

CONTACT: To schedule an interview, call: Lynne Campbell or Shauna Whitlock of Special Guests at: 630-848-0750. Television inquires: Jerry McGlothlin, 212-699-2518.

# KING TUT UNMASKED

## And Egypt's Other Antiquities Preserved Thousands of Years



King Tut's preserved face has just been unwrapped and going on display for the first time in more than 3000 years! How is that possible?

To put matters in perspective, come April 15, 2008, many of us will be straining at badly faded restaurant receipts printed on thermo fax paper that are barely readable by us or the IRS.

So, how on earth were Egyptians able to preserve flesh and bones for over 3000 years? And, perhaps an even more important question is: "With all the wars and turnovers of different government regimes in the Middle East over the millennia, how is it that these antiquities were not lost or destroyed?"

Conducting Talk Show interviews answering these questions and more is bestselling author and investigate journalist PAUL PERRY and Producer NORMAN MILES.

During your interview, Paul Perry, who recently returned to the United States from Egypt, shares findings from Egypt's antiquities chief Zahi Hawass, who concluded that King Tut most likely died from a badly broken left thigh, leading to an infection that claimed the young King's life (See article below.)

King Tut has fascinated the world ever since British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the mummy 85 years ago. In 2005, scientists removed Tut's mummy from his tomb and placed it into a portable CT scanner for 15 minutes to obtain a three-dimensional image, the first ever made of an Egyptian mummy. The CT scan also provided the most revealing insight yet into Tut's life. He was well-fed and healthy, but slight, standing 5 feet, 6 inches tall at the time of his death. The scan also showed that King Tut had buck-teeth, an overbite characteristic of other kings from his family lineage.

Your audience will be further fascinated as Perry and Miles compare and contrast history's two most famous boy leaders with roots in Egypt: King Tutankhamun (a.k.a. King Tut), who ascended to the throne of Egypt at eight years old, and the boy Jesus, who lived in Egypt for five years after his family fled from King Herod.

## **What Does King Tutankhamun of Egypt have in common with Jesus of Nazareth?**

The both lived in Egypt as children. The historical connection between these two historical figures is remarkable. Exactly 400 years after the end of King Tut's reign over Egypt in 1324 B.C., another fascinating Pharaoh ruled until 924 B.C., Pharaoh Shesonk. During Shesonk's rule, the city of Bubastis was the capitol of Ancient Egypt.

So, what's so big about Bubastis? This short-lived capitol of Egypt had the dubious distinction of being named after the Cat Goddess Bastet, from which the city's name of Bubastis was derived. Many ancient Egyptians worshipped this feline in an annual festival that included ritual intoxication and promiscuous sex. About one thousand years later, Egyptian historians recorded that a field of idols of the Cat Goddess Bastet were knocked down by an angry Hebrew child named Jesus. Another Egyptian historical record that was preserved is "Jesus' Well," that still exists to day in Egypt, the very site believed to have been created by the finger of child Jesus.

Chronicling these extraordinary events is the documentary film, "Jesus: The Lost Years," written by Paul Perry. Executive Producer Norm Miles said, "This extraordinary film shows sites and tells stories about Jesus that are virtually unknown outside of Egypt." Documented in the film is what Egyptians refer to as "The Holiest Site in Egypt," the first ever footage shown in the West of the altar at Deir Muharraq, a stone from Pharaonic ruins believed to have been the bed of Jesus for the time the Holy Family lived in this desert outpost. Historical Researcher John de Bry has determined that this altar has not been tampered with in modern time, and that early Christian worshippers used stones from Pharaonic temples to enclose shelter and protect this altar.

Also featured are "The Visions of Assiut and Zeitoun." Jesus: The Lost Years contains photos of visions witnessed by millions at the Cairo church of Zeitoun and a never-before-seen color photo of a vision taken by Perry at the spot in the town of Assiut where the Holy Family started its return to Israel.

Historical Researcher John de Bry examined all archaeological sites of the Holy Family trail and was able to date cultural material to the time of Christ. Although de Bry could not determine with 100% certainty how the temple and idols of Tell Basta were toppled, he, along with a number of archaeologists, place credence in the oral traditions attributing the toppling of the idols to the child Jesus.

