

Around the World in 80 Days

by

Jules Verne

Abridged and adapted for the stage by

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This script is intended for a youth group of between 10 and 20 players. This is a flexible script and intended to be an ensemble piece of theatre. This script is approximately 30 - 40 minutes running time.

Characters

Phileas Fogg	Indian Man
Passepartout	Dancer
Aouda	Judge
Detective Fix	Clerk
Flanagan	Clown
Ralph	William Batulcar
Stuart	Train Attendant
John Sullivan	Constable
Italian Ship Worker	Storytellers (many)
Indian Police	
Three x Priests	



Phileas Fogg & Passepartout – The Bet!

London. Phileas Fogg is CS reading a newspaper.

Storyteller: He was an Englishman

Storyteller: Perhaps a Londoner?

Storyteller: He was never seen at the Bank, nor in the counting-rooms of the 'City

Storyteller: He certainly was not a manufacturer

Storyteller: nor was he a merchant

Storyteller: or a gentleman farmer

Storyteller: He had no public employment

Storyteller: Phileas Fogg was a member of the Reform Club, and that was all

Storyteller: Was he rich?

Storyteller: Undoubtedly!

Storyteller: Had he travelled?

Storyteller: It was likely!

Storyteller: Was he eccentric?

Storyteller: Oh, absolutely!

Storyteller: A sensible eccentric

Storyteller: He lives the same day every day

Storyteller: 10 hours at home

Storyteller: Meals eaten at the club

Storyteller: Newspapers

Storyteller: 10 hours at home

Storyteller: Meals eaten at the club

Storyteller: Newspapers

Storyteller: 10 hours at home

Storyteller: Meals eaten at the club

Storyteller: Newspapers

Storyteller: ... you get the idea!

Storyteller: Phileas Fogg lived at

Passepartout: Ah! Number 7 Saville Row.

Knocking at the door – enter Passepartout

Phileas: You must be my new servant?

Passepartout: Oui monsieur

Phileas: A French man, very good. Your name is John, is it not?

Passepartout: Jean, if monsieur pleases, Jean Passepartout. I believe I'm honest, monsieur, and I've had several trades.

Storyteller: Singer

Storyteller: A circus-rider

Storyteller: Professor of gymnastics

Storyteller: Sergeant fireman at Paris

Passepartout: But I quitted France five years ago and hearing that Monsieur Phileas Fogg needed a man servant, I have come in the hope of living a tranquil life and forgetting even the name of Passepartout.

Phileas: Passepartout suits me. You have come highly recommended. Over the next few days, you will come to understand my routine and strict schedule. No tardiness. No tom foolery. No changes to the schedule.

The Wager

The Reform Club.

Flanagan: Well, Ralph, what about that robbery?

Ralph: Oh, the Bank will lose the money.

Stuart: On the contrary, I hope we may put our hands on the robber. The best detectives are on the case, and he'll be a clever fellow if he slips through their fingers.

Flanagan: Ah yes, Detective Fix, no doubt. Have you got the robber's description?

Ralph: In the first place, he is no robber at all

Flanagan: What! a fellow who makes off with fifty-five thousand pounds, no robber?

Ralph: No

Flanagan: Perhaps he's a manufacturer, then.

Stuart: The Daily Telegraph says that he is a gentleman.

John Sullivan: The Daily Telegraph also says that you can travel the world in eighty days!

Storyteller: Impossible

Storyteller: Unbelievable

Storyteller: Press these days

Storyteller: They'll say anything!

Storyteller: I mean...

All: Around the world in eighty days?

Phileas: I'll do it!

All: What?

Phileas: I bet £20,000 I can travel the world in eighty days

All: You're on!

Storyteller: Phileas left London on October 2nd at 8.45pm

Storyteller: So, he must return on December 21st before 8.45pm to win the bet!

Egypt

Lively crowds are getting ready to board the ship.

Storyteller: Phileas Fogg rightly suspected that his departure from London would create a lively sensation

Storyteller: Have you heard the news?

Storyteller: Fogg travelling the world?

Storyteller: In eighty days?

Storyteller: He bet £20,000!

