



# VSC Presents Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*

## A Fantastic Family Journey

February 23 through March 14, 2010 at Norfolk's Wells Theatre

By boat, by train, by sled, by... *elephant!* It's an amazing race through exotic lands as Virginia Stage Company presents *Around the World in 80 Days*, adapted by Mark Brown from the novel by Jules Verne. Will Phileas Fogg win his outrageous gamble to circle the globe in just 80 days? Pack your imagination and brace yourself for a wild and wacky ride as five actors juggle 39 roles, and our stage is transformed into London, Bombay, Calcutta, San Francisco, Hong Kong and everywhere in between. *Around the World in 80 Days* runs February 23 through March 14, 2010 at the historic Wells Theatre.

Perfectly precise Phileas Fogg has constructed a timed-to-the-minute itinerary to win his gentleman's wager. Yet a typhoon, a princess in distress, a train robbery, a misguided detective and uncooperative locals threaten his careful plan -- and his fortune! Cultures collide and hilarity results when Fogg's caravan of travelers meets with unexpected twists and turns and when science and logic are challenged by matters of the heart.

With the 1869 completion of the First Transcontinental Railway, as well as the opening of the Suez Canal, the concept of travel around the world became a possibility that intrigued Jules Verne and was the foundation of his novel *Around the World in 80 Days*. In 2001, American playwright and actor Mark Brown adapted the original novel into this staging that takes full advantage of the magic of theater to bring 39 characters and multiple continents to life on just one stage.

Patrick Mullins, VSC's Associate Artistic Director (*Romeo & Juliet*, *Poetry Of Pizza*, *1001 Arabian Nights: The Story of Aladdin*, *A Christmas Carol*), is directing *Around the World in 80 Days*. "People associate Jules Verne with science fiction," Mullins said, "but the technology in *Around the World in 80 Days* was available at that time, so this is really a fantastic adventure tale. And we use all the tricks of theater to bring this story to life: sound effects, costumes, lighting, props, special effects -- families will love it!"

Tickets for *Around The World in 80 Days* range from \$15 to \$45. Dress Rehearsal is Sunday, February 21 at 7 pm with a Suggested Donation of \$10, and the popular Best Ticket in Town preview performances are Tuesday, February 23 at 7 pm, Wednesday and Thursday, February 24 and 25 at 8 pm with all seats \$15. Opening night is Friday, February 26 at 8 pm. Tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster by calling 800-982-2787 or at any Ticketmaster outlet, at the VSC box office, or online at [www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com).

VSC's 31st season will finish with the American masterpiece *A Raisin In The Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry, on the 50th anniversary of its Broadway premiere, March 30 - April 18, 2010. The first Broadway play written by an African-American female, *A Raisin In The Sun* is especially fitting as VSC's contribution to Minds Wide Open, Virginia's statewide celebration of women in the arts. For more information on Minds Wide Open, visit [www.vamindswideopen.org](http://www.vamindswideopen.org)



Virginia Stage Company is the region's only fully professional resident theater company, serving an audience of over 90,000 annually. Since its founding, Virginia Stage Company has made significant contributions to the quality of life in Hampton Roads: presenting more than 185 plays through more than 3,700 performances; revitalizing and renovating the historic Wells Theatre; providing educational programs for students of all ages; and preserving the legacy of live theater for future generations.

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Media Release

For immediate release, February 8, 2010 - Contact: Marilyn Johnson, Director of Marketing 757-627-6988 x343  
mjohnson@vastage.com

Chris Hanna,  
Artistic Director  
Keith Stava  
Managing Director  
P.O. Box 3770  
Norfolk, VA 23514  
P: 757-627-6988  
F: 757-628-5958  
[www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com)