

# Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

**Episode 63 | Charlotte from Enchanté DLP & EveryCharacter | July 16, 2021**

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**

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**Please introduce yourself to our readers.**

My name is Charlotte, I'm 25 years old and I live in Maasmechelen, Belgium. I studied history and international politics at the university in Leuven. It's because of my passion for history that I also became interested in the history of the Disney parks and became such a huge Disney fan. I work for an insurance company now, but I've always had this dream of working for Disney one day. Besides Disney, my main passions are Russian history and women's rights. I love going on city trips and exploring the history and culture of a city. I travel alone most of the time because it gives me the chance to explore a city the way I want to explore it and do whatever I like on my holidays. One of my biggest hobbies is reading, I have a real passion for history books and Disney books. I also love listening to music and going to concerts, my favourite genre is rock/hard rock/metal. Since 2015, I have been a vegetarian and I try to maintain a lifestyle now that is 70% vegan.



*Pictures provided by Charlotte*

My parents took me on my first trip to Disneyland Paris when I was 5 in 2001 and I never stopped going! We used to go on a trip every summer, but I started going more and more when I was 18. I have been an annual pass holder since 2016, after my parents gave me a voucher for my first annual pass as a present for Christmas 2015! Disneyland Paris has become my home away from home and has given me so much happiness already. I've met amazing people because of my passion for Disney and found some really good friends. I always like meeting new people, so if you see me around in the parks, come say hi! In 2018, I finally started my Instagram account after thinking about it for a long time already. I always loved to take pictures on my trips, and I wanted to do something with them, so there's nothing better to share them with likeminded people who also have a passion for Disney. I also started writing for the website EveryCharacter.com in 2019, so if you ever need to know something about Disney characters, this website is the place to be!

## Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

Disneyland Park and Walt Disney Studios Park at Disneyland Paris are my home parks. I haven't visited any of the other Disney parks yet, although I've always dreamed of visiting all the parks and resorts around the world. I guess I'll have to overcome my fear of flying long distances first, but who knows, maybe one day I'll find the courage to get on a plane and visit all the parks and resorts!

## Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

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**Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?**

You can find me on several social media platforms, but I'm most active on Instagram. I have two Disney accounts: Enchanté DLP (<https://www.instagram.com/enchantedlp/>) where I like to share fun facts, historical facts and details from the parks, and Enchanté DLP does Characters (<https://www.instagram.com/enchantedlpdoescharacters/>) where I share pictures of the characters in the parks and my meets with them! I also have a Twitter and Facebook page, but I'm not very active there. Last year I started my very own blog too: <https://enchantedlp.wordpress.com>.

I have also been very fortunate to meet the people behind EveryCharacter.com (<https://everycharacter.com>) and have been writing for them since 2019. They're also active on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/everycharacter/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/EveryCharacter>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/everycharacter/>).

## Q 04 | THE FORMAT

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**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 had been thinking for a long time about doing something with the hundreds of pictures I had taken at Disneyland Paris over the years before I started my Instagram page. At the same time, I had been reading about Disneyland Paris and Imagineering for years and was only able to entertain my parents with fun facts about the parks, because I didn't know anyone who was as passionate about Disney as me and who would be interested in hearing these fun facts. In 2018, I met Mathilde and Gauthier from World of Disney Parks in Disneyland Park and they inspired me to start my own account too! Since October 2018, I have been sharing pictures of Disneyland Paris on my page, most of the time together with some fun or historical facts about the parks. I'm fascinated by Imagineering and all the efforts the Imagineers put in creating Disney parks, so I love to put a spotlight on all the amazing details that can be found in the parks and to tell my followers about the history of basically everything that can be seen in the parks. In 2020, I decided to create an extra account to focus on characters, but I'm less active on that account because my main passion will always be sharing history, fun facts, and details.

I obviously only cover Disneyland Paris because I have yet to visit the other parks, but I already got my hands full with this it! I love to put an effort in creating posts, because I also want to give the right information. I always start with choosing a picture and then think about the kind of fun fact, historical fact, or story I can share together with the picture. I will always do some research before I write my captions, to make sure I don't say something inaccurate. It's a lot of work, but I also love reading interesting and informative captions from other people and want to share something qualitative with my followers.

My blog is an extension of my Instagram posts. Instagram captions are limited in words, but a blog post can be as long as I want it to be. That's why I started writing longer blog posts that deal with the origin and history of and story behind attractions, restaurants, shops, and lands, together with details and useful information. I like reading about Imagineering and have many books about it, that's why I'm also this passionate in sharing all these details and fun facts. Nothing is a coincidence in Disney parks and that's just wonderful!

## Q 05 | THE LOVE

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### How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

My love for Disneyland Paris started when my parents took me on my first trip there when I was 5 years old. When I was a child, we would go on a trip every summer, so we had a nice family tradition. At 14, my parents decided we would go one last time because I wasn't a kid anymore and was growing too old for Disney. Little did they know how many times I would return as an adult! Two years later I was back and my love for Disney became bigger than ever. I started going more and more, which was easy as an adult and student. The best thing is that my parents kept on coming with me and we still like to do a family trip once a year.

