stop and restart	Procedure written
Pit supervisor: the front	Line tested
Show caller: the cues	Script on screens
Artist liaison: the script	

What to do at each level

Operational	Tactical	Strategic
Watch faces	Keep the line open	Write the procedure
Call it in	Run the cues	Agree with artists
Water and help	Check the front	Name who calls

The checklist

BEFORE DOORS

- Procedure agreed
- People named
- Line tested
- Script loaded

DURING

- Watch faces [5]
- Water ready [3]
- First aid ready

“

Protect areas where people are vulnerable to crushing, eg in front of a stage.

HSE, crowd controls inside the venue [4]

Where the facts come from

1	**minutouno, show paused in La Plata because of crowd pressure on the barriers, 21 October 2026**	minutouno.com
2	**The Times of India, several injured as music show turns violent in Bhagalpur, 2 November 2026**	timesofindia.indiatimes.com
3	**HSE, stage barriers**	hse.gov.uk
4	**HSE, crowd controls inside the venue**	hse.gov.uk
5	**HSE, crowd management, monitoring**	hse.gov.uk
6	**HSE, set clear roles and responsibilities, updated 4 April 2025**	hse.gov.uk
7	**HSE, crowd management, assess the risks**	hse.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

8	The Star, headline act criticises an arena's response to two medical incidents, 7 November 2026	thestar.co.uk
9	Yorkshire Live, headline act says crowd emergencies stopped an arena gig, 8 November 2026	examinerlive.co.uk
10	360Wire, paramedics called to an arena during a concert, 6 November 2026	jusmedia.co.uk
11	WVLT, free campus concert shut down after a crowd surge, 25 September 2026	wvlt.tv
12	NBC Chicago, headline act pauses festival show after several fans pass out, July 2026	nbcchicago.com
13	The Indian Express, stampede like situation at a festival concert in Cuttack, two fainted, November 2025	indianexpress.com
14	Resuscitation Council UK, defibrillation	resus.org.uk

Where the facts come from

15	**The Purple Guide, medical**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
16	**The Purple Guide, crowd management**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
17	**HSE, managing crowds safely**	hse.gov.uk
18	**HSE, event safety, put crowd controls in place**	hse.gov.uk
19	**HSE, running an event safely**	hse.gov.uk
20	**Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 3, duties to persons other than employees**	legislation.gov.uk
21	**Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, regulation 3, risk assessment**	legislation.gov.uk

Web sources opened 9 November 2026 and labelled with their publisher.

OVER TO YOU

If the front of stage built up at your next show, who would call the stop, and how would the stage hear it?

If you need support with a show stop procedure or front of stage planning, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS Live Ltd.

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