

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 64 | Ilena from @fairy_hunny | July 20, 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

Please introduce yourself to our readers.

Hi! My name is Ilena. I am a 23 years old student living in Belgium. I'm a huge Disney fan. I am a Loungefly collector, I own more than 70 bags. I am clearly obsessed with the Disney fashion style! You can be sure that I wear something Disney every day! Disney is not only about the parks for me, it's part of my everyday life. I've been a Disney fan since a young age thanks to my parents, but this passion grew more and more these last years. It really started about three/four years ago. I enjoy creating Disney content on Instagram and talking with other Disney fans around the world!



Pictures provided by Ilena

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

I've only been able to go to Disneyland Paris, so this would be my home park. Of course, I want to visit all the Disney parks of the world. Walt Disney World would be next on my list. Really looking forward to live new Disney experiences!

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

I only have an Instagram account at the moment; you can find me @fairy_hunny (https://www.instagram.com/fairy_hunny).

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.

It all started when my boyfriend and I decided to buy an annual pass at Disneyland Paris. We quickly started to go every month, and I posted all my Disney pictures on my personal account. It didn't feel really right, so I decided to create a special account dedicated to all my visits to the parks.

That's when I entered the Disney community, and I have zero regrets! I met amazing people! As I've said previously, I've only been able to go to Disneyland Paris so almost every picture you see on my account are taken there.

What I like the most is to create new looks, outfits. I am a Loungefly bag collector, so I really like to create outfits or Disneybounds around a bag. At first my account started with pictures of the parks, but now I really love taking the time to create the "perfect" outfit with a lot of details. It just became a passion that I love sharing with my followers.

So in my Instagram account you'll find Disney inspired looks, Loungefly bags, park pictures, but it's mainly related to fashion now.

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

I used to go with my parents and sister every year when I was a kid, sometimes twice a year, at Disneyland Paris. It was like a tradition, and I've always loved feeling of the Disney magic! I really made the best family memories there. But it grew even more once I had an annual pass. Going every month with my boyfriend made me a bit addicted (can't deny it... lol). It was another experience than it used to be. Even if I go quite often, I still can feel the magic. I love being used to the parks. It feels like home. The feeling of walking down Main Street while eating a Mickey cookie, watching the castle on a bench, ... there's nothing better!

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?

As I have a 3 hour drive to go to the parks, I prefer to stay two or three days to take the time and enjoy every minute ! I go every month at Disneyland Paris. During the holidays I try to go as often as possible. For example, during this month of July, I've only been one time but I've already booked two other trips for the month !
So per year I think I go more than 30 days !

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

My all-time favorite rides are: The Hollywood Tower Hotel, Big Thunder Mountain, Phantom Manor, Peter Pan's Flight, Pirates of The Caribbean & Space Mountain. I just love too many!

About parades, I'm an oldie! I absolutely loved "Fantillusion". I remember watching it as a kid and being so amazed at all the lights. I don't think I've ever loved another parade as much as this one.

My favorite show will always be "Dreams!". It's the one I've watched the most as a kid, so I'm a bit nostalgic. I miss fireworks at Disneyland Paris so much (Red: Due to COVID-19 fireworks were cancelled, followed by an extensive refurbishment of the castle.)

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

My most memorable Disney Parks moment would be watching the 14th of July fireworks with all my family. I think it's the biggest fireworks I've ever seen in my entire life. I wasn't expecting anything from it but I ended up blown away! It was a magical moment, watching all the fireworks filling in the sky, being with my family, listening to the music, hearing people being amazed, it really felt like a blessing.

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

Advice #1: Don't wake up for extra magic hours to do Crush Coaster. Everyone does that! Yes, you'll be able to do it without having to wait a lot of time (not always true though), but remember that this ride is super short, and the day is long. You'll be tired super early in the day and it will ruin it. So, my advice is to just take your time visiting the parks, and if you have to wait an hour for Crush Coaster, so be it. Crush Coaster is a popular ride (a bit over-rated, let's admit it) so you'll have to wait anyway. If you don't wait at a Disney Park, you'll end up doing nothing.

Advice #2: Always bring an umbrella at Disneyland Paris!

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animation | or | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FastPass |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook |

Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

No question but thank you for asking me to do this. It's a pleasure!

Niels: *It was my pleasure of discovering your account and now also your story. Thanks!*

THE END

I would like to thank Ilena 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>
All episodes <http://www.capturingdisneyparks.com>

Copyright © 2018-2021 by Niels van Eijkelenburg. Niels van Eijkelenburg (the Netherlands) is owner of Capturing Disney Parks, a social fan initiative capturing the magic of Disney Parks. The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Capturing Disney Parks or Niels van Eijkelenburg. Capturing Disney Parks is not part of The Walt Disney Company.