

## JIAS Writing Fellows Seminar Series

### The Modernist Theatrum Mundi: Jean Cocteau's Around-the-World Performance

Decidedly one needs to make a journey around the world to realize such things be. — Jean Cocteau, *Round the World Again in 80 Days*

*In 1936, in the midst of what his biographer would call his "lesser decade," Jean Cocteau mounted his most ambitious theatrical production to date. He adapted Adolphe d'Ennery and Jules Verne's **Around the World in 80 Days** by making their hit play site-specific, all the way around the world. Casting himself as Phileas Fogg and his lover as Passepartout, Cocteau would reenact d'Ennery and Verne's dramatic fiction as an eighty-day durational performance while writing short dispatches for the **Paris Soir**.*

*In this talk, I discuss Cocteau's performance in his **tour du monde** to reckon with how it might affect our own personal and shared senses of the "world," as a category, a fiction, or a place. Cocteau's theatrical production on the largest of stages, I argue, challenges our own orientations in the world by illuminating what happens to our critical positions when we read and write about the world while performing within it.*

PRESENTER ■ **Kevin Riordan**

DATE ■ **Wednesday, 14 March from 09:00 to 12:00**

VENUE ■ **JIAS, 1 Tolip Street, Westdene**

RSVP email ■ **info@jias.joburg**



NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY  
SINGAPORE

