

The Passion: The perfect play?

Video transcript: Living the story, narrated by Bill Turnbull.

The story of a lowly carpenter from Nazareth is one of the most influential of all time.

It's spread around the globe, touched people of almost every culture, and led to the world's biggest religion with more than two billion followers.

It's a tale that has been told from the first Christian age to the digital age.

What is it then, about this story that makes it so popular?

At its heart is a struggle between good and evil, led by a strong character that the audience can relate to.

It has a gripping narrative with highs and lows leading to a key moment of change and resolution which leaves the audience with hope.

It is, quite literally, dramatic.

So it's no wonder that the final few days of Jesus' life, the real climax of the story, have inspired theatrical interpretations called Passion Plays that have been performed for a thousand years.

Just what is the 'Passion' then, and how has it developed from biblical text to performance art and, even these days, to the cinema screen.