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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Area Appreciation Days & Cast Reunion

(EUREKA SPRINGS, AR)- The Great Passion Play will be offering Area Appreciation Days for residents of Carroll, Benton, Boone, Madison, Washington, and Newton counties in Arkansas and Stone, Taney, Barry, Lawrence and McDonald counties in Missouri for performances in August during the 50th year anniversary season. Residents of these counties can get tickets for \$17 for adults, \$7 for youth (ages 12-16), and \$5 for children (ages 4-11) for performances of The Great Passion Play, and kids under 4 are always free. Area appreciation performances happen every May, August, and October. Simply show proof of residence or employment and enjoy the Play, the Bible Museum, the Sacred Arts Museum, free Music Concerts, the Sculptor, David the Shepherd, and the Parables of the Potter.

The Passion Play is also excited to invite any former cast members to our cast reunion celebration on the set of The Great Passion Play starting at 6:30pm on Sunday, September 2. A meal will be served at 6:30pm in the wardrobe rooms and then former cast members are invited to stay and see or be an extra in the Passion Play performance at 8:30pm.

Featuring a cast of over 150 actors, the Play is performed since 1968 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 also features horses, donkeys, dogs, and dozens of birds as well as 2 camels donated by the "Wild Wilderness Drive through Safari" in Gentry, Arkansas.

"We are excited to announce, in conjunction with our 50-year anniversary, "the opening of 8-miles of mountain bike and hiking trails," said Kent Butler, the Play's operations director. "These trails are free and open to the public, designed for all ages and abilities, and will be open from dawn to an hour after sunset (aside from days where it is especially wet to prevent damage to the trail)," Butler shared. "These trails will add yet another reason for people to make the pilgrimage to Eureka Springs. And, it's a special thanks to the Walton Family Foundation for making the trails possible, Tony Boone Trails and Jagged Axe Trails for their actual construction, and our other partners in this endeavor including Eureka Springs Parks, Northwest Arkansas Trailblazers, Oz Trails, and the Ozark Off-Road Cyclists."

New attractions for 2018 on the Passion Play grounds in addition to the above-mentioned trails include, the Noah's Ark Park Petting Zoo at the beginning of the Holy Land area, a special showing of the musical movie "God with Us: New Testament" in the Jerusalem Chapel, a bomb shelter similar to ones used in Israel today, and the Jerusalem Marketplace area which features biblical craftspeople working with pottery, sculpting, weaving, carpentry, jewelry making, and painting.

Reservations can be made online at GreatPassionPlay.org with the coupon code "COUNTYADULT" and "COUNTYCHILD," over the phone at 800-882-7529, or in person

at the box office. Area appreciation performances happen for all May, August, and October performances. Present valid photo ID or proof of residence when you pick up your tickets for performances. The Play runs on Fridays and Saturdays in the month of August as well as special Tuesday performances on August 7 and 14.

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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>

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