

HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

presents



Adapted by **Laura Eason**

Directed by **Nathan Hey**

6 - 27 JULY 2024



iTICKET

HLT.NZ/WORLD

**Howick
Local Board**
Auckland Council



Please switch off cellphones before entering the theatre.
It is strictly forbidden for audience members to make
any form of recording of this production.

ROOF RENEWAL FUNDRAISING

2024 celebrates the 70th anniversary of our beloved theatre and the 50th anniversary of our home here at Lloyd Elsmore Park. It also marks a need for us to complete vital repairs and improvements to our roof. In short, we need a new one!

We are making great progress through grants and fundraising, but we need your help!

Your donation will not only help us renew the roof but also protect our equipment, sets, props, and extensive wardrobe, and ensure the theatre continues to put on quality productions for another 70 years.

Donate online by scanning the QR code, visiting hlt.org.nz/donate or simply spread the word. Thank you for your support.

Howick Little Theatre is a non-profit and registered with the Charities Commission (No. CC21274). Donations over \$5 are tax deductible.



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*A community theatre production of Around the World in 80 Days by special
arrangement with Nick Hern Books and New Zealand Play Bureau Ltd.*

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS



FROM THE DIRECTOR

What an adventure this play has been to put on! With a massive cast of talented and enthusiastic actors, we have choreographed fight scenes, dances and sword fights – not to mention acting to all four sides. The actors and crew have worked diligently to create this one-of-a-kind show.

Ranging across the globe, with countless characters, locations and situations, *Around the World in 80 Days* is a play that will show audiences something different. I have been looking for a play that could be put on in the

round (360 degrees), and this play was the first that could allow it.

I have been blessed with an amazing cast and crew and it's been a pleasure to work with each one of them. Special thanks must be given to Sho (my Assistant Director) and Judith (PC), who always had my back and gave their time and energies so selflessly. I hope you enjoy the show as much as I did directing it.

Nathan Hey

Setting: The play opens in London in 1872, then takes place in various locations around the world.

There will be a 20-minute interval between Acts One and Two.

WARNING: contains a brief sequence of flashing lights

THE CAST

Phileas Fogg

Matthew Cousins

Passepartout

Lexie Buchanan

Mrs Aouda

Namrata Mankame-Shanbhag

Inspector Fix

Barrie Graham

Ensemble

Jazmyrn Astill
Bess Brookes
Abigail Herbert
Miguel Mitchell
Matthew Palmer
Linnea Quinn
Ronal Reddy

PRODUCTION CREATIVES

Director

Nathan Hey

Assistant Director

Sho Okumoto

Production

Co-ordinator

Judith Clarke

Stage Manager

Rosie Elder

Lighting and Sound Design

Nicole Ashley

Set Design

Nathan Hey

Props

Judith Clarke

Nathan Hey

Sho Okumoto

Wardrobe

Jenny Connors

Sue Peters

Abby Lane

Technical Operators

Bailey Livingston

Parag Londhe

Graphic Design

Emma Love

Photography

Andrew (AJ)

Johnson

Set

Construction Team

Kay Hey
Liam Hey
Rios Hey
Hollis Hey
Sho Okumoto
Nathan Hey
Evie Millar-Rolls



NATHAN HEY

Director

Nathan is no stranger to HLT, and has directed and set designed many shows, most noticeably *Shepherd*, *Dead Simple*, and *The Perfect Murder*. He has directed *Goodnight Mr Tom* at Dolphin and Christmas walkthroughs and also written two plays, directing one into a feature film, *The Operative*, which will hopefully be released in early 2025.



MATTHEW COUSINS

Phileas Fogg

Matthew last appeared onstage at Howick Little Theatre in *Shepherd* in 2022, also directed by Nathan Hey. Last year, he directed the very successful *A Murder Is Announced*. He is also a member of the theatre's Management Committee. By day, he runs his busy osteopathic practice from his home in Half Moon Bay. He is thrilled to be working with Nathan again with this excellent and enthusiastic cast.



