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MASSIVE POMPEII EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT THE REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

OCTOBER 6, 2018 – APRIL 21, 2019

ADVANCE TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Media can download select images at: <http://media.reaganfoundation.org>
Additional photos are available upon request.

(SIMI VALLEY, Calif.) – Around mid-morning on August 24, 79 A.D., Mount Vesuvius erupted. Molten rock and pumice were expelled from the volcano at a rate of 1.5 million tons per second. Rocks and volcanic ash filled the atmosphere, turning day into night. Within 24 hours, the Roman city of Pompeii lay destroyed – and perfectly preserved – under 15 feet of ash and volcanic debris. Now come experience both the splendor of Ancient Rome when Pompeii bustled as a commercial port and strategic military and trading city and the horror and aftermath of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum’s all new exhibition, *Pompeii*.

“This extraordinary exhibition takes you back in time to vividly experience what it was like to live in Pompeii over 2,000 years ago,” said John Heubusch, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “Through the use of authentic artifacts, visitors to the Reagan Library will encounter life in the bustling city of Pompeii before time stopped, and then, through the use of a 4-D Eruption Theater, will feel the gravity of thousands of deaths, frozen in time.”

Opening on October 6, 2018, *Pompeii* features over 150 authentic artifacts on loan from the renowned Naples National Archaeological Museum in Italy. These are not replicas, but rather original, 2,000-year-old objects that were preserved in the ash. These artifacts include wall-sized frescos, marble and bronze sculptures, jewelry, ancient Roman coins, and full body casts of the volcano’s victims.

Editor’s Note: Additional photos available upon request.

These artifacts, set in scenic depictions of their original surroundings, tell the tale of the bustling city of Pompeii, hidden from view and forgotten for centuries until its rediscovery over 250 years ago. The catastrophic power of volcanoes is also illustrated through an immersive 4-D CGI experience of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The impact and devastation are evidenced by full body casts (plaster casts made from the hollows left in the ash that hardened around the now disintegrated bodies of the victims, found upon excavation), eerily preserved in their final moments.

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- Introductory theater where the scene is set in a video with dramatic reconstructions that describes Pompeii and the nearby volcano.
- Visitors are then transported back in time to 79 A.D. and find themselves in a reproduced atrium from a Roman villa, where they will embark on a journey through the ancient city.
- Through the use of projections, audio, video, photographic murals, and graphic reproductions of frescoes and mosaics, visitors will experience different locations that existed in the city, including a market, a temple, theater, and baths.
- Over 150 authentic artifacts will help bring the story of Pompeii to life. These remarkable objects include: mosaics and frescoes, gladiator helmets, armor, and weapons, a ship's anchor, lamps, jugs, cups, plates, pots and pans and other household objects and furniture, jewelry, medical instruments, and tools.
- A 4D Eruption Theater will allow visitors to experience the impact Mount Vesuvius had on this ancient city.
- The culminating experience of the exhibit is a room with body casts of human forms forever frozen in time.

This not-to-be-missed exhibition is thrilling for adults and appropriate for the whole family.

For more information and to pre-purchase tickets, please visit www.reaganlibrary.com/pompeii.

The Reagan Library is located at 40 Presidential Drive in Simi Valley, California. Public hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Museum is only closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. For Museum Admission fees, please visit www.reaganlibrary.com. As large crowds are expected to view the exhibition, pre-purchased timed-entry tickets are recommended by visiting www.reaganlibrary.com/tickets. For more information, call (800) 410.8354 or visit www.reaganlibrary.com/pompeii.

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About The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the sole nonprofit organization created by President Reagan charged with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy, and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion, and the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation's mission in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It now also serves as the final resting place of America's 40th President and his first lady. www.reaganfoundation.org

About Naples National Archaeological Museum

A world class museum located in the heart of the city, the National Archaeological Museum of Naples houses one of the most important collections of classical archaeology in the world. Set in the massive 16th century palace Palazzo degli Studi, the museum was founded by Ferdinand IV in 1777. Formed from the discoveries from the Vesuvian Excavations which were at the time exhibited in Museo Herculaneum in the Royal Palace at Portici and his family's extensive collection of art and Roman antiquities, the Farnese collection, today the museum holds over three million objects of archaeological and historic importance. MANN boasts the richest and most valuable collection of artworks and artifacts of archaeological interest in Italy and is considered one of the most important archaeological museums in the world, if not the most important concerning Pompeii's history.

About IMG

IMG is a global leader in sports, fashion, events and media, operating in more than 30 countries. The company manages some of the world's greatest sports figures and fashion icons; stages hundreds of live events and branded entertainment experiences annually; and is a leading independent producer and distributor of sports and entertainment media. IMG also specializes in sports training and league development, as well as marketing, media and licensing for brands, sports organizations and collegiate institutions. IMG is part of the Endeavor (formerly WME | IMG) network.

