

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 50 | Liesje from @disneyliesje & @dlpclubhouse.podcast |
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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 Liesje and I am 29 years old. I live in Belgium in a town called Antwerp. I have been going to Disneyland Paris since I was six years old. However, I have only been an annual pass holder since the age of 21. I go to Disneyland Paris every 4 to 6 weeks. In Belgium I work as an account manager, but I also work as a photographer. As a photographer I shoot mostly weddings, lifestyle, portraits and family. I also shoot in Disneyland Paris. Do not hesitate to ask for my brochure and prices to set up a shoot in Disneyland Paris. I also run a Disney podcast with my good friend Andrea. Our podcast is called "DLP clubhouse podcast" and every Friday we launch an episode on Disneyland Paris. We try to go as often as possible to give you as many updates as possible and talk about the real honest truth when it comes to Disneyland Paris.

Disneyland Paris is definitely a second home to me however I definitely love the other parks as well. I would still love to visit Disneyland Anaheim and I assume that will probably become my second favorite park. I have been to Walt Disney World before and I was supposed to go in March 2020 but of course Corona happened. If all goes well, I will go on a honeymoon from November to December and visit Disneyland Anaheim.

I am getting married at the end of September and I will go into history as a Corona bride. My proposal was also in Disneyland Paris in front of the castle and the video is amazing - so please check out my Instagram page where you can find the tear-jerking memory. My hobbies or passions are of course photography and film & food. I would love to be called the Belgian Martha Stewart, since I love to entertain a cook. I am a very sociable person so I tend to talk to everyone, however I can be very sassy, and I have very nasty jokes so I'm not the Disney princess you probably thought I was.

I also love to Disneybound, photos can be found on my IG account!



Pictures provided by Liesje

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

My home Park is definitely Disneyland Paris I have only visited Walt Disney World before and the next park I will visit is Disneyland Anaheim.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

You can find my Disney passion accounts on Instagram: I have my usual account @disneyliesje (<https://www.instagram.com/disneyliesje>) and of course my account for our podcast: @dlpclubhouse.podcast (<https://www.instagram.com/dlpclubhouse.podcast>). Our podcast can be listened to on Spotify, Apple Music and all the other podcast channels.

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've had my Instagram account for about nine years. I love Instagram. I have met so many people thanks to this platform and I'm so grateful for it, however I think it is a pretty exhausting platform too. There is a lot of pressure in this social media world to show the best photos and the best content. I often consider Instagram to be a full-time job.

Funny enough I actually learned photography thanks to Disney and Instagram. I saw so many beautiful photos on Instagram of Disney. I knew I wanted to be just as good as the other professional photographers were. So, I knew I had to teach myself to invest in better equipment so I could become a very good photographer in Disneyland Paris.

I cover mostly Disneyland Paris - I have still some photos in my feed regarding my trip to Walt Disney World but since it has been three years, I don't want to post photos that aren't up to date. When I started Instagram also had Twitter. Nowadays I don't use Twitter anymore because I don't understand it and I don't like it. But that was definitely the start of building a community and getting to know more people who love Disney just as I do. Besides Instagram the podcast is there, but I don't do YouTube nor Facebook (only private). We even made an episode about social media and Disney definitely listen to that one - there's a lot to say about the Disney community and social media.

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

My love for Disneyland Paris started when I was six years old. When I was a child, I used to go every couple of years, but I used to dream about Disneyland and I used to be hungry for it. At the age of 20-21 I knew I could become a regular visitor. I love Disney, I love the movies, but I love the parks even more. The parks are for me the sense of community - a place where I can visit and see and meet my friends and I'm not only talking about Disney characters but I'm also talking about all the people I've met in this community.

As a teenager it was more about going and escaping the world of studying and high school and so on. As an adult and making my own money it's now a sense of freedom.

In Disneyland Paris you can be whoever you want to be, you can be free, you can enjoy yourself, you can do rides, you can eat fun snacks - it's just an experience. For me it's coming home.

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?

I visit Disneyland Paris every 4 to 6 weeks and usually stay two days. I either come in on Friday evening and start Saturday morning in the parks and then go back home on the Sunday afternoon. Since I also have a full-time job, I don't want to be too tired so I'm definitely not doing the three days any more as I used to as a teenager. Sometimes I go in for just one day but those are for special occasions, events or special moments.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

This is a really hard question; I do believe a real fan doesn't have favorites but of course we all have our top threes or fives. If I would think about my personal favorites it would be: Big Thunder Mountain, Hyperspace Mountain, Star Tours and Crush Coaster. I love the "Stars on Parade" parade. I loved the Mickey & his big band show last Christmas. I don't love all the shows; I guess I have pretty high standards after seeing "The Lion King" 7 times on West End in London.

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

My most memorable memory in the Disney parks was in Walt Disney World. I was in line for "Flight of Passage" which is in Animal Kingdom. This cast member was holding up a sign that said it would still be 180 minutes to queue. I started talking to him just asking him how he was doing, being a social butterfly that I am and just asking if he was okay in this heat. It was the beginning of August so pretty hot for Florida. After an hour of waiting someone tapped my shoulder. I surprisingly looked up and this person said in my ear "Merry Christmas" and he gave me two Fast Passes. I didn't realize what had just happened until I saw that it was 2 Fast Passes for "Flight of Passage", which meant I didn't have to queue for the next few hours anymore. I started crying because I was so overwhelmed by emotion and I realized it was the same cast member we met before with the sign. I couldn't believe somebody would do this and be so kind to me - so it was a very beautiful and pleasant surprise. Ryan, if you ever read this: Thank You!

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

There are a million tips I could give you - I could talk hours and hours about planning, about making lists, about what to pack and which hotel you should choose.

That is the reason why Andrea and I created the podcast because we want to help the people who ask us these questions via Instagram.

I think it is pretty overwhelming for a first time to come to Disneyland Paris and you need to prepare pretty well. I would advise you to listen to our podcast for general tips and make a good planning for the amount of days you are in our home park. Don't expect anything I would say - just enjoy yourself!

You will have to wait in line sometimes and you have to keep in mind that Disneyland Paris does a lot of refurbishment throughout the year, so there is practically no time in the year or during the year when everything is open.

Plan your outfits, plan good shoes and think about what you would like to do on this trip.

Also, very important: download the app from Disneyland Paris but also download the Lineberty app. I would also advise following DLP report on Instagram or Facebook to get daily updates and see what is happening or which characters are out in the parks.

Most important tip in the days of Corona: bring enough masks, enough water so you can stop sit down and take a drink and take off your mask for a minute and please please please respect our cast members in our parks and don't take off your masks when walking around! Keep it safe and magical.

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Characters | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Attractions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Star Wars | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Marvel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parades | or | <input 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 |

Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

No, but love your work Niels!!! :)

Niels: *Thanks so much Liesje, really appreciate that!*

THE END

I would like to thank Liesje 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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