Paul Perry shares his fascinating experiences in Egypt of how he teamed with internationally acclaimed Historical Researcher John de Bry and filmmaker Marlin Darrah to traverse the sands of Egypt, following the Holy Family's actual route, a path that stretched nearly 1,000 miles across the burning sands of the Sinai Desert and down the verdant Nile. It was on the Holy Family Trail, a route outlined by Egyptian Christians and officially certified as authentic in 2000, where Perry heard powerful stories of medical miracles and impressive visions. "Jesus left a trail of miracles that were followed like bread crumbs by King Herod's soldiers in hot pursuit," Perry says.

## **ABOUT YOUR GUEST EXPERT SPEAKERS...**

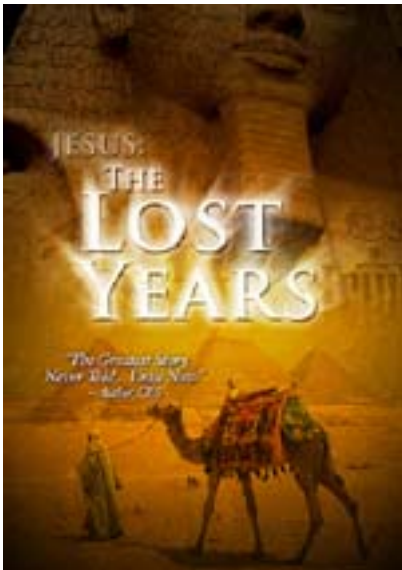
### **Paul Perry: Documentary Writer, Producer and Host**

PAUL PERRY is the co-author of several New York Times bestsellers, including the Closer to the Light series and Saved by the Light, which was made into a popular movie by FOX Entertainment. His books have been published in more than 30 languages around the world, while his work has appeared in National Geographic Adventure, Ladies Home Journal, Outside Magazine, Reader's Digest, among others. He's participated in a number of archaeological expeditions, including a Discovery Channel expedition in Madagascar to find the sunken flagship of Captain William Kidd, the 18th century English pirate. A graduate of the MFA program at Antioch University and of Arizona State University, Perry is a former fellow at the Gannett Center for Media Studies at Columbia University in New York City. He lives in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

### **Norman A. Miles**

NORM MILES, founder of Bent Pyramid Productions, LLC, was the point person instrumental in sending the production crew to Egypt that filmed the historic documentary film "Jesus: The Lost Years." Norman has enjoyed well established relationships with The National Geographic Channel and has been on the cutting edge of documentary film making as a conduit between teams in the United States and Egypt. When Norm Miles isn't scaling pyramids in Egypt, he is a professional financial planner residing in Syracuse, New York.

## **ABOUT THE FILM...**



Jesus: The Lost Years, a documentary film based on the book Jesus in Egypt by New York Times bestselling author Paul Perry, seeks the answers, and unveils fascinating insights into "the greatest story never told."

Intrigued that only three years of Jesus' life are presented in the Bible, the plight of the Holy Family in Egypt became Perry's obsession—he interviewed dozens of people, from document specialists, priests and bishops to Egypt's Coptic Pope—and began studying ancient texts to piece together the unknown.

"There are no stories in the Bible about what Jesus did in the five years he was in Egypt, but I knew that such stories existed in the form of oral tradition and stories written outside of the Bible," says writer Paul Perry.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE MAY BE HELPFUL FOR SHOW PREP:

## **Egypt Puts King Tut on Public Display**

ASSOCIATED PRESS/ Nov 4, 2007

By ANNA JOHNSON

LUXOR, Egypt (AP) - King Tut's buck-toothed face was unveiled Sunday for the first time in public - more than 3,000 years after the youngest and most famous pharaoh to rule ancient Egypt was shrouded in linen and buried in his golden underground tomb.

Archeologists carefully lifted the fragile mummy out of a quartz sarcophagus decorated with stone-carved protective goddesses, momentarily pulling aside beige covering to reveal a leathery black body.