LEXIE BUCHANAN

Jean Passepartout

A Bachelor of Arts student at the University of Auckland, Lexie is delighted to be making her Howick Little Theatre debut. She has past theatre experience in various shows at Macleans College, including *The Little Mermaid* and *Pippin*. She has experience in singing as well as theatre, including performances at various *Showquest* competitions in recent years, having won "Best Live Music" two years in a row and Auckland's "Star of the Show" in 2023. Lexie is excited to be a part of this cast and so enjoys bringing *Passepartout* to life.



BARRIE GRAHAM

Inspector Fix

Although at home in an inspector role, playing Fix in *80 Days* is a different kettle of lobsters from Barrie's habitual Agatha Christie coppers. His previous appearances on the beat have included *A Murder Is Announced* (HLT, 2023) and *Spider's Web* (Dolphin, winner Best Supporting Actor, 2021). He's enjoying reconnecting with Director Nathan Hey (previous encounter: *A Perfect Murder*, Winner HLT Best Production, 2016) and is comfortable increasing the average age of the *80 Days*' cast by several decades.



NAMRATA MANKAME-SHANBHAG

Mrs Aouda

Namrata comes from a family of stage enthusiasts who set up productions during festivals back in India. Having grown up backstage (and sometimes on), she fell in love with theatre. She has returned to the stage as Sindhu Madhwani in *Prayas' Dhaba on Devon Avenue* at TAPAC (2022) and *Artworks*, Waiheke (2023). She then played Madanika and the Judge in their next production, *The Clay Cart* (2023). This is her first time performing at Howick Little Theatre in a stage adaptation of a literary classic and she hopes she does justice to her role.



JAZMYN ASTILL

Ensemble

Jazmyn has been in the HLT theatre acting class since 2020 and is excited to make her second appearance on the stage since being a pundit in HLT's *The Book Club Play* in 2023. Jazmyn plays just a few of the characters that Mr Fogg and Passepartout encounter in their travels around the world. She loves to travel and would love to travel more (when her bank account permits her). She has thoroughly enjoyed working alongside her fellow cast members and with director Nathan Hey. She hopes you enjoy the show.

BESS BROOKES

Ensemble

Bess is excited to be back at HLT, where her last part was a grieving daughter in 2021's *The Viewing Room*. She has also played some of Shakespeare's clowns, such as Mistress Quickly, Launce with his smelly dog Crabbe and Audrey the gold-digging goat-herd for Shoreside Theatre and the hapless Dromio of Ephesus in Dolphin Theatre's production of *The Comedy of Errors*. Last spring, Bess was in the Kiwi comedy *The Big O.E.* at Ellerslie Theatre.



ABIGAIL HERBERT

Ensemble

This is Abi's debut on stage since high school, where she participated in the Sheilah Winn National Shakespeare Festival for two years and a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2021. Abi is thoroughly enjoying the combat scenes, and learning how to fall without hurting herself. Out of all the characters in the show, Abi finds Phileas Fogg the most interesting, as, despite being in a story published in 1872, he still displays noticeable autistic traits.



MIGUEL MITCHELL

Ensemble

Miguel has been doing theatre for 11 years and is now acting in his second show at HLT – he was previously in *A Christmas Carol*. He has done productions for HCYT for most of his years and played The Big Bad Wolf in *Shrek The Musical Jr* as well as the Genie in *Aladdin Jr*. He recently played Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*. Still developing his acting career, Miguel is very excited to be a part of this show and has loved working with adult cast members.



MATTHEW PALMER

Ensemble

This is Matthew's second play at Howick Little Theatre, where he also attends drama classes. Since last year's Howick Little Plays, Matthew has been eager to get back on the stage in a large and ambitious play. As an actor, he enjoys immersing himself in different roles and pretending to be someone he is not.



LINNEA QUINN

Ensemble

Linnea is at Howick Little Theatre for the first time. An aspiring actress and a student at the University of Auckland, Linnea has next to no theatre experience, unless you count falling ill the day before her school production's opening night. She is very grateful for the chance to learn and work with the wonderful cast and crew of this production, and is very excited to fake die before a crowd.