Detective Fix: £20,000. What a suspiciously large amount, after a suspiciously large bank robbery.

Italian Ship Worker: Ciao! And welcome to Brindisi, let me have your tickets for the SS Mongolia heading to Egypt on the Suez Canal!

Passepartout: What a big boat, Mr Fogg

Phileas: It's a steamer. And yes, it is rather large.

Fix follows Phileas on the steamer

Storyteller: Look! Pyramids!

Storyteller: And the Ancient Hieroglyphics!

Storyteller: Is that a Mummy?

All: ARRGGHHH!

Passepartout: So, this is Suez?

Detective Fix: Yes.

Passepartout: In Egypt?

Passepartout looks at watch

Detective Fix: You are in a great hurry, then?

Passepartout: I am not, but my master is.

Detective Fix: You left London hastily, then?

Passepartout: I rather think so! Last Friday at eight o'clock in the evening, Monsieur Fogg came home from his club, and three-quarters of an hour afterwards we were off.

Detective Fix: But where is your master going?

Passepartout: Always straight ahead. He is going round the world.

Detective Fix: Round the world?

Passepartout: Yes, and in eighty days! He says it is on a wager; but, between us, I don't believe a word of it. That wouldn't be common sense. There's something else in the wind.

Detective Fix: Is he rich?

Passepartout: No doubt, he doesn't spare any money: he has offered a large reward to the engineer of the SS Mongolia if he gets us to Bombay well in advance of time.

Detective Fix: And you have known your master a long time?

Passepartout: Why, no; I entered his service the very day we left London. Sorry, sir – I must go.

Detective Fix: I will send a dispatch to London for a warrant of arrest and I will follow my rogue to India, and there, on English ground, arrest him politely!

Indian Temple

We are in India.

Storyteller: India is a very curious place!

Storyteller: Mosques, minarets, temples, tigers, snakes, elephants!

Detective Fix: Namaste.

Indian Police: Namaste

Detective Fix: My name is Detective Fix; I am a London Detective. Has a warrant arrived from England?

Indian Police: Nahin

Storyteller: Meanwhile Passepartout managed to convince Phileas Fogg to do a spot of sightseeing!

Passepartout: Oh! So magnificent!

Phileas Fogg: Quite. Be quick, I'll wait here.

Storyteller: But what Passepartout didn't know is that anyone entering a temple must take off their shoes.

Storyteller: As a sign of respect.

Storyteller: As Passepartout admired the splendid features of the temple when...

Storyteller: Three angry priests started crying:

Three Priests: Jooté!! Shoes!! Jooté!!

Passepartout and Phileas are being chased by the Three Priests, who are being chased by Detective Fix.

Detective Fix: An offence has been committed on Indian soil. I've got my man. If only they'd slow down!

Enter Indian Man with an elephant.

Phileas: Excuse me sir, can I have that elephant?

Indian man: No! It's my dear elephant, I've had him all my life, he's family.

Phileas: I'll give you one thousand pounds!

Indian Man: OK! We weren't that close!

Phileas and Passepartout get on the elephant and ride away.

The Sacrifice

There is an Indian procession with dancing, there is a woman in the middle of the procession looking sad.

Phileas: What is this all about then?

Dancer: It's a sacrifice!

Phileas: I beg your pardon!

Dancer: Her husband died, so she will be sacrificed at his funeral.

Passepartout: Monsieur, she looks so sad, we must save her.

Passepartout and Phileas join in with the dance and distract the others and take the woman off without being caught. Dancers exit.

Phileas: My name is Phileas Fogg, and this is my servant Passepartout, we are not going to hurt you

Passepartout: You looked sad, so we...

Aouda: You saved me.

Phileas: Well, I'm sure anyone would have...

Aouda: How can I repay you?

Passepartout: Oh no, you don't have to repay us. My master is very rich.

Aouda: Thank you both. I am Aouda.

Phileas: Beautiful! Beautiful, name. Anyway, we are in a hurry! We must run to the train station. Can you run?

They all start running

Passepartout: We must travel the world in 80 days, we've got about 40 to go!

