



For more information:
The Great Passion Play
935 Passion Play Road
Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632
Toll Free: 800-882-7529
Local: 479-253-8559
info@greatpassionplay.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Great Passion Play Opens May 3

(EUREKA SPRINGS, AR)- The Great Passion Play, “America’s #1 Attended Outdoor Drama,” opens the 2013 season on Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4. Featuring a cast of hundreds, the Play is performed amid a 550-ft historically accurate stage and brings to life the epic drama surrounding Christ’s last days on earth, including his death, resurrection and ascension.

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. This year’s performance will also feature Arabian horses, donkeys, and dozens of birds as well as 3 camels donated by the “Wild Wilderness Drive through Safari” in Gentry, Arkansas.

In November of 2012, the nonprofit foundation that runs The Great Passion Play announced that it would close its 46-year run. However, with the help of Randall Christy and 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 President of the Great Passion Play’s nonprofit foundation, said, “The Play has been saved for years to come for future generations, and we are excited to make The Great Passion Play better than ever!”

Kent Butler, a cast member and the Play's Assistant Executive Director, shared some of the improvements that have been made to the Play: "The pacing of the Play is much better and overall it is much more dramatic. After all, Jesus called them miracles; we have to call them special effects. We want people to be awe-inspired and amazed at the miraculous life that Jesus Christ lived." Christy shared that reservations are more than twice what they were last year for the opening weekend's performances.

While on the grounds, visit the famous 7-story tall Christ of the Ozarks memorial statue. Walk through Jerusalem's Eastern Gate and Journey through recreations of the Holy Land. See the Sacred Arts Museum with hundreds of pieces of rare works in 64 different forms and the Bible Museum with 6,000 Bibles (including an original 1611 King James Version of the Bible) and artifacts dating back to 2,000 B.C. Experience the popular free performances of David the Shepherd and the Parables of the Potter at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM respectively. Gift shops open at 10:00 AM and remain open after the Play. A buffet dinner is also served on nights of the Play's performances. Additionally, on Monday nights during the summer, there is a Gospel Music Concert with the dinner.

The Great Passion Play's 2013 season will run from the first weekend of May through the last weekend of October. Ticket reservations, performance schedules and other information are available online at www.GreatPassionPlay.org or call toll free 1-800-882-7529. Join the 7.6 million who have seen "The Greatest Story Ever Told" since 1968 at The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.