



Friday 1 February 2013, Hackney Wow Cubs' review:

Around the World in Eighty Days

Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL, www.arcolatheatre.com

By Jules Verne, adapted for the stage by Tony Hulse

Directed by Owen Calvert-Lyons

Until Saturday 9 February 2013, Box office: 020 7503 1646



Review by Lula, Age 10, Rushmore Primary School:

The Arcola Theatre has turned the classic story by Jules Verne into a funny and magnificent play for the whole family.

With just three actors, Matt Odell, Iain Ridley and Simon Snashall, the audience is introduced to around twenty characters, including Phileas Fogg, his servant Passepartout, and Fix of the Yard.

The play takes us on Fogg's journey around the world. He travels by boat, train and even elephant in order to win a bet to go all the way around the world in only 80 days. Will he make it?

I recommend this hilarious and inventive show to anyone aged from 7 to 77.

I'm not going to give the end away but be warned about the noisy gunshot at the beginning and actors taking their trousers off near the end of the show!

Review by Daniel, Age 10, Rushmore Primary School:

I really enjoyed my visit to the Arcola Theatre, to see their new production of Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Phileas Fogg, played by Matt Odell, was on the surface a wealthy young, well mannered Englishman. However, at the beginning we saw him steal £40,000 from the Bank of England. He also killed a policeman they used a fake gunshot to do so that was dramatic. Having got the money he wagered all of it on being able to go around the world in eighty days. In reality Phileas was always a cheat. The plot is on this journey.

Passepartout, played by Iain Ridley, was my favourite. He was French and employed by Phileas. There was one moment where Fix of the Yard kept on trying to catch him out because he'd realised that he was the same character (part of the script) and he had to keep rushing from character to character it had to be admired. Fix of the Yard, the finest of Scotland Yard's detectives was played by Simon Snashall.

All three of the actors were to be admired as altogether they played 20+ characters, switching from one to another with ease. Interestingly there was only one female character and this was played by a man.

The set was pretty much the same throughout the show apart from minor adjustments here and there. It was a backdrop of wood panels that would change from a bookcase to a coat hanger using a rotating panel and a train window to a porthole alongside some other adjustments. The floor was a red carpet with decorations.

The show always had a hint of comedy to it particularly when they need to burn everything on board the boat including their trousers.



The technical problems that had caused the cancellation the day before resurfaced briefly causing a false start and a ten minute delay.

Costumes included black trousers waistcoats and black jackets. The characters did have to do coat changes and a hat or two.

This play runs until 9 February and I recommend you go and see it but it is rated 7+ because it includes gun shots.



Hackney Wow Cubs

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