Passepartout is arrested

A court room, Passepartout is under arrest. Detective Fix is watching the trial but is not in sight.

Judge: Order! Order!

Clerk: Judge, do you grant monsieur Passepartout bail?

Judge: For the crime of entering a Holy Temple with shoes?

Clerk: Indeed, Judge.

Judge: It has saddened many of the priests and offended many of the congregation, but I do believe this was a naivety rather than a crime. Therefore, I grant bail. The sum of £1000 is to be paid.

Phileas: I'll pay it right now!

Detective Fix (*to himself*): Oh no! That was my chance to get them both!



Yokohama

Phileas, Aouda and Passepartout are about to board a ship, but Passepartout gets lost in the crowd and boards the wrong ship.

Storyteller: Phileas Fogg gazed at the tempestuous sea

Storyteller: A delay of twenty hours

Storyteller: Making him too late for the Yokohama boat

Phileas: Where is Passepartout?

Aouda: I didn't see him board the ship; we must have lost him in the crowd. Shall we turn back?

Phileas looks at his watch

Phileas: We don't have time, if we turn back then I'll lose the bet

Storyteller: At dawn on the 13th the Carnatic entered the port of Yokohama

All: Kon'nichiwa! Welcome to Japan!

Storyteller: There were bridges half hid in the midst of bamboos and reeds

Storyteller: Temples shaded by immense cedar-trees

Storyteller: Buddhist priests

Storyteller: Blossom trees

Storyteller: Tea houses

Storyteller: Priests were passing in processions, beating their tambourines

Storyteller: The Mikado's guards

Storyteller: It was beautiful!

Storyteller: Passepartout found himself in Yokohama

Storyteller: Phileas and Aouda found themselves in Yokohama

Storyteller: But would they ever find each other?

Passepartout Joins the Circus

Storyteller: Without the money and care from his master

Storyteller: Passepartout found himself getting hungrier by the day

Storyteller: He needed a way to make money

Flashback to moment at start when Passepartout and Fogg meet for the first time.

Phileas: A French man, very good. Your name is John, is it not?

Passepartout: Jean, if monsieur pleases, Jean Passepartout. I believe I'm honest, monsieur, and I've had several trades.

Storyteller: Singer

Storyteller: A circus-rider

Passepartout: That's it! I'll join the circus!

A clown walks by and hands him a flyer

Clown: ACROBATIC JAPANESE TROUPE, LAST REPRESENTATIONS, PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE TO THE UNITED STATES, OF THE LONG NOSES! LONG NOSES! GREAT ATTRACTION!

Passepartout: The United States! That's just what I want!

He follows the clown into the circus where the performers are rehearsing.

William Batulcar: Good job everyone! Almost ready for the final show.

Passepartout: Excuse me?

William Batulcar: Who are you?

Passepartout: My name is Passepartout and I'm looking for a job. I can do anything really...

William Batulcar: Can you sing standing on your head, with a top spinning on your left foot, and a sabre balanced on your right?

Passepartout: I think so

William Batulcar: Great! Welcome to the circus.

The shake hands.

Storyteller: The seats started to fill with people from all over the world

Storyteller: Passepartout was trying to remember his old skills

Storyteller: The lights went down

Storyteller: And the show began

Storyteller: Applause!

Storyteller: Gasps!

Storyteller: Laughter!

Storyteller: And then the finale

Storyteller: ... The biggest human pyramid EVER!

Storyteller: The band was playing

Storyteller: The crowd were cheering

Storyteller: And Passepartout was shaking

Storyteller: Until....

ALL: CRASH!!

Storyteller: Passepartout lost his balance and the whole pyramid came crashing down.

Storyteller: He fell at the feet of a man in the audience

Passepartout: Master?

Phileas: Passepartout! We must go! We are losing time!

William Batulcar: OI! YOU!! You said you could do anything! You owe me damages!

Phileas hands him a handful of banknotes

Phileas: Here!

Phileas, Passepartout and Aouda exit.

Steamer, Train, Ship

Passepartout: So, what have I missed?

Aouda and Phileas look at each other and get embarrassed

Aouda: We have just been getting to know each other a bit better

Phileas: Right. Passepartout doesn't want to hear all of the details

Passepartout: Oh, monsieur, but I do!

