CONTACT: Rebecca Dzida

 Community Engagement & Touring Coordinator

 info@nationalplayers.org

 240-722-6016

**Month Day, 2018** – National Players America’s longest running-touring theatre company, performs ***Around the World in 80 Days*** by Laura Eason, based on the novel by Jules Verne at **\*VENUE\*** on **DAY OF WK, MONTH DAY at 0:00 AM/PM**. Admission is $XX. National Players is the professional touring program of Olney Theatre Center in Olney, Maryland.

National Players is an **entirely self-contained and self-sustaining tour**, meaning that the ensemble members who act in the plays also serve as the tour’s stagehands, electricians, truck drivers, wardrobe crew, stage managers and much more. It is an ensemble of true “theatre-makers” in the fullest sense of the word.

The time: 1872. The claim: The world can be traveled in 80 days. The wager: 20,000 pounds. Determined to win, Phileas Fogg sets off with a rigid itinerary and bewildered new valet, Passepartout, in tow—only to discover the unpredictable just might be the most rewarding of all. Join the National Players as they travel by boat, train, and elephant in Jules Verne’s epic adventure. Full of daring rescues, brash duels, and unexpected romance, ***Around the World in 80 Days*** is a trip you won’t soon forget.

***Around the World in 80 Days*** is directed by **Jared Mezzocchi**. Jared is a DC based Multimedia Director and Designer. Jared is the Producing Artistic Director of Andy’s Summer Playhouse, Company Member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, and on the faculty at University of Maryland, College Park in the MFA Design Program. Previous credits include: Arena Stage, Theater J, Centerstage Baltimore, Studio Theater, Olney Theatre Center, Everyman Theater, The Wilma, Cleveland Playhouse, Milwaukee Rep, and South Coast Rep. In 2012 Jared received the Princess Grace Award. In 2017, he received the first Lucille Lortel Award for the category of Outstanding Projection design (*Vietgone*, Manhattan Theater Club). Mezzocchi was also a recipient of a 2017 Obie Award, and 2017 nominee for an Outer Critics Circle Award and a Drama Desk Award.

“It’s been such a thrill to investigate this show through the lens of multimedia technology and challenge this fantastic ensemble to utilize today’s tools in telling this classic story. It seems more relevant than ever to ask what it means to master technology, manipulate technology and ultimately overcome technology in today’s world.” Says Jared Mezzocchi, director of ***Around the World in 80 Days***.

**Josh Bierman** tackles the role of Phileas Fogg, the single-minded protagonist and eternal optimist. **David Reece Hutchinson** plays Passerpartout, his loyal valet and **Deidre Steples** plays Mrs. Aouda, who joins Fogg’s quest in India. **Benjamin DeCamp Cole** features as Inspector Fix, who pursues Fogg on the belief that the traveller is in-fact a wanted bank robber. The rest of the Ensemble includes **Cedrick L. Riggs, Jr**., **Alice Kabia**, **Hugh Raup**, **Jamie Boller**, **Zoe Wohlfeld** and **Alanna McNaughton** who populate the characters along the various stops on Fogg’s journey.

Rounding out the creative team is **Charlie Calvert** (Set Design), **Jeannette Christensen** (Costume Design), **Roc Lee** (Sound Design), **Sarah Tundermann** (Lighting Design), and **Zach Campion** (Dialect Coach).

The company for Tour 70 includes: **Josh Bierman (Phileas Fogg)**, **Jamie Boller**, **Benjamin DeCamp Cole (Inspector Fix)**, **David Reece Hutchison (Passepartout)** , **Alice Kabia**, **Alanna McNaughton**, **Hugh Raup**, **Cedrick Riggs, Jr.,** **Diedre Staples (Mrs. Aouda)**, and **Zoe Wohlfeld**.

**ABOUT NATIONAL PLAYERS**

Established in 1949 and based at Olney Theatre Center since 1952, National Players is America’s longest-running touring company. Founded on the principle of prioritizing areas with limited access to theatre, National Players company consists of 10 early-career theatre artists who spend 10 months touring the United States with their three-play repertory to a variety of diverse populations and venues from performing arts centers, universities, but also public schools, rural community centers, and penitentiaries. National Players also acts as an educational ambassador, teaching theatre-related courses to students of all ages and backgrounds. Though it travels thousands of miles and serves tens of thousands of people each year, National Players always comes home to Olney, Maryland. www.nationalplayers.org

Follow National Players on Instagram/Twitter/Facebook @NationalPlayers

**ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces, presents and tours extraordinary performances for a diversity of audiences, and educates and inspires the next generation of theater-makers. We strive every day to unleash the creative potential of our artists and audiences, and in so doing, become a nationally-prominent destination for the most impactful theater performance and education. In the past five years, Olney Theatre has twice won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Production and produced 8 world premieres. Olney Theatre places a priority on engaging our community by ensuring that we remain affordable, accessible and inviting to new and returning audiences.

Since 1952, National Players has been the touring program of Olney Theatre Center as part of its mission to incubate and educate the next generation of theatre artists and audiences. Located just north of Washington, D.C. in arts-rich Montgomery County, Maryland. Olney Theatre Center is led by Artistic Director Jason Loewith and Managing Director Debbie Ellinghaus.

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Instagram/Twitter/Facebook @OlneyTheatre