

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 73 | Rie from @boku.kuma | November 17, 2022

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.

Hello everyone. I'm Rie, a Japanese born and bred, Japan-based Disney enthusiast. My favourite characters are Winnie the Pooh, Duffy, Mary Poppins and Merida. Besides spending time at the Disney parks, I like listening to Dicapella and watching performances at Disney On Ice. And I enjoy photographing them.



Pictures provided by Rie

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

I have experienced six parks in four locations - Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Anaheim. Obviously, my home parks are Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo Disneysea, which I have visited countless times and have countless memories of. But every country has its own qualities. Anaheim in particular was exceptional! It was the place where Walt first turned his dreams into reality. A place I had hoped to visit one day since I was a child, and it was a dream come true the whole time. (I would even as far to say that my home park is Anaheim, if that's true...) I've been going to the parks with my family countless times since I was a child. And a lot of the things around me were Disney, so in a way I was probably a Disney gifted child.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

My only online format is Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/boku.kuma>

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 love documenting my memories. Also, because I loved taking photos, I started Instagram to document my favourite parts of Disney as well as my interests. Now I mostly share memories of the Disney parks. The greatest fun of it is connecting with other Disney lovers from all over the world. Being able to talk about each other's base parks in comments and DMs has become my greatest pleasure.

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

I have loved Disney parks for as long as I can remember. My mother also loved Disney, and she made her park debut about six months after I was born, so it must have been a magical experience since I can't remember.

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?

Before Covid, I used to visit the Disney parks about 150 days per year. I only started going to the international parks in 2016, and before Covid I had an adventure once a year. Unfortunately, the Japanese parks are still affected by Covid today and sometimes it is not easy to get tickets due to restrictions and limitations, and entertainment is not as usual. Therefore, we only visit the parks on average once a month.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

This is a very difficult question. Attractions are “Country Bear Theatre” and “Radiator Springs Racers”. Parades are “Disney Fantillusion”, “Disney Christmas Stories” and “A Christmas Fantasy Parade”. Shows include “Harbourside Christmas Candlelight Reflections” and “Fantasmic!”.

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

Eating limited-time-only food, wearing the right fashion for the time of year, taking photos and having conversations at character meet-and-greets that are unique to the time of year. All of these moments with friends and family are cherished memories.

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

This is true no matter where you spend your time in the parks, but make sure you have a clear idea of what you want to do there before you go to the parks. Time is limited, but I think there are so many exciting things to do in the Disney parks. A day spent following your heart may be fine, but each park has different rules, so doing some research in advance about what you want to do will help you enjoy it more.

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

- | | | | |
|--|----|--|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Characters | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Attractions | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Star Wars | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvel | (can't choose) |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Animation | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live-action | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pins | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuimo's | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening visits | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Paid direct attraction or show access | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook | |

Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

What attractions, restaurants or other things can you only experience in the Paris parks? Or if there's anything that's very different from the Japanese parks, I'd like to know!

Niels: *I haven't been to the Asian parks yet but I have an idea of what's there. Disneyland Paris invests a lot in entertainment like stage shows, parades, night time spectaculars and character meets. The offering is quite unique and refreshes quite a lot compared to the American parks. At this moment the must sees are: Lion King – Rhythm of the Pridelands, Mickey and the Magician, Disney Junior Dream Factory, Disney Illuminations or the seasonal Disney Dreams! Of Christmas, Disney D-Light (drone show), Stars on Parade, seasonal Halloween and Christmas parades. And although a lot of the classic Disney attractions can be found in various parks worldwide, I think Paris has the best versions of: Big Thunder Mountain (with high-speed tunnels to and from the island), Phantom Manor (our Haunted Mansion) and Pirates of the Caribbean (classic version). Unique are coasters like: Crush Coaster, Flight Force (Avengers). Ratatouille and Spider-Man WEB Adventure are also favorites and not available in the Asian parks. As for restaurants; check-out Walt's, Agrabah Café, Bistrot Chez Remy, Downtown Restaurant, PYM Kitchen.*

THE END

I would like to thank Rie 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

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