

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

May 10, 2019

Asolo Rep Presents *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*

Experience Jules Verne's Classic Tale On Stage June 6 - 23

**Kenny Wax Family Entertainment and Simon Friend present
The New Vic Theatre Staffordshire production in association with
The Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester**

Photos are available by visiting <https://asolorep.smugmug.com/AROUND-THE-WORLD-IN-80-DAYS/>

(SARASOTA, May 10, 2019) — Asolo Repertory Theatre proudly presents the final production of its 60th season: ***AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS***. This highly imaginative adaptation of Jules Verne's timeless story will be brought to life by the creators of *Hetty Feather*, adapted by Emmy® nominee **Laura Eason** (*House of Cards*, *Sex with Strangers*, *Blue Night*) and directed by **Theresa Heskins** (*Snow Queen*, 2017 UK Theatre Award for Best Show for Children and Young People). Recommended for everyone 7+, ***AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*** previews June 6, opens June 7 and runs through June 23.

The clock is ticking! With a fortune at stake, the mysterious and fabulously wealthy Phileas Fogg wagers his life's fortune that he can circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days. Get swept up in the adventure as he and his loyal valet Passepartout race across Asia on the back of an elephant, speed by steamer ship over the stormy Pacific and ride the railroad through the American Wild West. Adapted from Jules Verne's classic novel, this globetrotting theatrical romp is jam packed with danger, romance and non-stop hilarity. Hurry, there's no time to waste!

Hailed as "a global tour de force" by *Daily Mail*, ***AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*** premiered at the New Vic Theatre in Staffordshire in 2013 and was revived in 2014 when it toured to Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre. The production also toured the UK in 2017, 2018 and 2019. New York's New

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Victory Theatre presented the U.S. premiere in May 2019. It was nominated for both the UK Theatre Awards 'Best New Production' and the Manchester Theatre Awards 'Best Show for Children and Families.'

"I'm thrilled that our family initiative continues to bring more and more young people to the theatre each season," said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**. "**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** is a fresh, innovative theatrical journey that is bound to intrigue and delight audiences of all ages and transform these young, first-time patrons into lifelong theatergoers."

Director Theresa Heskins is the Artistic Director of the New Vic, Staffordshire, where she has helmed *The 39 Steps*, *The Snow Queen* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Her writing credits include *Wives and Daughters* for BBC Radio; and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which has been produced all over the world.

"The thing I love most about this show is how it delights audiences of every sort — whatever their age, both adults as well as children; whether they're regular theatergoers or paying their first ever visit to the theatre," said Theresa Heskins. "Even people who don't really like theatre very much seem to be charmed into changing their minds! Bringing people together is one of the themes of the play, and it's exactly what the play itself does."

The cast includes some of the UK's brightest actors: **Pushpinder Chani** (Mr. Naidu), **Kirsten Foster** (Mrs. Aouda), **Matthew Ganley** (Colonel Proctor), **Dennis Herdman** (Inspector Fix), **Michael Hugo** (Passepartout), **Nyron Levy** (Captain Speedy), **Joey Parsad** (Miss Singh), and **Andrew Pollard** (Phileas Fogg).

Simon Friend Entertainment's productions have won Olivier, UKT and Critics' Circle Awards. Its most recent West End productions include *The Starry Messenger*, *Admissions*, and *Million Dollar Quartet*. Kenny Wax has produced renowned entertainment for the West End and various tours throughout the UK and worldwide, including *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Once On This Island* and the Oliver Award-nominated *Hetty Feather*.

Asolo Rep is offering special family prices throughout the run of the show. Tickets for Saturday matinees (including Family Day) are just \$17 per person and \$19 for all other performances (at least one person must be 17 or younger).

Asolo Rep is proud to partner with the following community organizations

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throughout the run of **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**: Big Cat Habitat and Gulf Coast Sanctuary, Carousel's Soft Serve Iceery, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, CreArte Latino Theater, Manatee County Libraries, The Ringling Museum and Sarasota County Libraries.

