



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Great Passion Play Opens May 6

(EUREKA SPRINGS, AR) - The Great Passion Play, “America’s #1 Attended Outdoor Drama,” opens on Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, to start its 49th season.

“This year, we are also celebrating the 50th year anniversary of the Christ of the Ozarks,” shared the Passion Play’s CEO Randall Christy. Dedicated in 1966, the Christ of the Ozarks memorial statue stands 7 stories tall and is one of the most visited attractions in the Ozarks. Christy said the Play would be hosting a special 50-year celebration ceremony for the statue at a date that will be announced soon. “Before we have the celebration, we want to completely finish the restoration effort, and we are still accepting donations for that effort.”

“I am also excited to announce new for 2016: a History Museum in addition to our Bible and Arts Museums,” Christy said. He continued, “It’s really a philosophy of history museum put together by and in partnership with James and Gina Stroud that views history from a biblical perspective.” The History Museum also has a section dedicated to the history of the Passion Play and is located on the bottom level of the Jerusalem Chapel on the grounds of the Play.

“We have been very busy this year in preparation for the season,” said Kent Butler, an actor and marketing director for the production. “We make an effort to improve every

year, and this year we have focused on giving the set and the grounds a little bit of a facelift.” To do this, Butler shared that the staff and volunteers had used more than 55 gallons of paint. “We are still painting, and I am thrilled for audiences to experience some of the special effects we have added for this season.” Butler added that several people had volunteered during 2015 and this year as well. “We love to work with groups like Team Effort, the World Mission Team, and Youth with a Mission; but many youth groups have also come on their own to help out.”

Featuring a cast of over 150 actors and actresses, the Play is performed amid a 550-ft historically accurate stage and brings to life the thrilling 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 also features horses, donkeys, and dozens of birds as well as 4 camels donated by the “Wild Wilderness Drive through Safari” in Gentry, Arkansas.

While on the grounds, walk through Jerusalem’s Eastern Gate, experience a Biblical Marketplace, and journey through recreations of the Holy Land including the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. 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. Eat the buffet dinner that is served on nights the Play is performed.

The Great Passion Play's 2016 season will run from the first weekend of May through the last weekend of October. Featured artist Jack Dawson will also be visiting the Art Museum on the opening performance on Friday, May 6. For reservations, performance schedules, volunteer opportunities, or special event information, go to GreatPassionPlay.org or call toll free 800-882-7529. Join the 7.8 million who have seen "The Greatest Story Ever Told" at The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

The Great Passion Play is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For high resolution pictures of the Play:

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

For more information:

Kent Butler

Director of Marketing

Cell: 870-654-5017

kent@greatpassionplay.com

For complimentary media passes, please do not hesitate to contact us!