





# THE HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT

AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE OUTDOOR PAGEANT • P. O. BOX 403 PALMYRA, NEW YORK 14522 315/597-6808

For Immediate Release

Contact: L. Udall

Phone: (315) 597-2757

54TH HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT TO BE BEST EVER!

The Hill Cumorah Pageant, to be presented July 12, 13, and 16-20, 1991 on the hillside of the famous Hill Cumorah near Palmyra, New York, will be even more spectacular than the very successful edition in 1990.

Pageant audiences were thrilled by the innovations last year. The storm at sea scene was highlighted not only by torrential rain produced by pumping water up the ships mast and sprayed between the audience and performers, but with a lightning strike at the mast which rended the sail in the wind. Such realistic illusions have rarely been achieved in outdoor theater. The permission of the Federal Aviation Administration was required by the appearance of a new star in the western New York sky during the scene depicting the birth of Christ. A powerful light beam penetrated to nearly 15,000 feet which required the warning of all planes in the area each night of the performance.

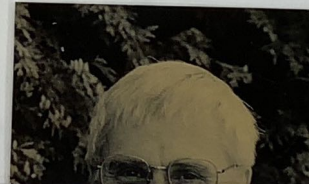
THE FACTS

MUSIC

SCRIPT ♦ STAGING

DIRECTION

ORGANIZATION



DR. ROGER J. ADAMS  
PAGEANT PRESIDENT

## HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT

Press Office  
315/597-6808

Visitor's Center  
315/597-5851

Palmyra, New York

America's largest outdoor production sponsored by  
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



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This year's audiences will not be disappointed with new special effects to be introduced to add even more realism to the production. Even though the destruction scene that depicts events at the death of Christ has been most effective with viewers claiming to feel the earth shake due to the power of low frequency sound waves, it will become more realistic. Changes and new technology will now allow an illusion of an erupting volcano. In addition there will be a special and moving surprise to the final Pageant scene that will be both gratifying and spectacular.

MORE  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

While production improvements pleased audiences, the comfort and personal needs of the huge audience have not been overlooked. 1500 comfortable chair seats will be added to the 5000 introduced last year. The thousands who prefer to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets will always be welcome. Another way the comfort and convenience of the audience is being addressed is the addition of food and beverage availability. Through cooperation with local Rotary and Lions clubs these services will provide substantial income to charities in nearby communities. There will now be a local community interest in the continued growth and success of the Pageant.

As measured by the number of applications to be in the Pageant cast, the fact that participants have a wonderful spiritual, artistic and vacation experience during their 16 days at the Hill Cumorah is very apparent. Several times more applications were received for 1991 than the 600 needed for the cast. This is remarkable, since all participants pay their own travel and living expenses. The Hill Cumorah Pageant is truly a labor of love by all who bring it to life.

The general public and not members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continue to be in the majority of those attending at each performance. The fame of the Pageant's artistic quality, its emotional impact and its sheer magnitude and spectacle continue to grow. In Western New York, the Pageant has become a cherished tradition.

Pageant performances are free of charge, including parking. No tickets or reservations are required. The production begins at about 9:00pm. All are welcome.

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## For Immediate Release

HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT CREATES HIGH-TECH THEATER

Contact: L. M. Udall

ON A HILLSIDE

Phone: (315) 597-2757

State-of-the-art theatrical productions with laser lighting, digital sound tracts, and breathtaking visual effects are no surprise in the Kennedy Center or Radio City Music Hall, but it becomes paradoxical when such a production literally "creates its own theater in the open air on a hillside four miles from the nearest village. This is precisely what the Hill Cumorah Pageant, America's largest outdoor drama accomplishes near Palmyra, New York, when it presents the fifty-fourth annual event July 12, 13 and 16 through 20, 1991.

In order to match the production's size and power to the hillside, seven modular stages, with an area half the size of a football field, accommodate a cast of six hundred persons. The stage motif is Meso-American. The lighting from five hundred lighting instruments, with one half million watts of power mounted on ten giant steel towers, allows an audience of up to 20,000 to see clearly every action in what a "New York Times" reviewer compared to the spectacle of a Cecil B. DeMille epic.

MORE

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Crawford Gates' powerful musical score has been recorded by the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Utah Symphony and the Salt Lake Youth Choir. The state-of-the-art sound system at the Pageant delivers with full effect and without distortion the digital, stereo recordings. So powerful and true is the sound system, that when earthquake rumbles are heard from perimeter speakers, many startled spectators report seeming to feel them as well as to hear them.

Spectacular special effects create the feel of reality to the many theatrical illusions employed by the directors. For example, the script calls for fire consuming a prisoner, an erupting volcano, rain storms, lightning, earthquakes, vision modifying water curtains, a new star springing into the night sky and the resurrected Jesus Christ descending from the black sky to visit ancient people of the American continent. New surprises will be in store again this year.

