



## EIGHTY-1

*Façade at the June Havoc Theatre as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival*

Six strong singers—David Albiero, Jen Anaya, Brayden Hade, Daniel Lincoln, John Anthony Lopez, and Nicole Weiss—and some worthy songs by Clive Chang are the plus factors in this world premiere of an 81-minute musical (no coincidence, that). The book, written by director Mary Stewart-David, is somewhat less successful in transferring Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days* to the 21st century. Phileas Fogg's great-grandson, Phileas IV (Lincoln), here has to recreate the 80-day circumnavigation using only 19th-century modes of transport—to settle a bet and redeem the reputation of his ancestor, who is latterly accused of fraud in his original voyage.

Blame Mike Todd, producer of the 1956 Oscar-winning movie, if you like (not to mention Victor Young's indelible title song), but we still expect grandeur in any telling or retelling of this story—a real elephant and a hot-air balloon, for starters. It would be hard to pull off in any theatre, much less a small one like this. While trying to parallel the original story in character and plot, without accoutrements or even approximately accurate accents, the piece comes down to just plain silly.

*Presented by Façade as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival  
at the June Havoc Theatre, 312 W. 36th St., NYC.*

*July 14–Aug. 3. Remaining performances: Thu., July 17, 6:30 p.m.; Sat., July 19, 8:15 p.m.; Sat., July 26, 11:30 a.m.; Sun., July 27, 7:15 p.m.; Tue., July 29, 6:30 p.m.; Wed., July 30, 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 3, 5:30 p.m.  
(212) 279-4200 or [www.ticketcentral.com](http://www.ticketcentral.com).*

**Reviewed by Robert Windeler**

*Published on BackStage.com on July 16, 2008.*

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