

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 04 | Matthias Degryse from Pixiedust.be | December 18, 2018

In this series of Q&A's, Capturing Disney Parks introduces you to some of the biggest and most iconic Disney Parks fans sharing the magic on their social media, video platform, blog, vlog, podcast, or website. Questions by Niels van Eijkelenburg.

Q 01 | THE ICON

Please introduce yourself to our readers.

I'm Matthias from Belgium. My very first visit to Disneyland Paris was in 1994. I was around 16 years old and I visited Disneyland Paris only once or twice a year. Starting a website was the perfect glue between those visits. I started my own website in 1998 as "Matt's Disneyland Paris Page". I bought my first Disneyland Paris Annual Pass in 2000, the year I received my driving license.



Picture provided by Matthias Degryse

Q 02 | THE PARKS

Which Disney Parks have you experienced, and which one do you consider your 'home' Park?

I have been to Disneyland Paris 237 times and 6 times to Walt Disney World in Florida. As I live in Belgium, Disneyland Paris is of course my home park. I'm planning a 7th trip to Walt Disney World in 2019 and also my first trip to Disneyland in California.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

I have a website, YouTube channel, Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. <http://pixiedust.be> (links to all platforms can be found on website).

Q 04 | THE FORMAT

Tell us something about the format of your online platform(s), how it all started, which Disney Parks you cover, and why you love to put such a lot of effort in those activities.

I started in 1998 when I was still a teenager and after all those years the whole 'Disney Fan Media thing' became a part of my life. When I started, the internet was not what it is today. There were no social media channels or YouTube. So, a lot has changed during all those years.

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

I knew Disney from the Animated Classics like everyone. But for me it all started when I visited Disneyland Paris (Euro Disney) in 1994 for the first time. I was fascinated by the park and resort. But at that time, it was hard to collect information and documentation as there was no internet. The only thing that existed in that time was a seasonal brochure from a travel agent. So, I wrote letters to all kind of Disney offices and parks around the world to receive all kinds of documents. They always sent me something back. I received documentation from Tokyo Disneyland, Disneyland Anaheim, and Walt Disney World (books, brochures, park maps, ...).

Q 06 | THE TRIPS

How many times/days a year do you visit Disney Parks (estimate)? And how many days are most of your trips?

The absolute minimum is 12 times a year, so once a month. But most of the months it's more than 1 visit. It depends on what's on the agenda in Disneyland Paris. During seasons like Halloween or Christmas it can be almost every week or every 2 weeks. I don't do 1-day trips often anymore, most of the trips are 2 or 3 days. My longest trip was 9 days, during the launch of the 25th Anniversary.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

Please name your favorite Disney attractions, parades, or shows.

I can't really answer this one. The only thing I can say is that I love Disney dark rides most (Phantom Manor, Pirates of the Caribbean, It's a Small World, ...). Shows: I like all shows, but I prefer shows in covered theaters instead of standing outside with bad viewing. Favorite parades are night time parades like "The Main Street Electrical Parade".

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

What's your most memorable Disney Parks moment? Tell us all about it please!

The most memorable Disney Parks moments are always your very first visits. The first-time seeing Disneyland Paris with your own eyes and the first time realizing that you are in Walt Disney World. After visiting Disney Parks for almost 25 years, I have a lot of memories and anecdotes, too much to list.

Q 09 | THE TIP

Do you have a tip or advise - about anything Disney Parks related - to share with our readers?

Be prepared! I see so much people walking around in Disney Parks and they don't have a clue where they are, or where to find something. It's easier than ever before (with all information on the internet) to know everything about Disney Parks even before you leave home. It will save a lot of time and a lot of stress. Not only for yourself but also for the people around you.

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

Make your choice! You have to choose one...

- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Characters | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attractions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Star Wars | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Marvel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parades | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nighttime spectaculars |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-site hotel | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Off-site hotel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual Pass | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animation | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Live-action |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pins | or | <input type="checkbox"/> TsumTsums |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FastPass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook |

THE END

I would like to thank Matthias Degryse for participating in this Q&A series. Hope you've enjoyed this episode. Until next time and have a magical day!



Niels van Eijkelenburg
owner of Capturing Disney Parks

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/capturingdisneyparks>

Twitter <https://www.twitter.com/captdisneyparks>

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