Colorful authentically designed costumes, real human hair wigs and beards, dance, combat and drama are mediums through which the history of a great and powerful people come alive on a hillside in rural New York. The Hill Cumorah Pageant is a true American extravaganza that plays to ever larger audiences each year. 6,500 comfortable chair seats are available. Lawn chairs, picnics and blankets are welcome. BEST OF ALL, ADMISSION AND PARKING ARE FREE! No reservations or tickets are needed.

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TECHNICAL DIRECTORS FROM THE HILL CUMORAH  
PAGEANT ARE PROS FROM MOVIES AND TV

Contact: L. Udall  
Call (315) 597-2757

## Special Effects Director

In recent times the Hill Cumorah Pageant has had greater reality and excitement! This has been accomplished by means of "special effects" which are theatrical illusions. Everyone is aware of these techniques in movies and TV shows. But in the open air of the Pageant it is even more challenging to make a rainstorm, to create a lightning bolt, make an actor appear to move through the air or be consumed by fire.

Rick Josephsen, former special effects specialist for Disney Studios where he did special effects for the movie "Earthquake" and others, has been responsible for several of these changes in the Pageant's illusions. Last year the rainstorm at sea, lightning striking the mast, and the tearing of the ship's sail were developed by Josephsen. Two new illusions are expected to add to the spectacle of this year's performance.

Rick is married and has four children. He volunteers his talent to the Pageant and he will also assume responsibility for stage erection and stage management in 1992. It is a significant sacrifice for this busy free-lance professional to serve the Pageant. One of his recent movies, "Don't Tell Her Its Me," has recently played in the Rochester area.

MORE

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

### Lighting Director

Illumination of the Pageant hillside is a major challenge for the lighting designer and director, David Stoddard. The modular stages are on seven levels with a total area of more than half a football field. Stoddard, with the aid of 500 lighting instruments mounted on five steel towers on each side of the stages, is able to correlate, time and project just the intensity, color and amount of light needed so that the large audiences can see all the action easily from any position. It takes great talent to prepare and execute such an involved, detailed and artistic light program. He with Josephsen developed the 12,000 foot pinpoint shaft of light that created the star of Bethlehem in last years presentation.

David Stoddard gives his talent to the Pageant. His excellence is a boon to the Pageant as it is to his films and TV programs. He is married and has seven children.

### Sound Systems

The sound system for the Hill Cumorah Pageant was designed by Dr. Harvey Fletcher, the famed scientist who invented stereophonic sound. This system has been kept up-to-date with the progress in sound technology ever improving its power and fidelity. Power is exemplified by the earthquake sounds that causes members of the audience to seem to feel the earth move. Fidelity is proven as the full range of tones, from highs to lows, of the digital recordings of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Utah symphony Orchestra ar carried over the large

MORE



outdoor audiences. The Pageant's outdoor sound system is as fine as any in the world.

Charles price, the Pageant's sound director, is responsible for the sound system. Price is married and has five children and sixteen grand children. He supports four other Pageants and many special events for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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# ORGANIZATION

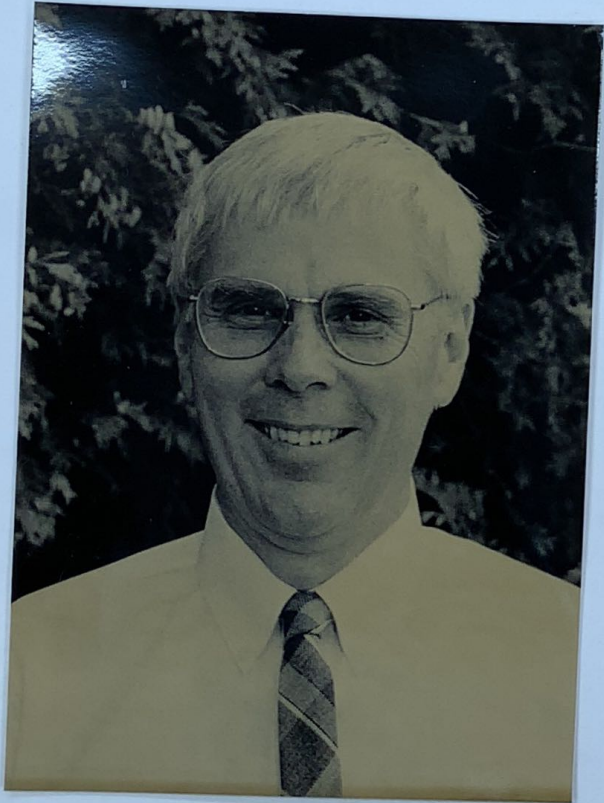


Photo by Paul Turley

DR. ROGER J. ADAMS  
PAGEANT PRESIDENT

Dr. Adams was appointed President of the Hill Cumorah Pageant in 1987 by Church leaders in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Adams is a resident of Pittsford, New York, and Professor of Art History at Nazareth College of Rochester. He came to Nazareth after 17 years at SUNY Brockport, five years with Disney Studios as a cartoonist, and two years as a producer of television commercials in New York City.