Asolo Rep will host Family Day at **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** on Saturday, June 15 beginning at 12:30pm. Before the matinee performance, enjoy pre-show activities from Community Partners including Big Cat Habitat, Conservation Foundation, Manatee County Libraries, The Ringling Museum and Sarasota County Libraries, and live music with Alexander Cubillos from CreArte Latino Theater. Community Partner Carousel's Soft Serve Iceery will provide free sweet treats and Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering will have lunch available for purchase.

Asolo Rep is committed to making the month of June a time for families, so much so that its board of directors voted to designate a gift of \$84,000 that the theatre received in fall 2016 as a beneficiary of the Joy McCann Culverhouse Charitable Remainder Trust, to producing a family-oriented show in June 2017, 2018 and 2019. These gifts, along with significant support from a range of corporate sponsors, foundations, and individual donors, are helping to underwrite production costs, keeping ticket prices affordable for area families, and a range of enrichment activities.

With donor support, Asolo Rep is providing more than 1,600 youth and family members with free tickets to **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**, as well as souvenir knapsacks, each stuffed with a book, activity sheets, and more. Partner organizations include ALSO Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee and Sarasota Counties; Girls, Inc.; Prism Youth Initiative, Visible Men Academy, Sarasota Summer Learning Academies at Emma E. Booker, Alta Vista, Wilkinson, Fruitville, Gocio, Tuttle, and Brentwood, Sarasota County Libraries and Sarasota and Hardee County YMCAs.

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Phileas Fogg..... | Andrew Pollard |
| Mrs. Aouda..... | Kirsten Foster |
| Passepartout..... | Michael Hugo |
| Inspector Fix..... | Dennis Herdman |
| Colonel Proctor..... | Matthew Ganley |
| Captain Speedy..... | Nyron Levy |
| Miss Singh..... | Joey Parsad |
| Mr. Naidu..... | Pushpinder Chani |

Understudy: Stefan Ruiz

SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Director..... | THERESA HESKINS |
| Designer..... | LIS EVANS |
| Movement Director..... | BEVERLEY NORRIS-EDMUNDS |
| Composer..... | JAMES ATHERTON |
| Lighting Designer..... | ALEXANDRA STAFFORD |
| Sound Designer..... | JAMES EARLS-DAVIS |

Community Partner *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS* Events

SARASOTA AND MANATEE COUNTY LIBRARIES

***AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS* Adventure Workshops**

May 30: North Sarasota Library, 2:00pm

June 1: Island Library, 2:00pm

June 4: Elsie Quirk Library, 1:30pm

June 5: Fruitville Library, 2:00pm

June 6: Palmetto Library, 5:30pm

June 7: North Port Library, 11:00pm

June 8: Jacaranda Library, 1 pm

June 11: Venice Library, 10:30am

Event listings current as of May 7, 2019. | For most current listings please visit <https://www.asolorep.org/events/detail/around-the-world-in-eighty-days>

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

THERESA HESKINS (Director) Productions include: *The Worst Witch* for Northampton Theatres, Kenny Wax Family Entertainment, Novel Theatre & Nica Burns; *Around the World in 80 Days* for the New Vic, Royal Exchange, Simon Friend and Kenny Wax Family Entertainment (London Book Week Cameo Award for best stage play adapted from a novel). Theresa is Artistic Director of the New Vic, Staffordshire, where she's directed *The 39 Steps*; Frazer Flintham's *Astley's Astounding Adventures*; Elizabeth Robins' *Votes for Women*; *The Snow Queen* (UK Theatre Best Show for Children and Young People Award); Amanda Whittington's *Kiss Me Quickstep*; Alecky Blythe's *Where Have I Been All My Life?*; Bryony Lavery's *The Wicked Lady*; Frazer Flintham's *The Throne* and her own verbatim documentary *Unearthed* (with the National Theatre Studio); *Dracula*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Widowers' Houses*, *The Admirable Crichton*, *Bleak House*, *The Weir*, *Great Expectations*, *Jamaica Inn*, *The Glee Club*. As Artistic Director of Pentabus Theatre credits include: *Silent Engine* (with the National Theatre Studio, Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Award); *Precious Bane* by Bryony Lavery (with the National Trust and English Heritage); *White Open Spaces* (with BBC Radio). Writing credits include: *Lady Audley's Secret*, *Gunpowder Women*, *Wives and Daughters* for BBC Radio; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which has been produced all over the world including most recently by the Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh and Cardiff Sherman; *The Borrowers*, which was produced last by *The Watermill Theatre*; *Alice in Wonderland*, which was produced last by Northern Stage in Newcastle upon Tyne. She trained at Birmingham Rep on the Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The Scoop

