

The greatest story ever told

CMP/8/20/80

THANK you Chester!

On behalf of the trustees of the Chester Mystery Plays company, may I once again express my sincere thanks to the thousands of people from our local community who have supported the 2013 cycle of the Mystery Plays? Whilst we are delighted to welcome so many people from all over the United Kingdom and overseas, it is to the people of Chester that the plays properly belong.

We have played to approximately 11,000 people for 19 performances, a large percentage coming from within a 40-mile radius of Chester.

Our new cathedral indoor venue has proved very popular; the media interest has been greater than ever before, our press coverage and subsequent national reviews amazing and we have achieved our very own BBC *Songs of Praise* which they have aptly named *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, and indeed it is.

The moment I personally will treasure was at the end of the first preview performance when the entire, full to capacity, audience rose to its feet as one to give the cast what they truly deserved, a unanimous standing ovation!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT:
Nicholas Fry as God with local children in the 2013 production of the Chestery Mystery Plays.

Picture: NEIL KENDALL

However, whilst national coverage has been immensely gratifying, it has been the loyal and sustained support of our local press, in particular the

Chester Chronicle and our very own Radio Station Dee 106.3 who have helped to keep us in the public eye for the last six months and done so much to foster our large audiences.

Finally congratulations and thanks to every single one of the playing and supporting company who have achieved so much. Also to our administrative, artistic and technical professionals who have worked tirelessly with us to make this production the success it has been.

Nor can I close without thanking publicly all our sponsors whose generosity has made the 2013 cycle possible and the dean and chapter for entrusting the cathedral to us for six weeks and tolerating the upheaval which has inevitably occurred. In the words of one of our patrons, "What you lose on the outside performance you more than gain in the unique setting of the Cathedral. The lighting was simply amazing and created such a magical feeling".

The next full production of the Chester Mystery Plays will be in the summer of 2018.

JO SYKES
Chairman, Chester Mystery Plays Limited