

Third Collisions: A Reunion in Four Acts

A behind-the-scenes look at organising a
CERN Alumni epic

Rachel Bray



10th Anniversary
8-9 May 2025
Porto
Portugal



Act I - Casting Call

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose
the good we oft might win, by fearing to
attempt."



Act I - Casting Call

Planning the Production

Premise:	Reconnect, support early careers, showcase alumni impact, promotion.
Theme:	“Accelerating Beyond”
Cast List:	Diverse Organising Committee across departments
Audience:	Alumni, CERN MPs, Companies
Budget:	96 KCHF + ?? (sponsorship + registration)

Act II – The Build Up & Drama

“Now is the winter of our discontent...”



Act II – The Build Up & Drama

Hurdles and Hiccups Before the Curtain Rose

- Tech issues
- Catering chaos
- Venue change for awards
- Furniture scrounging
- Intermission: Momentum dip during Christmas break

Act III – The Grand Performance

“Once more unto the breach, dear friends...”



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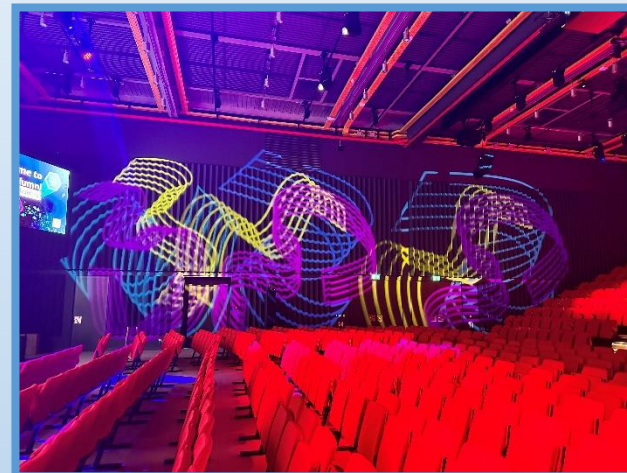
Act III – The Grand Performance

The Weekend Unfolds

-  Feb 9–11: Talks, panels, dinners, club activities, career fair
-  Highlights: 5 keynotes, 12 panels, 301 visits
-  Entertainment: DJs, alpine horn, film screening
-  Maximum nostalgia

Act III – The Grand Performance

The Weekend Unfolds



Act IV – The Curtain Falls

“Parting is such sweet sorrow”



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Act IV – The Curtain Falls

What the Critics Said

-  94% rated 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'
-  Budget strategy (fee, sponsorship, funding)
-  What worked: Content, venue, emotion, careers fair, visits, accompanying guests
-  Recommendations: IT tools, parallel scheduling, awards ceremony, at CERN

Act IV – The Curtain Falls

What the Critics Said

I would like to thank you for organising this fantastic event. I can't put into words how much I enjoyed the talks, the opportunities to meet former colleagues and make new friends, the unique feeling of being back at CERN and the Swiss horn sound, of course - all in the welcoming and professional environment that you and the team created.

Act IV – The Curtain Falls

What the Critics Said



Epilogue

“We are of such stuff as dreams are made on”

