

Justin Gilbert's MOVIES:



'Around World In 80 Days' Is a Pip!

• Todd has done an S. J. Perelman-sized job on his version of Verne classic at Rivoli.

If Mike Todd will post a photo of a kitchen sink outside the Rivoli, where "Around the World in 80 Days" is showing, his labors will be finished.

This titanic, titillating and thrilling film romp has everything else. It's an adventure story, a detective story, a love story, a cops-and-robbers story. It's a travelogue, a Western, a suspense yarn. Best of all, it's a

comedy full of crackle, slapstick and scintillation.

PHOTOGRAPHICALLY, it's a pip. Its high fidelity sound dances in the ear. Its color is coruscating.

Jules Verne, who wrote the original some years ago, was a man of science. S. J. Perelman, America's leading humorist, who turned out the screenplay, is a man of nonsense.

Thus, he has loaded this colossal Todd-AO processed giant screen opus with all manner of laughter: part of it pure hokum, part of it Chaplinesque. Frequently it is sharply satirical.

TODD, MEANWHILE, was assembling the greatest cast of

stars ever trotted through a single picture. Here are just a few who appear in it:

David Niven, Cantinflas (the famed Mexican comedian), the late Robert Newton, Shirley MacLaine, 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, Fernandel, Sir John Gielgud, Hermione Gingold, Jose Greco, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Trevor Howard, Glynis Johns, Buster Keaton, Evelyn Keyes, Beatrice Lillie, Peter Lorre, Edmund Lowe, A. E. Matthews, Mike Mazurk, Tim McCoy, Victor McLaglen, John Mills, Robert Morley.

Alan Mowbray, Jack Oakie, George Raft, Gilbert Roland, Cesar Romero, Frank Sinatra, Red Skelton, Ronald Squire, Basil Sydney and Harcourt Williams. Even such a name as Jack Mulhall is listed as an extra!

BETTER SAVE this list—for these worthies pop in and out of the story in such diverse garb and guise that frequently you won't realize who they are until the end of the picture!

Edward R. Murrow offers some prefatory remarks before the story starts, followed by some film clips taken from a movie of Verne's novel made at the turn of the century by George Melies.

The adventures of Phileas Fogg, impeccable club man and whist player, are blown up to such staggering proportions in Todd's Technicolor tale that Verne is probably spinning in his bier.

NIVEN PLAYS Fogg with éclat, aplomb and a certain comic rectitude that makes him insuperable. Cantinflas has a winsomeness, an agility and dippy derring-do that stamps him a wizard as Passepartout, the valet. Newton is absolutely delicious

in his drollery.

Why Todd ever cast Miss Maclaine, freckles and all, as an East Indian princess, is beyond me. She just doesn't fit the role—so it must be his own private joke.

"Around the World in 80 Days" is so big, beautiful and bountiful that space beggars any description that might be given here.

Just let us say that director Michael Anderson has turned out the most robust, panoramic razzle-dazzle on record.

"Around the World" is just Mike Todd in action, and might properly be called "Astound the World!"

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