He holds both B.A. and Master's degrees from Brigham Young University. He received his Ph.D. from Penn State University. He is married and the father of eight children.

# DIRECTION

DR. JERRY ARGETSINGER  
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

A local resident, Dr. Argetsinger is the Hill Cumorah Pageant's first east coast Production Director in the Pageant's 54 year history.

Argetsinger is an Associate Professor of Dramatic Literature at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He is a well-known area collegiate and community theatre director, an accomplished magician and author.

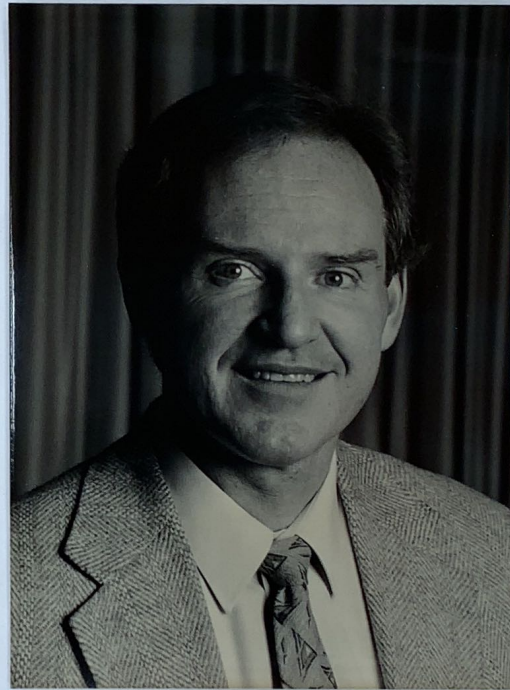


Photo by Paul Turley

He received his B.A. in Theater from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in Dramaturgy from Bowling Green State University. He is married and has two children.

# SCRIPT ♦ STAGING



Photo by Paul Turley

ORSON SCOTT CARD  
SCRIPT WRITER

A resident of Greensboro, North Carolina, Card is the recipient of three Hugos and two Nebula awards back-to-back for his fiction writing. He earned a B.A. from Brigham Young University and his Master's degree in Literature from the University of Utah. He is best known for his historical novels that include "Tales of Alvin Maker," "Seventh Son," "Red Prophet" and "Prentice Alvin".

ERIC FIELDING  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

The Production Designer for the Hill Cumorah Pageant, Fielding is a freelance set designer. He is best known for his work at the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago, where he received his Master's degree. Fielding has worked with the Denver Center Theatre company as well as the Utah and Colorado Shakespearean Festivals. He is a resident of Orem, Utah, and is the father of two children.



Photo by Paul Turley

# MUSIC

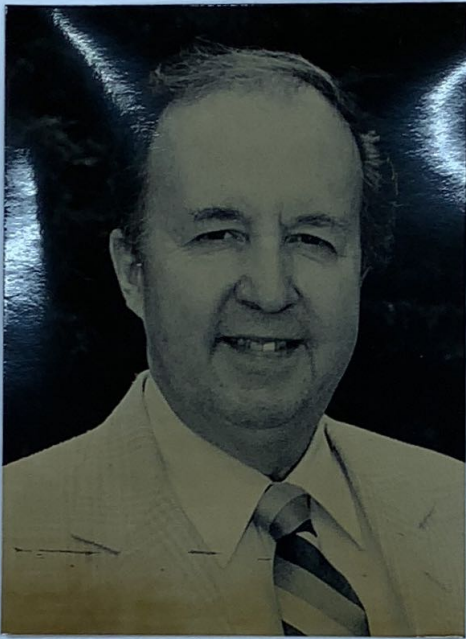


Photo by Paul Turley

## CRAWFORD GATES

ASCAP Award-winning composer/director, Crawford Gates, has over 100 of his works in publication, and has made five commercial recordings.

He received his Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and holds a B.A. from San Jose State College and his Master's from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Gates is currently the Music Director of the Beloit-Jamesville Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin. Until recently, he had served in the same capacity with the Rockville Symphony Orchestra in Illinois, concurrently. Gates has also served on the faculties of two universities as Music Department Chairman. He is married and the father of four children.

## THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR

This renowned organization traces its origins back to early Utah pioneer days. The Choir is known and loved by millions worldwide for its radio and television broadcasts, recording, film and concert tours; but particularly for "Music and the Spoken Word," the longest continuous nationwide radio broadcast in history.