One hour prior to every performance of *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of ***AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*** (Opening Night, June 7, is excluded.)

Family Day at *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*

Asolo Repertory Theatre

June 15, 2pm performance, with pre-show activities beginning at 12:30pm, and post-show activities

Before the matinee performance, enjoy pre-show activities from Community Partners including Big Cat Habitat, Conservation Foundation, Manatee County

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Libraries, The Ringling Museum and Sarasota County Libraries, and live music with Alexander Cubillos from CreArte Latino Theater. Community Partner Carousel's Soft Serve Iceery will provide free sweet treats and Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering will have lunch available for purchase.

Family prices: \$17 per person for Saturday matinees (June 8, 15 [Family Day] and 22). At least one person in the party must be 17 or younger.

Sunday Salon **Sunday, June 16**

Reflect on your experience through a lively and informative post-show discussion following select Sunday matinees in the Mertz and Cook Theatres. Featuring members of Asolo Rep's Artistic Department and special guests.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

- Wednesdays at 1:30pm and 7pm (excluding June 19, which only has a matinee)
- Thursdays at 7pm
- Fridays at 7pm
- Saturdays at 2pm and 7pm
- Sundays at 2pm

TICKETS

Tickets for **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** are on sale now.

Family prices: \$17 per person for Saturday matinees (June 8, 15 [Family Day] and 22). \$19 per person all other performances. At least one person in the party must be 17 or younger.

To purchase tickets, call 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388, visit www.asolorep.org, or visit the Asolo Repertory Theatre Box Office, located in the lobby of the

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theatre. Asolo Repertory Theatre is located at 5555 North Tamiami Trail in the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts.

The Box Office is open Monday 10am – 5pm, Tuesday – Thursday 10am - 7:30pm, Friday – Saturday 10am – 8pm, and Sunday 10am – 2pm. The box office closes at 5pm when there are no evening performances and phone lines close one hour prior to the start of any performance. Season subscription packages are also available online and by visiting or calling the box office.

SPONSORS

Asolo Rep is able to present **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**, Family Day, and related programs and outreach with generous support from the community. Sponsors for **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** are Cool Today, 530 Burns Gallery, 107.9 WSRZ, Muse at the Ringling, Springhill Suites Marriott, Manatee Community Foundation, Linnie E. Dalbeck Memorial Foundation Trust, SunTrust Foundation, The Koski Family Foundation, and the Joy McCann Culverhouse Charitable Trust. Asolo Rep 2018-19 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, The Exchange, the Huisling Foundation, and Sunset Cadillac of Bradenton. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS outreach activities are made possible with support from Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, SunTrust Foundation, The Koski Family Foundation, 530 Burns Gallery, and through gifts from individual donors.

ABOUT ASOLO REP

Now in its 60th season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in America and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. One of the few select theatres in the nation that performs in true rotating repertory, Asolo Rep's highly skilled acting company and extensive craftsmanship bring to life this unique performance method that gives audiences the opportunity to see multiple productions in the span of a few days. Asolo Rep presents up to 10 productions each season including contemporary

and classic works and provocative musical theatre experiences. A theatre district in and of itself, Asolo Rep is committed to expanding its reach into the community, furthering its collaboration with the best theatre artists working in the industry today and cultivating new artists through its affiliation with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Rep's ambitious theatrical offerings and ground-breaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations. www.asolorep.org

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