

February 6, 2013



## **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** after Jules Verne, by Mark Brown

By Ingrid Wilmot

Ladies and gentlemen, pack your bags for an incredible journey around the world in two and a half hours. Not even the old Concorde could have matched that. **This is one of the most enjoyable, imaginative and amazing productions you'll ever have the good fortune to witness.** Not only will you be blown away by the five actors who play thirty-nine different characters and how well they do it but **the staging is so clever and the dialogue so witty, you won't want this trip to end.**

We all know the story by Jules Verne. Phileas Fogg (the veddy proper Jud V. Williford), a fastidious, punctual English gentleman, makes a bet that he can circumnavigate the globe in 80 days, risking his entire fortune and frequently his life. This is 1872 - they don't know from jets. Together with his devoted French servant Passepartout (the charming Michael Uribes), he sets forth on an adventure you'll only be too happy to share, Against a backdrop of a map of the world (scenic design by Staci Walters), with the considerable help of sound (by Dave Mickey) and lighting (by Donna Ruzika), kudos all around, we visit Hong Kong, Yokohama, San Francisco, New York etc., etc. and take rough voyages on the high seas, travel on bumpy railroads and encounter an unforgettable Chief of Police in Bombay (perfect accent by Mark Gagliardi), an ever-present, bumbling detective (the hilarious Brian Stanton) and the talented Melinda Porto, first as a valet, newsboy, ancient seafarer and more, until she emerges as a condemned to the stake, young Indian widow and we see how lovely she really is. And of course, many more assorted, colorful personages one would encounter on such a voyage. Playwright Brown wanted us to have fun at this show and he succeeds royally, under the **inspired direction of Allison Bibicoff.** Bring the entire family; **everybody is going to rave about this gem for a long time to come,**

International City Theatre, Long Beach Performing Arts Center, Second Floor, 300 E, Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. Thursday - Saturday 8 pm, Sunday 2 pm. \$38 - \$45, Parking \$10. Drive down Pine Avenue to Seaport Village Drive, turn left and proceed to the structure on your right. (562)436-4610 or [www.internationalcitytheatre.com](http://www.internationalcitytheatre.com) ends 2/17