As a child I always loved the magical feeling of the parks and I loved the movies, although I was never a fan of the princesses. When I was 16, I became really passionate about Disney because I started reading books about the history of the company and about the parks. Since I started my Instagram page, I learned there were more people like me, more adults that are huge Disney fans, and that's when Disneyland Paris really started to feel like home for me. The parks represent a place to me where you can relax and be happy without having to worry about the real world. This feeling grew stronger in the last years, especially now that I have many amazing Disney friends!

## Q 06 | THE TRIPS

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

I used to visit Disneyland Paris around 6 times per year, although I went on 9 trips in 2019 and wanted to keep up that same pace in 2020. Then Covid happened, but I still managed to go on 5 trips despite the lockdowns and closures. Now that Disneyland Paris has opened again, I'm making up for lost time and planned 3 trips in the first 5 weeks after the reopening (and many more for the rest of the year)! As a student I loved to go on calm weekdays, but my job doesn't allow that anymore, so I'll mostly go during the weekends from now on. Most trips are 2 days, but I also sometimes go on a quick daytrip or, when possible, on a 3-day trip.

## Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

My favourite attractions are "Casey Jr.", "Autopia", "It's a Small World" and "Big Thunder Mountain". I used to love the "Fantillusion" parade and I really miss nighttime parades now. "Disney Dreams" was of course also a wonderful and magical show! "Mickey and the Magician" and "Mickey's Christmas Big Band" are also shows that I always love to see. As a kid, I loved watching "Tarzan: an Encounter" every summer because that's my favourite movie!

## Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

My most memorable moment? That's a hard one! Can I choose two? The first one would be the celebrations on 12 April 2017 for the 25th anniversary. It was a beautiful day full of shows and parades and there were so many characters out! It was definitely an experience I will never forget. The second one will be the New Years Eve Party 2019-2020. The fireworks were so magical. I never thought I would be partying on Central Plaza with Afrojack after midnight or riding "Big Thunder Mountain" at 1am!

I also have to give credit to the many wonderful Cast Members who really do make the magic real for their guests! Last year, a CM let my parents and me ride It's a Small World twice in a row because we were using the boat adapted for wheelchairs for my dad and nobody else needed that boat. I've also had a gift in my room at Hotel New York twice because the CM's at the reception loved that I kept returning to the hotel. Characters who notice small details like when you're wearing something with them on it and start interacting with you also make sure you go home with a smile. It's small things like this that make a stay in Disneyland Paris so magical and memorable.

## Q 09 | THE TIP

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

The most important advice I can give is: take it slow. Book enough days to really enjoy the parks and maybe even Disney Village. Don't run from attraction to attraction. Just walk around the parks, listen to the music, look around, look down and look up because there are details everywhere, enjoy the magic. Plan in advance which attractions you'd like to do and where you would like to eat. I'd also recommend taking your time to eat because there are many good restaurants that serve delicious food and offer great dining experiences. It's also fun to meet characters and watch shows and parades so take your time for that too. There are more and more Photopass options nowadays, so make sure you get one of those too. The photographers will make sure you have many great memories on your Photopass at the end of the trip. I'd advise doing the circle of the park: Main Street U.S.A. – Frontierland – Adventureland – Fantasyland – Discoveryland if you want to get a nice overview and see everything without running around in a chaotic way. In non-Covid times I would advise to grab a plan of the park and programme, but now you'll have to do it with the app, which is fortunately a very useful app.

If you have a disability, make sure you download the mobility map from the website and that you get a green card or an orange card at the entrance. This will make your trip much easier and more comfortable.

## Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

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|---------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey        | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Characters    | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Attractions                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Star Wars                | or | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Animation              | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live-action    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pins        | or | <input type="checkbox"/> TsumTsums                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits   | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evening visits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass   | or | <input type="checkbox"/> FastPass                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow           | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook   |

## Q 11 | THE QUESTION

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### Do you have a question for me?

First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting me for your Disney Icon Spotlight! I love your pictures and work, so I feel very honoured to have been invited. Thank you very much, Niels! My question for you is in line of my passion for Imagineering: What's your favourite detail, Imagineering story or fun fact in Disneyland Paris?

Niels: *Happy to have you onboard in this Disney Icon Spotlight series Charlotte! There are so many great details, stories and facts but there's one that keeps me extremely enthusiastic for a long time now: The backstory of Thunder Mesa (Frontierland) in Disneyland Paris. Everything is so well connected and it even connects my favorite rides, "Big Thunder Mountain" and "Phantom Manor".*

## THE END

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I would like to thank Charlotte 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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**Instagram** <https://www.instagram.com/capturingdisneyparks>

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