Phileas: Details, eh? Here are the details: The General Grant is rigged with three masts, giving a large capacity for sails, and thus aiding the steam power. By making twelve miles an hour, she will cross the ocean in twenty-one days.

Aouda: We should reach San Francisco by the 2nd of December, New York by the 11th, and London on the 20th

Phileas: Thus, gaining several hours on the fatal date of the 21st of December.

Passepartout: In time for you to buy some mistletoe!

Aouda: What is mistletoe?

Phileas: Never mind that! We must make haste.

SFX Foghorn. Passepartout, Phileas, Aouda and Detective Fix board the steamer.

Ensemble movement showing the steamer

Phileas: We are making good time! Onwards to New York

Ensemble movement showing the train. Suddenly the train stops.

Phileas: What is going on?

Aouda: Maybe there is something on the track?

Train Attendant: We will be stopping here as this train is too heavy for the bridge in front of us.

Phileas: How long for?

Train Attendant: I really can't tell you

Phileas: But we must get back! Urgently!

Train Attendant: You're welcome to get out and walk

Passepartout: What should we do?

Phileas: There's nothing we can do, we can't walk!

Movement to show time passing, the train eventually starts back up!

Aouda: Finally! We might still make the ship to Liverpool.

Storyteller: They didn't make the ship to Liverpool!

Storyteller: But Phileas managed to pay his way onto a cargo ship instead

Storyteller: And they eventually made it to Liverpool!

Storyteller: Phileas: We are in England! Welcome to England, Aouda!

Aouda: Why thank you!

Passepartout: Monsieur, we must hurry for the train. You will win the bet!

Detective Fix: Not so fast Phileas Fogg. Hands above your head. I am arresting you on suspicion of a bank robbery that happened on October 1st. A large sum of money was stolen.

Scene splits into an Interrogation room, lights on the three suspects: Aouda, Phileas and Passepartout.

Phileas: It wasn't me! All my money is my own, I have never stolen a penny!

Aouda: I don't believe Mr Fogg to be a criminal, in fact I wish him to be my husband

Passepartout: My master would never do such a thing; he is a gentleman!

Enter Constable

Constable: Detective Fix, a word please?

Detective Fix: How can I help?

Constable: Why are you questioning this man?

Detective Fix: I think he is our bank robber!

Constable: The bank robber was arrested yesterday; this man is innocent.

Detective Fix: Are you sure?

Constable: Quite sure. Mr Fogg. You are free to go.

Detective Fix: Thank you for your time Mr Fogg. Now go and win that wager!

Will they make it?

Phileas, Aouda and Passepartout are running.

Phileas: We will get an express train to London and head straight to the reform!

Aouda: This is so exciting!

Passepartout: It's going to be by the skin of our teeth!

Phileas, Passepartout and Aouda board the train, it is tense, and they all look at their watches.

All: 8.48. We are too late.

Phileas: I can't believe I lost the bet

Passepartout is still looking at his watch

Aouda: I am so sorry for you. But I don't care whether you win or lose. Because I will love you wither way. Phileas Fogg, will you marry me?

Phileas: Aouda? Yes! You have made me the happier than any amount of money could ever make me. Passepartout! Make the arrangements right away, we will marry tomorrow on Monday!

Passepartout: Sir, tomorrow is Sunday.

Phileas: Sunday? Are you sure?

Passepartout: We travelled Eastward, so we gained a day! You can still win the wager!!

Phileas: To the reform club!

Storyteller: Phileas Fogg had won his wager and had made his journey around the world in eighty days.

Storyteller: To do this he had employed every means of transport

Storyteller: Steamers, railways, carriages, yachts, trading-vessels, sledges, elephants.

Storyteller: What had he really gained by all this trouble?

Storyteller: What had he brought back from this long and weary journey?

Storyteller: Nothing, say you?

Storyteller: Perhaps so; but he found a wonderful wife in Aouda and an unlikely friendship in Passepartout.

Storyteller: Phileas Fogg wasn't JUST a member of the reform club.

The End.