



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
627 Wheeling Ave | Cambridge, OH
800-933-5480 | VisitGuernseyCounty.com
CONTACT: Debbie Robinson

Ohio's Only Outdoor Passion Play Begins 44th Season June 15

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO (May 29, 2018) – They come from near and far each year to witness the "Greatest Story Ever Told." Each summer audiences fill the outdoor amphitheater at The Living Word Outdoor Drama in Cambridge, Ohio and are awed and humbled by the life story of Jesus Christ. Ohio's only outdoor passion play begins its season on June 15.

"The Living Word cast and crew, made up of dedicated volunteers from all walks of life, invest countless hours of their time to make the drama a lasting experience for the audience," Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau Executive Director Debbie Robinson said. "It is the only drama of its kind that invites the audience and visiting groups to be a part of the performance. In fact, the production company even invites audience members to participate as an 'extra' for the evening and experience the Passion of Christ in a very close and personal way."

The Living Word Outdoor Drama venue is designed for the theatrical telling of the last days of Christ with a stunning and breath-taking drama that takes place on a spectacular 400-foot panoramic set, which is America's most authentic re-creation of Old Jerusalem. Now entering its 44th anniversary season, the drama continues to be a nationally recognized outdoor theater where the audience is drawn into the dramatic story through lighting, special effects, sound, and authentic costumes. Live animals are also used in the production, including a white donkey and an authentic horse-drawn Roman chariot.

Performances take place each Friday and Saturday evening June 15-September 29, 2018. There are no shows for July 6 & 7, 2018 due to the holiday weekend. Throughout the season special themes have been created to encourage different groups to attend, ranging from youth nights to family events to church gatherings.

Ticket prices are \$18 for adults (13-59), \$6 children (4-12), and \$16 seniors (60 and up).

This summer, see The Living Word Outdoor Drama and take a journey like no other. To learn more, visit www.livingworddrama.org or call 740-439-2761.

For more information on area attractions, events and overnight packages, contact the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau office at 627 Wheeling Avenue, Suite 200 in downtown Cambridge, call 800-933-5480, email info@VisitGuernseyCounty.com, or log onto VisitGuernseyCounty.com.

###

About The Living Word Outdoor Drama

The Living Word Outdoor Drama was founded in 1974 by Biblical dramatist Frank Roughton Harvey and his wife Hazel. The idea was the result of a dream given by God in 1957 to build a permanent outdoor amphitheater for the annual presentation of the gospel.

While enrolled in seminary at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Frank was able to study Biblical archaeology under eminent scholars both at Emory and in the Holy Land. While in seminary, he developed the script for an outdoor drama. His thesis project for his MFA was to extensively research, design, and build a scale model complete with scenery for an outdoor theater.

In 1968, Frank had the opportunity to bring to life his script during the Civil Rights movement. The drama was entitled Behold the Man, and was produced in Atlanta Stadium using an interracial, interdenominational cast of 500 actors, ranging from amateur to professional. The Rev. William Holmes Borders portrayed the role of Christ in the one night only performance that drew an audience of 48,000 people. The event was dubbed by newspapers as 'the miracle that saved Atlanta' because of the peace that seemed to permeate the city of Atlanta during production, despite the racial riots taking place around the United States at that time.

Years later, the Harvey's had relocated to a farm in Cambridge, Ohio, which proved to be the site where their permanent amphitheater was to be built. Along with hundreds of volunteers, a temporary stage was built using the old scenery left from the Behold the Man production. The experimental venture that first year was an outstanding success, and the following year permanent construction of the set began, following Frank's original model design he had prepared years earlier.