Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 06 | Richy from Disneygoff | February 12, 2019

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.

Hi I'm Richy! I run Disneygoff singlehandedly across all the channels and have been visiting Disney Parks all my life. Every day I write and post about the parks and try and provide interesting, insightful and unique content. I'm a huge character fan and would consider myself a 'character hunter', someone who actively seeks out rare characters, outfits and keeps track of their meets. I've currently as to date met 215 individual Disney characters and as for outfits... I lost count of that a long time ago! Aside from this though I'm a great fan of Imagineering details and also Disney and Disney Parks history.





Pictures provided by Richy

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

I'll go in order of me experiencing/visiting them:

- Parc Disneyland (Disneyland Paris)
- Magic Kingdom (Walt Disney World, Orlando)
- EPCOT (Walt Disney World, Orlando)



- Disney's Hollywood Studios (MGM at my 1st visit) (Walt Disney World, Orlando)
- Disney's Animal Kingdom (Walt Disney World, Orlando)
- Walt Disney Studios Park (Disneyland Paris)
- Disneyland Park (Disneyland Resort, Anaheim)
- Disney California Adventure (Disneyland Resort, Anaheim)

I've visited Blizzard Beach and Typhoon Lagoon too if you count them (both waterparks at Walt Disney World, Orlando).

My home park or resort would definitely be Disneyland Paris. I visit there the most and some of my earliest memories are from being in that place with things like the Main Street Electrical Parade etc. I've made so many friends through Disneyland Paris fans and cast alike and some I now consider some of my closest friends. I know pretty much every inch of the resort like the back of my hand amongst all the facts and trivia etc. so Paris is very special to me.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

On <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>YouTube</u> – all at Disneygoff plus The Disney Goffcast on Apple music, Spotify and all other podcasting channels.

I am also a guest every month on the ED92 Podcast!

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.

So it all started with Twitter just over four years ago. I had a personal twitter account but realized most of my followers at the time were my friends etc. who didn't really care about Disney etc. At the time I just followed a handful of accounts, so I decided to make a dedicated Disney-only account specifically to keep an eye on news and the community. Eventually after posting a few trips I decided to take it a bit more seriously and start really thinking about the content I was putting out and the ball got rolling from there. Fast forward a couple years and I was in partnership with Disneyland Paris' communications department prior to InsidEARS and then subsequently invited to join insidEARS on its launch day on April 12th last year (2018).

Between that time, I started a Facebook page also, mainly for just news about Disneyland Paris only and tried to streamline my content to being purely to help and inform people who may be planning trips. My Youtube is on a bit of a break at the moment but there are a few party videos up there etc. and I post daily on my Instagram. On all my platforms apart from Facebook I cover almost every Disney Park but mainly Disneyland Paris as a constant feed. I also cover Walt Disney World and Disneyland Resort in a little more depth than the Asian parks too.



Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

From as young as I can remember! I have been visiting the parks all my life and some of my earliest memories are from inside Disneyland Paris. I think my first trip to Disneyland Paris I was 2 or 3 and my first trip to Walt Disney World was when I was maybe 10 or 11. It wasn't until I was 22 that I visited Disneyland Resort, but the wait just made the payoff that extra special when I finally made it there. Disney has been a part of my life constantly up until now and I can see it continuing on that way while I'm still living and breathing!

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?

Last year I visited a Disney Resort at least once a month for the whole year. These trips usually lasted around 4 days on average for Disneyland Paris trips and around 9 days for my US trips.

I visited Disneyland Paris I believe 14 times last year, Walt Disney World twice and Disneyland Resort once.

This year my trips to Disneyland Paris are being sacrificed due to me having a lot of big trips coming up. I haven't actually visited Disneyland Paris yet this year but in around 20 days I'll be flying out to Disneyland Resort in California for their 90s Nite Party and also for the D23 10th Anniversary Party at the (real) Walt Disney Studios in Burbank! Later on in the year I'll also be visiting California again for both D23 expo and my birthday. That is gonna be around a three-week mega trip and I can't wait! I will have a few other surprise trips throughout the year also I'm sure!







Pictures provided by Richy

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

Attraction: Haunted Mansion, Pirates of the Caribbean, People Mover or the Tiki Room (tough to choose one)



Parade: Paint the Night or Main Street Electrical Parade

Shows: Fantasmic!, Let's Party Gras!, Rivers of Light

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

I have so many but I think the most impactful was walking into Disneyland for the first time. Entering under the left archway and passing by Walt's apartment above the firehouse and finally Sleeping Beauty Castle revealing itself as I turn past the Emporium. It was an incredible experience and a feeling I can't really articulate very well but if you remember your first ever visit to Disneyland you probably know the feeling I'm talking about. I don't think anything will ever be able to recreate that feeling. A close second for me would be getting to go up into Walt's private apartment. That was a very special moment.

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

If you haven't already, visit Disneyland (Anaheim). It's the best park in the world and no other even comes close. There is something beyond special about that place.

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

Make your choice! You have to choose one		
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Mickey	or	□ Donald
□ Characters	or	Attractions
Star Wars	or	☐ Marvel
□ Parades	or	☐ Nighttime spectaculars
	or	☐ Off-site hotel
	or	☐ Ticket
	or	☐ Live-action
⊠ Pins	or	☐ TsumTsums
☐ Early morning visits	or	
☐ PhotoPass	or	⊠ FastPass
☐ Jack Sparrow	or	☐ Captain Hook



Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

I love the detail you go into when posting (<u>Capturing Disney Parks Instagram</u>) about areas inside the parks. Details such as store fronts etc. is something I really like to see discussed and appreciated. How much research goes into making each post?

Niels: Thank you Richy! I'm glad you appreciate the details too. I love the effort Disney puts in storytelling – or actually story living / doing - in the Disney theme parks through detailed theming and landscaping. In my Instagram account I try to capture the full Disney Parks picture; attractions, shows, other entertainment, food, hotels, and special events in general but also pictures with special attention for Imagineering details including tips and fun facts in the descriptions. Some posts are pretty straightforward, others take some time to research. I read a lot of Disney Parks books, listen to a variety of Disney Parks related podcasts, research the web, and I took guided tours through both Disneyland Park and Walt Disney Studios Park. So usually I know what I want to take pictures of when visiting the parks or what to write about when creating a post.

THE END

I would like to thank Richy 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

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