

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Marketing Coordinator

PR@renaissancefest.com

952-445-7361

JOUST DO IT!

SHAKOPEE, Minn., (January 13, 2014) – Each year, approximately 280,000 visitors from all over the Midwest experience the action and excitement of the Joust Track at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, the country’s largest renaissance themed festival.

King Henry and his court invite one and all to his 16th Century European village featuring his prized Joust Track. Each day at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. during the Festival, nearly 5,000 lively visitors cheer as armored knights of the Realm mounted on horses face off in a traditional, live-action joust.

The sport of jousting began in 1066 as a way for knights to practice their horsemanship and show off their skills with the lance. It later became a way to settle judicial disputes. The victorious knight was seen to have God on his side, therefore not guilty. It also was a way for a knight to quickly make a name for himself and earn large sums of money.

As the sport of jousting became more popular and less brutal, the laws and rules became more complex. This is where the idea of chivalry came into play. A knight would choose a beautiful, married, lady whose husband was of higher ranking than the knight. He then fought in her honor.

With the utmost intensity, the knight faced the other opponent and tried to knock him off his horse with the lance. In the end, the joust became a test of physical strength for both the horse and the knight. Jousting is now extremely popular with Renaissance festivals across the country, mainly in part from its rich historical significance and exhilarating, edge-of-your-seat action.

The New Riders of the Golden Age from War Horse Farm will again join the cast of the 41st annual Minnesota Renaissance Festival. The use of period designed tilting armor differentiates the New Riders from their staged theatrical medieval joust counterparts by allowing them to engage in an authentic full contact joust. The lance passes are authentic and made of genuine

solid pine and neither cut nor scored to assist in their breaking. When the lance meets its target and splinters into pieces is when the New Riders and the audience truly find out what it means to be a knight.

The Minnesota Renaissance Festival is a first-class experience whose 44th season begins on Saturday, August 16 and ends on September 28, 2014. The Festival is open weekends, Labor Day and a special day for schools and seniors on Festival Friday, September 26, 2014 open from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., rain or shine. The Festival is located seven miles south of Shakopee on Hwy 169. Admission at the gate: Adults \$22.95; Children 5 – 12 \$13.95; seniors \$20.95; four and under are free! Discount tickets are sold at participating Walgreens, Menards, Whole Foods Market and Super America stores. Discount coupons are available at participating Subway and Papa Murphy's locations. For more information, visit www.renaissancefest.com or call 952-445-7361.

-XXX-