

BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY

WINTER SEASON — LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

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| WHEN WILL THE PLAY BE PRESENTED? | Mid February through mid April. Every Sun. at 6 p.m.; every Tues., Thurs. & Sat. at 7:30 p.m. Several matinees are scheduled each season. |
| LOCATION? | 1½ miles south of Lake Wales, Fla., off U.S. 27-A. |
| SIZE OF STAGE? | The stage is 350 feet long. |
| SEATING CAPACITY? | 3,500. |
| SIZE OF CAST? | Josef Meier, world-renowned Christus portrayer, and 35 professional actors play all of the speaking parts. 100 to 150 local people complete the cast. Camels, donkeys, horses and sheep are used. |
| WHAT IS IT ABOUT? | The Passion Play tells the story of the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. |
| HOW LONG DOES IT LAST? | There are 22 scenes, lasting 2¼ hours. |
| WHERE DID THE PLAY COME FROM? | Luenen, Westphalia, in Northern Germany, where it had been presented for over 700 years. |
| WHEN WAS IT BROUGHT TO AMERICA? | In 1932 by Josef Meier, whose family had taken part in it for seven generations. |
| WHERE CAN I GET TICKETS? | At the Amphitheatre. Box Office open 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily, and on performance evenings. |
| ADVANCE RESERVATIONS? | Tickets are usually available for all performances. Advance reservations are desirable for choice locations. |
| MAIL ORDERS? | Write Passion Play Amphitheatre, P.O. Box 71, Lake Wales, Fla., 33853. Use order blank in the Passion Play folder, if available. |
| TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS? | Phone Lake Wales (813) 676-1495. Tickets will be held until one-half hour before performance time. |
| PARKING FACILITIES? | Ample free parking space with parking attendants on duty. |
| INVALIDS? | Wheel chairs are available at no extra charge. Please make arrangements at Box Office. |
| WHAT TO WEAR? | It is always advisable to bring coats, jackets, sweaters, raincoats and blankets. The evenings may turn cool. |
| WHAT IF IT RAINS? | Performances are given if at all possible regardless of weather conditions during the day; however, if the performance is officially cancelled before the Last Supper Scene you are entitled to a refund or you may use the rain check at another performance. |
| CAMERAS? | Sorry! NO PICTURES may be taken during the performance. |
| FOOD? | Picnic area and snack bar on Amphitheatre grounds. |

BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY

SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA

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| WHEN WILL THE PLAY BE PRESENTED? | Mid June, July, and August. Every Sun., Tues., Thurs. at 8:00 P.M. |
| LOCATION? | Spearfish, South Dakota |
| SIZE OF STAGE? | The stage is 650 feet long: |
| SEATING CAPACITY? | 6500. |
| SEE AND HEAR? | You have perfect vision of every scene from any seat in the Amphitheater. Because of excellent acoustics and amplification, you can hear every spoken word. |
| SIZE OF CAST? | Josef Meier, world-renowned Christus portrayer, and 35 professional actors play all of the speaking parts. 150 to 200 local people complete the cast. Camels, donkeys, horses, pigeons, and sheep are used. |
| WHERE DID THE PLAY COME FROM? | Luenen, Westphalia, in Northern Germany, where it has been presented for over 700 years. |
| WHEN WAS IT BROUGHT TO AMERICA? | In 1932 by Josef Meier, whose family had taken part in it for seven generations. |
| WHAT IS IT ABOUT? | The Passion Play tells the story of the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. |
| HOW LONG DOES IT LAST? | There are 22 scenes, lasting 2½ hours. |
| ADMISSION PRICES? | Adults—\$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00. Children under 12—Half price for all seats. |
| WHERE CAN I GET TICKETS? | At the Amphitheater. Box Office open 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. daily, and on performance evenings. |
| TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS? | Spearfish Area Code 605, 642-2646. Tickets will be held until one hour before performance time. |
| MAIL ORDERS? | Black Hills Passion Play Office, Box 469, Spearfish, South Dakota 57783. Use order blank in the Passion Play folder, if available. |
| ADVANCE RESERVATIONS? | Tickets are available for all performances. |
| ARE RESERVATIONS NECESSARY? | If you do not have reservations, come anyway. Seats are always available. |
| PARKING FACILITIES? | Ample free parking space with parking attendants on duty. |
| INVALIDS? | Wheel chairs are available at no extra charge. Please make arrangements at Box Office. |
| VISIT THE AMPHITHEATER DURING SEASON? | Amphitheater is open daily without charge from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Free organ concerts each afternoon. Visitors always welcome. |
| TOURIST INFORMATION? | Our HALL OF INFORMATION at the Amphitheater where literature and information from every State and Canada is available without charge. |
| WHAT TO WEAR? | It is always advisable to bring coats, jackets, sweaters, raincoats and blankets. The evenings may turn cool. |
| CAMERAS? | Sorry! NO PICTURES may be taken during the performance. |
| WHAT IF IT RAINS? | Performances are given if at all possible regardless of weather conditions during the day. However, if the performance is officially cancelled before the Last Supper Scene you are entitled to one-half refund or you may use the rain check at the next special performance. |

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BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY OF AMERICA

At Spearfish, South Dakota

From beginning to end, the BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY is a beautifully staged Production in an impressive setting. It has earned its place as one of America's foremost cultural institutions.

The BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY was presented for the first time on the American stage in 1932 by Josef Meier, world-famous Christus portrayer. It was then staged under the name Luenen Passion Play; Luenen being the name of the town in the Province of Westphalia in Germany where the Play was first presented as early as 1242. Mr. Meier's family has participated in the Play for seven generations.

In the new world, the group presenting the Passion Play encountered many difficulties of which mastering the English language was perhaps the most formidable task. A few members of the group became discouraged and homesick and were replaced by American actors. Others, by diligent work, were able to overcome their language difficulties and with Mr. Meier traveled America from coast to coast during the next five years.

Since these were depression years in America, troup- ing with such a large production was a tremendous task. The Play, however, because of its high artistic standards, gained an ever-growing reputation and circle of friends. Josef Meier and his group began to look for a permanent home in this country, and in 1938 decided to settle in the Black Hills of South Dakota. An Amphitheatre was built at Spearfish, a small western town not far from the gold rush City of Deadwood, the Homestake Gold Mine at Lead, and the famous Shrine of Democracy at Mount Rushmore. The Production was renamed the BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY OF AMERICA and played its first season in its new home in the summer of 1939. It has been presented there each summer since, with the exception of the war years when gas and tire rationing prevented tourists from traveling.

Each winter the troupe toured this country and Canada presenting the PASSION PLAY in theatres and auditoriums to enable those who could not travel to Spearfish, to see the Play. In 1951, the BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY was invited to come to Lake Wales, Florida, to establish a winter home for the Production. The Amphitheatre was constructed in the heart of the great citrus groves of Central Florida. The stage area is 350 feet long with a setting for the PASSION PLAY which is an exact duplicate of the stage setting in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Here the production was enacted for the first time in January, 1953, and is now presented in Florida annually during the months of February, March and part of April.

Performances at Spearfish, South Dakota, are given at 8:00 P.M. every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday during most of June, all of July, and August until Labor Day. Ample free parking space is available without charge. Spearfish is located at the entrance of the famous Spearfish Canyon and within easy driving distance of all beauty spots in the Black Hills and Badlands area.

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