

odd Circles Globe In 3 Hours

★ ★ ★ ★

Michael Todd is beating the world's record for speed around the globe. In his Todd-AO production of the Jules Verne classic adventure tale, "Around the World In 80 Days," he takes the Rivoli Theatre audience on a thrilling junket that circles the globe in three hours, less two minutes, of running time.

The Todd-AO process is something sensational, as it is an improvement on CinemaScope and comes close to the startling effectiveness of Cinerama. The second picture to be shown in this photographic and projection medium, with appropriate sound equipment, shows great improvement over the first print of "Oklahoma!" exhibited here. The latter film introduced the new system to the screen.

Good Writing Job

S. J. Perelman, well-known traveler and humorist, has done a clever job of scripting the Verne story and Michael Anderson has admirably directed it. The latter has emphasized its humorous aspects and has added some sly rib-tickling touches to the adventure.

The picture is too long by at least an hour. Todd, as a former Broadway producer, should know that a show, whether for the dramatic stage, opera, screen or television should not run over the prescribed length of a legitimate show, as present day living is



David Niven and Beatrice Lillie.

not geared for long sitting sessions. There's a 10-minute intermission, but even that doesn't compensate for keeping an audience on tenterhooks, wondering whether it is going to miss its homebound train, bus or car pool.

Top Players in Cast

As far as its entertainment value goes, the picture should be a smash hit, as its impresario has inveigled so many of the top players of the day to put in an appearance on the screen, that it is the most star-studded film of all time. It is also an eye-filling travelog, an exciting adventure and a very funny film.

Besides the regular cast with

"Around the World in 80 Days," a Michael Todd production in Todd-AO and Eastman Color. Directed by Michael Anderson. The screenplay by S. J. Perelman based on the Jules Verne novel. Presented at the Rivoli Theatre. Running time: 2 hours, 48 minutes.

THE CAST

Phileas Fogg _____ David Niven
 Passepartout _____ Caninflas
 Mr. Fix _____ Robert Newton
 Aouda _____ Shirley MacLaine

AND

Charles Boyer, Joe E. Brown, Martine Carol, John Carradine, Charles Coburn, Ronald Colman, Melville Cooper, Noel Coward, Finlay Currie, Reginald Denny, Andy Devine, Marlene Dietrich, Luis Dominguin, Fernando, John Gielgud, Hermione Givens, Jose Greco, Cedric Hardwicke, Trevor Howard, Glynis Johns, Buster Keaton, Evelyn Keyes, Beatrice Lillie, Peter Lorre, Edmund Lowe, Victor McLaglen, Col. Tim McCoy, A. E. Matthews, Mike Mazurki, John Mills, Alan Mowbray, Robert Morley, Edward R. Murrow, Jack Oakie, George Raft, Gilbert Roland, Cesar Romero, Frank Sinatra, Red Skelton, Ronald Squires, Basil Sydney and Harcourt Williams.

David Niven in the role of the intrepid globe-trotter, Phileas Fogg, the famous Mexican comic, Cantinflas, as his valet, the late Robert Newton, as the detective who shadows Fogg and newcomer Shirley MacLaine, in the role of the Indian Princess, many noted British, French and American actors take part in the film. A few of the British players have important roles in the London sequence, while others, including Noel Coward and Beatrice Lillie, are what Todd calls cameo players. That is, they are on for a minute or two, but each one is so spotted that he gives an added flip to the scene.

Familiar faces are encountered all along the line of Fogg's route, as he travels from London to Paris, to Spain, thence to Marseille to Egypt and the East and then to San Francisco. During the long trek across the Rockies and the Western plains, a full-scope Western drama is enacted on the screen. New York is given short shrift, but the arrival at Liverpool, after a hazardous Atlantic crossing, is a frustrating episode, as he is stopped in his tracks.

The final scene in London, which arrives none too soon, is ridiculously comic, as it makes use of a device that demonstrates that the highly efficient and precision-minded Fogg is, after all, not infallible in his own field, as a specialist in accuracy.

Niven is exceedingly delightful as the pompous Fogg and Cantinflas is an appealing comic and great comic. Jose Greco does a brilliant fandango and Cantinflas performs a funny imitation of it. Miss MacLaine makes a beautiful princess in distress who is rescued by Fogg, the valet and Sir Cedric Hardwicke, as a British officer in India.

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in 80 days

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