



Quality Theatre In Education

ABN: 61 935 048 984

# **DANCE Around The World**

## ***In Eighty Days***

### **teachers Notes**

#### Introduction

This play seeks to introduce students to the concepts that support multi-culturalism and cultural diversity through the mediums of theatre and dance.

Rather than being simply a demonstration of dance styles, it pitches the level of each dance in a way that encourages involvement by volunteers at all times, whilst providing legitimate examples of choreography from every continent.

#### The Story

Adapted from the classic “Around The World In Eighty Days”, the story challenges Professor Fogg, Master of Dance & Culture, not only to travel around the world in just eighty days, but along the way, to collect steps from every dance culture he encounters, and develop a master dance.

Fogg wishes to become a Professor at The London Royal Academy of Dance, and the Board of this establishment sets him the above challenge to prove that cultural diversity is of value to everyone.

Bumbling sidekick, Mr Frost, accompanies Fogg in the hot-air balloon journey, at the Board’s request, as a means of sabotaging the project, but along the way, Frost becomes converted to Frost’s way of looking cultures.

## Russia

The first stop is Russia, where the pair discover the a Matrioshka doll, delightfully different from dolls from their homeland. Russian folk dance steps are shared.

## China

Upon arrival in China, chopsticks are found and the difference between Chinese and Western foods is discussed. Students help perform a Chinese fan dance.

## India

Over the Himalaya's, the balloon lands in India, where our adventurers find peace through the power of meditation, before performing Indian dance to contemporary Indian music.

## Australia

The sight of strange animals hopping on two legs precedes a landing in Australia. Students are asked to show the adventurers how dance is performed in this land, allowing schools' individual cultural mix to colour the performance.

## Brazil

Across the Pacific to the Amazon jungle, we learn about how the loss of the forest culture is causing us to lose valuable knowledge, and join in a Mardi Gras!

## Africa

Landing in an unnamed region of the African continent, we learn that this was the birthplace of humanity and as the drums and the singers reach fever pitch, a tribal dance is shared by performers and volunteers alike.

## Greece

A final stop, Greece, is found to be the birthplace of theatre as we know it, and a traditional dance gathers pace to the strains of Zorba the Greek.

## London

Back at their starting place, the Board of the Academy are shocked at the success of Fogg's "Master Dance", revise their opinions about other cultures, and admit the adventurers as Professors of the Academy.

## Suggested Activity

### **Simple Matrioshka Doll**

Using toilet rolls or any similar cardboard cylinders, simply paint a person's figure on the outside. (*Wide-bodied figures will give the most authentic look*). This is the largest doll.

Now, cut the top of another toilet roll so that it is slightly shorter than the first. Next, cut straight up the entire vertical length of this roll. You will now be able to reduce the roll's diameter, by overlapping the edges somewhat and taping it back together. Paint as before. This is the second doll, which can now fit easily inside the first.

This process is repeated to create as many smaller dolls as desired.

## Conclusion

At this moment in our history, the encouragement of cross-cultural understanding within our community is essential. When students realise that Australia is a truly lucky country, to have food from every corner of the globe available, as well as art, music, fashion, and a myriad of other multicultural influences, they will also appreciate the people who make such diversity possible.

"Dance Around The World" aims to promote such an appreciation, by providing an entertaining kick-start to your own multicultural studies.

*\* N.B. TIE reserves the right to alter the nationality or number of international dances represented in this performance, and the list above is an indication of a typical recital only.*

***We hope you enjoy "Dance Around The World"***