

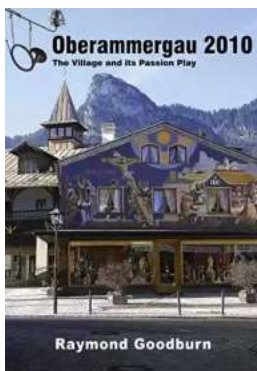
Oberammergau 2010: The Village and its Passion Play



Nestled in the picturesque Bavarian Alps, the quaint village of Oberammergau has been captivating visitors for centuries. While its charming Bavarian architecture, breathtaking landscapes, and warm hospitality draw tourists from around the world, it is the Passion Play that truly sets Oberammergau apart. The year 2010 was a particularly momentous one for the village, as it celebrated the 41st installment of the world-renowned Oberammergau Passion Play. In this article, we delve into the fascinating history of the play, its significance, and the unforgettable experience it offers to all those fortunate enough to witness it.

The Origins of the Passion Play

The roots of the Oberammergau Passion Play date back to the year 1634. At that time, Europe was ravaged by the bubonic plague, with Oberammergau being severely affected. In desperation, the villagers made a vow to perform a Passion Play every ten years if their village was spared from further devastation. Miraculously, the plague spared Oberammergau, and the villagers kept their promise by staging the first Passion Play in 1634. What began as a humble expression of gratitude to God has since flourished into a grand theatrical spectacle cherished by millions.



Oberammergau 2010: The Village and Its Passion Play by Paul Merchant (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 11246 KB
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 99 pages
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A Spectacle of Faith and Talent

The Passion Play of Oberammergau is a monumental production that involves the participation of over 2,000 villagers, including actors, musicians, stagehands, costume designers, and many others. The open-air stage, nestled against the backdrop of the Bavarian Alps, provides a spectacular setting for the performance. The play itself tells the story of the last days of Jesus Christ, from his entry to Jerusalem to the crucifixion and resurrection. The intense emotions,

powerful performances, and mesmerizing musical compositions make this spectacle a unique and unforgettable experience for both the cast and the audience.



A Community Effort

What makes the Oberammergau Passion Play truly special is the remarkable level of community involvement. In order to participate in the play, a person must be either born in Oberammergau or have lived there for at least 20 years. This ensures a deep connection between the performers and the play they bring to life. Rehearsals begin nearly two years before the performance, with the actors devoting countless hours to perfecting their roles and understanding the historical and religious significance behind them. The dedication and commitment of the entire village are palpable, creating an atmosphere of authenticity and passion that resonates with every audience member.

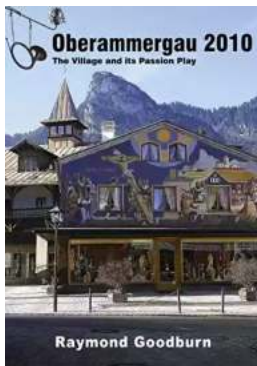
A Global Audience

The Oberammergau Passion Play attracts visitors from every corner of the globe who gather to witness this extraordinary event. The years leading up to each performance see a surge in tourism, with people from various cultures and backgrounds crossing borders to be part of this unique celebration of faith and artistry. The play is conducted in German, but simultaneous translations are available in multiple languages, ensuring that everyone can understand and appreciate the profound beauty of the performance.

Legacy and Lasting Impact

The tradition of the Oberammergau Passion Play continues to thrive, captivating audiences and inspiring countless hearts. Every decade, Oberammergau becomes the epicenter of faith, art, and cultural exchange, inviting people from all walks of life to embark on a spiritual journey like no other. For the villagers, the play serves as a powerful reminder of their heritage, fostering a deep connection not only to their own history but also to the wider global community. It is a testament to the enduring power of art, faith, and the relentless pursuit of human expression.

Oberammergau 2010 represents a pinnacle in the history of the Passion Play, a testament to the unwavering commitment of an entire village and the world's enduring fascination with this unique theatrical event. The combination of faith, talent, community, and global unity makes Oberammergau an unmissable experience for all those who seek a profound connection with history, spirituality, and the beauty of human expression.



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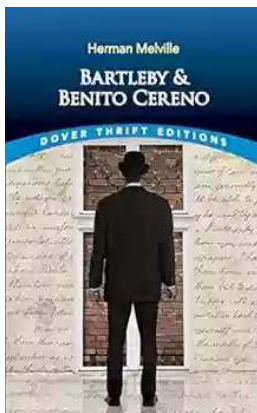
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This book was produced for the Passion Play in 2010, and can trace its format back to guides that were published for the 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 Plays. It is concise, informative and full of colour. It covers all of the historical background

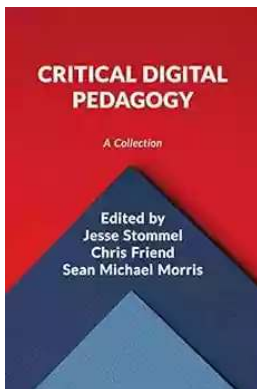
and traditions, from the first Passion Play to be performed in Oberammergau in 1634 up to the present day. The Text, Music, Tableaux and Stage Sets, the Theatre, and the key people who direct, design and perform the Play. The changes that have been made in recent Plays, particularly to the Text and staging.

There is a tour of this beautiful alpine village with Plan, and brief descriptions of visits that can be made in the surrounding area. Finally, there is a Synopsis of the Passion Play. Illustrated throughout with pictures from past performances.



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