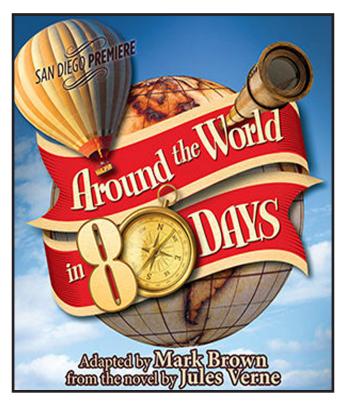
## — ON STAGE —

## 'Around the World in 80 Days' — a must see at North Coast Rep



Review by Diana Saenger

ithout a doubt NCR's Around the World in 80 Days is enchanting, hysterical and a total laugh – fest. 5 actors portray 42 characters in a thrilling race against time. British Phileas Fogg, has made a heavy bet with his whist players that he can go around the world in 80 days. Quite confident he will win, Phileas (Richard Baird) sets off with his valet Passepartout (Omri Schein).

As they board the ship (cleverly designed by Marty Burnett) Passepartout is already running errands and attending his employer. The ship heads out for many destinations before it returns to London. And there are unexpected problems on almost every port including Stampeding elephants! Runaway trains! Weather! A fum-

bling shipmate (Will Yought) and more.

But there's more chaos on board as Fogg is generous man passing money to helpers, those in need on board and becoming an important adventurer to almost everyone. However, a Detective (Loren Lester) believes he's a thief the law is looking for.

Laughter is almost non-stop

since the ship is a rough ride and passengers are continually bobbing up and down in their seats or trying to stay upright on deck. Then there's the tension between the detective and Passepartout who intentionally pronounces the detective's name wrong which brings on more funny reactions.

Already wondering if Fogg will make his bet, more trouble arrives when the ship stops in India. There are some problems that get worked out, one inviting a young India girl (Lovee Carroll) to come aboard. Is she a problem or the answer to problems?

The props, the cast members themselves and the staging creates unbelievable entertainment, thanks to the direction of Allison Bibicoff. "I have enjoyed directing this show twice before, no two productions of this show are the same. I wish you could see ...the hard-working crew who help with all the absurdly-fast quick changes. Their work is a show in-and-of itself, she said."

I can't remember seeing a play with so much danger-romance-slapstick- and many surprises, carried off by these sensational actors. Well done NCREP

## THEATER TO GO

**WHAT:** Around The World In Eighty Days

WHEN: Now - Feb. 4, 2018. WHERE: North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach.

Tickets start at \$50.

https://northcoastrep.org or northcoastrep.org

## Just for fun!

Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest? A: investigator!

Q: What will a giraffe do, if you spit in its face? A: It will kick off your ladder.

Q:What country is always new? A: New Zealand

Gemma: My dog doesn't have a nose.

Ortoise: How does he smell? Gemma: Awful!



(L-R) Richard Baird, Omri Schein, and Lovlee-Carroll- CREDIT: Aaron-Rumley





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