The linen was then replaced over Tut's narrow body so only his face and tiny feet were exposed, and the 19-year-old king, whose life and death has captivated people for nearly a century, was moved to a simple glass climate-controlled case to keep it from turning to dust.

"I can say for the first time that the mummy is safe and the mummy is well preserved, and at the same time, all the tourists who will enter this tomb will be able to see the face of Tutankhamun for the first time," Egypt's antiquities chief Zahi Hawass said from inside the hot and sticky tomb. "The face of the golden boy is amazing. It has magic and it has mystery," he added.

Hawass said scientists began restoring the badly damaged mummy more than two years ago. Much of the body is broken into 18 pieces - damage sustained when British archaeologist Howard Carter first discovered it 85 years ago, took it from its tomb and tried to pull off the famous golden mask, Hawass said.

But experts fear a more recent phenomenon - mass tourism - is further deteriorating Tut's mummy. Thousands of tourists visit the underground chamber every month, and Hawass said within 50 years the mummy could dissolve into dust.

"The humidity and heat caused by ... people entering the tomb and their breathing will change the mummy to a powder. The only good thing (left) in this mummy is the face. We need to preserve the face," said Hawass, who wore his signature Indiana Jones-style tan hat.

The mystery surrounding King Tutankhamun - who ruled during the 18th dynasty and ascended to the throne at age 8 - and his glittering gold tomb has entranced ancient Egypt fans since Carter first discovered the hidden tomb, revealing a trove of fabulous gold and precious stone treasures and propelling the once-forgotten pharaoh into global stardom.

He wasn't Egypt's most powerful or important king, but his staggering treasures, rumors of a mysterious curse that plagued Carter and his team - debunked by experts long ago - and several books and TV documentaries dedicated to Tut have added to his intrigue.

Archeologists in recent years have tried to resolve lingering questions over how he died and his precise royal lineage. In 2005, scientists removed Tut's mummy from his tomb and placed it into a portable CT scanner for 15 minutes to obtain a three-dimensional image. The scans were the first done on an Egyptian mummy.

The results ruled out that Tut was violently murdered - but stopped short of definitively concluding how he died around 1323 B.C. Experts, including Hawass, suggested that days before dying, Tut badly broke his left thigh, an apparent accident that may have resulted in a fatal infection.

The CT scan also provided the most revealing insight yet into Tut's life. He was well-fed and healthy, but slight, standing 5 feet, 6 inches tall at the time of his death. The scan also showed he had the overbite characteristic of other kings from his family, large incisor teeth and his lower teeth were slightly misaligned.

The unveiling of Tut's mummy comes amid a resurgence in the frenzy over the boy king. A highly publicized museum exhibit traveling the globe drew more than 4 million people during its initial four-city American-leg of the tour. The exhibit will open Nov. 15 in London and later will make a three-city encore tour in the U.S. beginning with the Dallas Museum of Art.

The Egyptian tourism industry is hoping to capitalize on that interest and draw tourists to Luxor to see something they couldn't in traveling exhibit - the mummy itself.

The number of tourists who visit Tut's tomb is expected to double to 700 a day now that the mummy will be on display indefinitely, said Mostafa Wazery, who heads the Valley of the Kings for Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. Most of Egypt's other identified mummies are on display in museums in Luxor and Cairo.

But not every tourist was eager to find out that Tut's mummy was being moved to a modern, see-through case.

"I really think he should be left alone in quiet, in peace," said British tourist Bob Philpotts after viewing Tut's tomb before the mummy was moved on Sunday. "This is his resting place, and he should be left (there)."

Hawass said experts will begin another project to determine the pharaoh's precise royal lineage. It is unclear if he is the son or a half brother of Akhenaten, the "heretic" pharaoh who introduced a revolutionary form of monotheism to ancient Egypt and was the son of Amenhotep III.

Sunday's unveiling ensured the boy pharaoh would remain eternal, said Hawass.

"I can assure you that putting this mummy in this case, this showcase, can make the golden boy live forever," he said. © 2007 Associated Press