RONAL REDDY

Ensemble

Ronal is very new to theatre, but he is no stranger to the world of plays. An avid theatregoer, he decided to join the HLT as an ensemble member of the play *Around the World in 80 Days* and has thoroughly enjoyed being part of his first acting experience in theatre. Professionally, Ronal works as a Qualifications Developer and has spent several years in the tertiary education sector as a Senior Academic. He enjoys travelling, archery and doing volunteer work.



NICOLE ASHLEY

Lighting and Sound Design

With a long HLT history of sound design – *Shepherd*, *Dead Simple*, *A Murder Is Announced*, *The Girl on the Train*, *The Book of Everything*, many more – and more recently lighting design with *Wait Until Dark*, Nicole must be a sucker for punishment in choosing to take on both sound and lighting at the same time for *Around the World in 80 Days*. Always looking for ways to push the envelope, the deadline for programme bios means at time of writing her work is only just starting. Will she have achieved the world in 28 days? You're about to find out.





THE PLAYWRIGHT

Laura Eason

Laura Eason is an Emmy-nominated producer, screenwriter and playwright. Currently, she is executive producer/showrunner of the Starz forthcoming drama series *Three Women*. Based on the non-fiction bestseller by Lisa Taddeo, the show stars Shailene Woodley, Betty Gilpin, DeWanda Wise and Gabrielle Creevy.



Her writing and producing credits for TV include the Showtime drama *The Loudest Voice* (WGA nomination; Golden Globe nomination, limited series) and four seasons of Netflix's five-time Emmy-nominated best drama series *House of Cards* (Emmy and WGA nominations, drama series.) Laura's feature film debut, *Here and Now*, produced and starring Sarah Jessica Parker, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival (then titled *Blue Night*) and is available on demand. Past and present TV development includes pilot scripts for Amazon, Apple, BBC, Fox 21, Fox Network and Starz.

An award-winning playwright, her more than 20 produced plays and adaptations include the original *Sex with Strangers*, which began at Steppenwolf in Chicago before playing Second Stage in NYC (NYT Critic's pick.) The play was one of the most produced in the US, with international productions in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Finland, Greece, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Taiwan and Turkey. Laura's adaptation of *Jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days* began under her direction in Chicago (seven Jeff Award nominations including Best Production and Best Adaptation) and went onto subsequent productions in London and 18 other UK cities before transferring to the New Victory Theatre in NYC (NYT Critic's pick.).

Laura served as Artistic Director of Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago (2011 Regional Theatre Tony Award) and is still a proud ensemble member, having worked as a writer, director, actor and/or producer on more than 20 productions to date. A third-generation Chicagoan, she lives in Brooklyn with her family.

THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE

NEVER LEAVE IT TOO LATE

7 - 28 SEP

A drama by Andrew Bovell

Directed by Emma Love

A funny, honest account of life in the suburbs, where Fran and Bob Price have built a home, brought up four kids and still managed to keep their sense of humour. It should now be time for them to stop and smell Bob's precious roses. But just when things look like slowing down, the lives of their wildly complicated adult children come crashing through the back door. *Adult content.*

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WORST WEDDING EVER

DREAM MARRIAGE
PLANS DASHED

9 - 30 NOV

A comedy by Chris Chibnall

Directed by Ashton Brown

Rachel and Scott are getting married. They are also buying a house together – never the easiest of things to do at the same time. When house prices go up, their plans for a dream wedding have to be downsized accordingly. However, Rachel's mother has other ideas. What if their family could join forces to make it a wedding to be proud of?

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Matthew Cousins (Vice Pres.)
Roger Mudford (Treasurer)
James Calverley
Judith Clarke
Trevor Hynes
Alison Mudford

FOUNDER

Alma Woods, MBE

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office. A year's membership
fee is \$20, or \$30 for a couple

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INFORMATION

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THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE

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