

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 32 | Dan Heaton from The Tomorrow Society | October 24, 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.

My name is Dan Heaton, and I'm the host of the Tomorrow Society Podcast. On this one-on-one interview show, I talk with former Disney Imagineers, authors, filmmakers, podcasters, and other experts on theme parks. Essentially, my guests are smart people that love theme parks. I typically release episodes on Mondays every other week, with some additional shows when possible.



Pictures provided by Dan Heaton

I also write blog posts about both the history and what's happening today at Walt Disney World, Disneyland, and other theme parks. I'm especially interested in EPCOT Center, Tomorrowland, and the forward-thinking, optimistic view of the future of those spots. I live in St. Louis, Missouri in the US with my wife and two daughters.

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

I've visited Walt Disney World many times and have also been to the Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure a few times. We also visited Disneyland Paris once in 2006. I haven't been to Tokyo or the other parks in Asia, but I hope to get there someday. I don't have a single home park, though I've always loved Epcot. I've also started to get more interested in Disney's Animal Kingdom during my last few trips.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

You can access my blog and podcast at tomorrowsociety.com and listen to the podcast through Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and the other typical podcast apps. I'm on Twitter [@tomorrowsoc \(https://twitter.com/tomorrowsoc\)](https://twitter.com/tomorrowsoc), Facebook [@tomorrowsociety \(https://www.facebook.com/tomorrowsociety\)](https://www.facebook.com/tomorrowsociety), and Instagram [@tomorrowsociety \(https://www.instagram.com/tomorrowsociety\)](https://www.instagram.com/tomorrowsociety).

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.

My background is in journalism, and I used to write a lot about movies on various sites, including my film blog at ptsnob.com. As that blog started to wind down, I found myself writing more and more about Disney and theme parks. I started The Tomorrow Society in June 2015 as a blog to dive into theme parks, especially my interest in Epcot. It ended up expanding to a lot more to cover all the parks and more than just Disney, and I started the podcast a few months later. My interest in podcasting goes back to doing a show at my college radio station back in the late '90s. That was a music show focused on indie bands, but it started my interest in radio and talking on the mic.

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

My interest in the parks comes from visiting as a kid with my parents in the '80s and early '90s. My parents would drive down to Florida with me and my older brother and sister most Summers when I was a kid. The first trip that I remember is staying at the Polynesian when I was 4 in 1980. That trip is mostly just a few memories, and the first vacation to Walt Disney World that's clearer is when we first visited EPCOT Center when I was eight in 1984. I knew nothing about the Future World pavilions before we arrived and was blown away by the scale of it.

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?

Since we're in the middle of the country, we don't visit as often as many other fans. We've typically gone about once per year and stay somewhere between four days and a week.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

My favorite attraction at Walt Disney World today is "Splash Mountain", which brings together all of the different things I love about the parks (theming, music, thrills, charm) into one package. "The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror" is a close second for similar reasons. Looking all time and beyond what's there today, my all-time favorite attraction is "Horizons" from EPCOT Center.

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

I have to go back to the trip in 1984 when I was eight years old. I have a clear memory of stepping into the ride vehicle on "Spaceship Earth" and having no idea what was coming. It was eerie to see the caveman scene (which was quieter and a little scary in the first version) and have no idea what this attraction even was! I was hooked basically from that point until today.

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

I feel like there is so much great information out there about how to visit the parks, so I don't have a single tip that is going to change anyone's trip. The biggest thing that I've learned during my recent visits with kids is to actually slow down and not try to do so much. It's easy to fall into the trap of trying to maximize every second, and that only leads to disappointment. It's better to skip some attractions and have a great time rather than trying to check every box.

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Annual Pass | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animation | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live-action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pins | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TsumTsums |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits | or | <input checked="" 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 Dan for participating in this Q&A series. Hope you've enjoyed this episode. Until next time and have a magical day!



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