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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Great Passion Play welcomes its 7.7 millionth Visitor**

EUREKA SPRINGS, AR – July 26, 2013 - The Great Passion Play will welcome its 7.7 millionth visitor on Saturday, August 3. According to the Institute of Outdoor Drama at Chapel Hill, The Great Passion Play is “America’s #1 Attended Outdoor Drama,” a mark that the Play continues to hold after a strong first half of their season.

In December of 2012, the nonprofit foundation that runs The Great Passion Play announced that it would close its 46-year run. However, with a fundraising effort spearheaded by Randall Christy of The Gospel Station Network out of Ada, Oklahoma, The Great Passion Play was able to raise \$75,000 in 10 days to secure a 2013 season. Christy, who now serves as the CEO of the nonprofit foundation that runs the Play, said, “We are 20% up in attendance this year, and we plan to stay up. In fact, tickets are already available and selling for the 2014 season.”

Assistant Executive Director and cast member Kent Butler shared, “We are so excited to host our 7.7 millionth visitor. Eight months ago, we didn’t even think that we would be in business. Now, we celebrate this achievement, thinking of the many lives that have been touched by what happens here. We will be giving a lifetime pass to the 7.7 millionth visitor immediately before the performance in the amphitheater.”

Since 1968, people from all over the world have witnessed the events surrounding Christ's last days on earth, including his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Featuring a cast of over 150 actors, the Play is performed amid a 550-ft historically accurate, multi-leveled stage. This year's performance also features Arabian horses, donkeys, and dozens of birds as well as 3 camels donated by the "Wild Wilderness Drive through Safari" in Gentry, Arkansas. The Great Passion Play runs 1 hour and 45 minutes, featuring an original musical score composed by Phil Perkins and performed by the world-renowned National Philharmonic Orchestra of London.

"Through our relationship with John Michael Talbot and Terry Talbot, we were able to connect to Phil Perkins and the National Philharmonic Orchestra of London. Their music brings the passion story to life," Butler said. "In conjunction with the celebration of our 7.7 millionth visitor, John Michael Talbot and Michael Card are actually having a benefit concert for The Great Passion Play on Thursday, August 8 in the Eureka Springs City Auditorium."

To order tickets to the 7.7 millionth visitor celebration, visit [www.GreatPassionPlay.org](http://www.GreatPassionPlay.org), call toll free at 800-882-7529, or visit the box office. The Great Passion Play's 2013 season runs through the end of October.

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**For high resolution pictures of the Play:**

<http://www.greatpassionplay.org/high-resolution-photos.html>

<http://www.greatpassionplay.org/videos.html>

Great Passion Play Media Requests Contact:

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