One of the world's most respected choirs, it has performed before monarchs and presidents; at world's fairs and expositions; in 18 countries outside the U.S.

## THE UTAH SYMPHONY

Now in its 51st year, the Utah Symphony is numbered among America's major orchestras. A respected music critic in "Fortune" magazine wrote that the Utah Symphony is one of the nation's top twelve orchestras.

The symphony has made more than 130 commercial recordings and has concertized in 23 foreign countries during six major international tours.

## THE SALT LAKE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Salt Lake Children's Choir consists of two performing ensembles, totaling 90 selected boys and girls, ages eight to fifteen.

Founded in 1979, the Choir has been noted for its cultivation of the natural beauty of young voices and for the high standards of its repertoire.

# THE FACTS

## THE PRODUCTION

The Hill Cumorah Pageant is the oldest and largest outdoor production in America.

The Pageant opens its 54th season July 12th, with additional performances at dusk, around 9:15 pm on July 13 and 16-20.

It chronicles the rise and fall of ancient civilizations on the American continent, their spiritual struggles, and the visitation of Jesus Christ among them.

The script is adapted from the Book of Mormon, which was translated from records found buried in the Hill Cumorah on metal plates.

The script is written by award-winning author, Orson Scott Card.

The score is by distinguished composer and conductor, Crawford Gates.

Music is performed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Salt Lake City Children's Choir and the Utah Symphony Orchestra.

Interpreters for the hearing-impaired are provided, as well as special seating for the handicapped.

There is no charge for admission or parking, and no tickets are required. Seating for ten thousand is available in the natural amphitheatre, with additional space for ten thousand more on lawn chairs or blankets.

## THE CAST

Over 600 cast members, 30 work crew members, and some 40 administrative staff members from all parts of the U.S. and Canada volunteer their time, and pay their own expenses to make this production a success.

Over 65 children under the age of 13 take part with their families.

All 600 are cast the first day. Rehearsals begin the next day, giving the cast only one week to learn their parts.

(continued)

## COSTUMES

All costumes are handmade of natural fiber materials, linen, wool, silk, leather, real fur, real brass and real deer antlers.

Beards and wigs are also handmade, strand by strand.

Costumes, beards and wigs are stored in a specially designed building to preserve them between seasons.

## STAGES

Seven modular stages cover half the area of a football field.

Their stone-like face in the Meso-American motif is made from vacuum-formed ABS plastic (the kind used in luggage).

Decking is 4' x 4' fiberglass grating, normally used in chemical or industrial plants.

The super structure rests on galvanized steel legs that are seated into 106 concrete footings in the hill itself, all tied together by a gridwork of aluminum beams. The modular stages are disassembled and stored year after year, restoring the natural beauty of the hill at the close of each season. The front stage is rigged with a hydraulically-operated mast and sail that are raised to transform the stage into a boat.

## LIGHTS

Ten light towers, from 30 to 50 feet in height, are positioned on the hill, holding 500 lighting instruments that include high intensity spots and lasers.

For each performance, the lights draw 500,000 watts of electricity through an on-site power sub-station that had to be built just to supply the stage lighting system.

## SOUND

State-of-the-art cluster speakers are in 12 groups, plus huge speaker horns that were developed in the 1950's by the father of stereophonic sound, Harvey Fletcher.

The earthquake sounds are so realistic that spectators imagine that they feel the quakes!

Sound is recorded in state-of-the-art digital recording.

## HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT INFORMATION

Last year, over 100,000 people from as far away as Australia attended the renowned Hill Cumorah religious Pageant outside Palmyra, New York.

Every year, over 800 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) donate their vacation time and gather at the Hill Cumorah to rehearse and perform what is acclaimed as America's number one outdoor Pageant.

Six hundred brilliantly costumed performers move and lip-sync to a pre-recorded sound track that includes 25 speaking parts and the singing voices of the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Performed every year since 1937, the Pageant has grown from a simple little show to an outdoor theatrical production unmatched for its size and special effects.

Four years ago a master plan was created to launch a totally new show. Since then the Pageant has been entirely rescripted, restaged and recostumed. And this year, more new special effects have been added to the production.

The new Pageant uses high-tech special effects and recordings, over 500 lights on ten 50-foot towers and an incredible outdoor sound system with dozens of speakers, some nearly seven feet across. Altogether, the lighting and sound system require up to 500,000 watts of electricity per performance.

The pre-show costume parade plus the performance last one hour and ten minutes and will be performed seven times this year at dusk, around 9:15 pm.

Pageant performances are seven times. Friday, July 12th, Saturday, July 13th, and Tuesday, July 16th, through Saturday, July 20th. (There will be no performances on Sunday, July 14th, or Monday, July 15th.)

The Hill Cumorah Pageant is free to the public. There are no charges for the show, seating or parking. And, the hillside can accommodate an audience of about 20,000 people for each performance.