



Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

Around the World in 80 Days

On the Clarence Brown Mainstage April 19 – May 7

The Clarence Brown Theatre closes its 2016/2017 Season with the Jules Verne family classic “Around the World in 80 Days” running April 19 – May 7, 2017 on the mainstage.

A Pay What You Wish Preview performance, where patrons can name their own price, will be held Wednesday, April 19 from Noon to 7 pm at the theatre. Deaf Night @ the Theatre, where all patron interactions including the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language, will take on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 pm. The CBT Family Feast, where families can attend dinner at 6:00 pm and then see the show for only \$10, will take place prior to this performance. A Talk Back with the actors will take place Sunday, April 30 following the matinee. The Open Captioned performance is Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 pm. This production employs the use of haze, fog, strobe lights and the sound effects of gunfire.

The production is sponsored by Schaad Companies and Rotary Club of Knoxville. Media sponsors are WBIR, WUOT, WUTK, B97.5, the Daily Beacon, the Knoxville News Sentinel and the Knoxville Mercury. Free and convenient parking is available in the McClung Tower Garage on Volunteer Boulevard.

While “Around the World in 80 Days” is often thought of as a children’s story, it is not what Jules Verne intended. When the book was written as a serial in the 1870s, travel was becoming easier and attractive for those looking for an adventurous life. Tourism spread, as did the adaptations of his books. These French to English adaptations simplified his style and language, which is why his books became notable in children’s literature. Yet this story is much more.

“Romance and adventure, risks and dangers, light-heartedness and physical comedy are accompanied by a dozen serious themes, such as: time is precious, be kind, be generous, and perseverance can lead to success and happiness. These universal themes open the doors of our story to people of all ages,” said Director Kate Buckley.

Kate Buckley (Director) is an associate professor in the UT Theatre Department. Some previous CBT productions include: “Outside Mullingar,” “The 39 Steps,” “The Miracle Worker,” “The Trip to Bountiful,” “Antigone,” “Copenhagen,” “Charley’s Aunt,” “Merry Wives of Windsor,” “Moonlight and Magnolias” and “Black Pearl Sings.” She was a founding member of Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and served as Artistic Director of The Next Theatre in Evanston, Illinois. She has guest lectured on Shakespeare at universities and arts organizations abroad, including the National Theatre of Slovakia and Colla Marionette Company, Milan, Italy. Directing credits include productions at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, American Players Theatre, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, New Victory Theatre – NY, Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Writer’s Theatre, and The Next Theatre. She received four Best Director nominations from the Joseph Jefferson Committee, her productions have won four consecutive Jefferson Awards for Best Ensemble and she has won two After Dark Awards for Outstanding Direction. She has received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Aurora University, a UT Creative Research Award and is currently holding the Paul Soper Professorship in the Theatre department, where she serves as an Associate Professor.

In addition to visiting guest artist **Damon Boggess** (Ensemble) and Theatre faculty member **David Brian Alley** (Detective Fix), UT Theatre MFA candidates performing in the production are: **Jeff Dickamore** (Phileas Fogg), **Emily Kicklighter** (Ensemble), **Charlotte Munson** (Ensemble), **Aaron Orlov** (Passepartout), **Lauren Pennline** (Ensemble), **Carlène Pochette** (Ensemble), and **Jude Carl Vincent** (Ensemble).

The creative team for this production includes: UT MFA candidates **Victor Bercher** (Costume Designer), **Maranda DeBusk** (Lighting Designer), and **Nevena Prodanovic** (Scenic and Projection Designer); and UT Theatre faculty **Joe Payne** (Sound Designer). Also contributing to the production are **Terry Weber** (Voice/Text/Dialect Coach) and **Patrick Lanczki** (Stage Manager).

The Preview for “Around the World in 80 Days” is Wednesday, April 19 followed by Opening Night Friday, April 21. The production runs through May 7. UT faculty/staff, senior citizens, children and students receive discounts. The Clarence Brown Theatre only sells tickets online through Knoxville Tickets. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre Box Office at 865-974-5161 or order online 24/7 at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 13 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director David B. Byrd, the CBT season runs from August through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

The CBT provides a cultural resource for both the university and the larger East Tennessee community and affirms diversity and inclusivity in all their forms.

Tickets to the 2017/2018 Season are currently underway. The productions include: “Peter and the Starcatcher,” “Three Sisters,” “Blue Window,” “A Christmas Carol,” “Alabama Story,” “the strangers,” “The Dream of the Burning Boy,” “and “Urinetown, the Musical.” For more information or tickets, call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at <http://clarencebrowntheatre.com/>. Stay connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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