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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents
“Steampunk Night” at
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
Thursday, August 20, 2009
Broadway Theatre Center’s Cabot Theatre

Milwaukee, WI. ...**Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT)** announces **“Steampunk Night”** on **Thursday, August 20** in conjunction with the production of **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**. The design, set and costumes of **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** are inspired by the steampunk aesthetic. On “Steampunk Night,” MCT invites enthusiasts to wear steampunk attire to receive a **HALF-PRICE TICKET** for the 7:30 p.m. show on Thursday, August 20. The event will start with pre-show activities hosted by **Steam Century** in the lobby. Madison-based steampunk band **Eli August** will provide post-show entertainment at 10:00 p.m. in the Skylight Bar & Bistro.

Steampunk is a subculture which arose from the aesthetic expression of a time-traveling fantasy world that embraces music, film, design and now fashion. Steampunk definitions vary greatly; Jake von Slatt, the proprietor of the Steampunk Workshop, eloquently insists, “It’s essentially the intersection of technology and romance.” The term denotes an era where steam power is still widely used—usually the 19th century and often Victorian-era England—but with prominent elements of either science fiction or fantasy, such as fictional technological inventions like those found in the works of H. G. Wells and Jules Verne.

Since Jules Verne’s novels often inspire steampunk culture, it is very appropriate that the design team for **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** has found inspiration in the steampunk aesthetic.

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On “Steampunk Night,” the Madison-based steampunk band **Eli August** will play at 10:00 p.m. in The Skylight Bar & Bistro, after the performance of **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**. Eli August combines acoustic guitar, ukulele, drums, upright bass and voice to create songs that are both melancholy and hopeful. The group puts an emphasis on melody and mood into each piece they perform. It is the tangent project of Jon Koschoreck, the songwriter/guitarist for the chamber rock band Fermata. For more information about Eli August, visit www.eliaugust.com

“Steampunk Night” will also feature pre-show activities in the lobby hosted by **Steam Century**. Founded in 2007, Steam Century is an interactive improvisational theater group based in Madison which hosts a variety of events that take place in an alternative historical reality based on the popular “steampunk” genre. On August 20, patrons will have the chance to meet Steam Century members, solve one of the puzzles from a Steam Century event, and participate in other activities. For more information about Steam Century, visit www.hmabadger.com

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS performances will take place August 13 – 30, 2009 in the Broadway Theatre Center's Cabot Theatre, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. **Half-price tickets for patrons wearing steampunk attire for “Steampunk Night” must be purchased in person at the box office on Thursday, Aug. 20.** Regular tickets for all other performances, \$10-\$38, are available Monday through Saturday from noon-6:00 p.m. at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office, 158 N. Broadway, or by phone at **(414) 291-7800**. Tickets are available online - 24 hours a day at **www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com**. Group, student and senior discounts are also available. For more information, call 414.276.8842 or visit www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com.

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MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE

Founded in 1975, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) celebrates its 35th Anniversary in 2009-2010. MCT produces intimate, high-quality, professional theatrical works of literary merit that engage and challenge the audience, while employing and nurturing principally local theatre artists. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director C. Michael Wright and Managing Director Kirsten Mulvey, MCT performs at the Broadway Theatre Center in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. For more information, visit www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com