

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

## **Episode 01 | Robert Stallard from Robert and Duffy's Adventures at Disneyland Paris | December 03, 2018**

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.**

I'm Robert and live in Cologne, Germany but originally from Sunderland, Great Britain. I work in Cologne but next year I will be retiring and working less. I had the honor of becoming a founding member of InsidEars and I'm so proud of that and will never take it for granted. I'm also an Infinity Pass Holder.



*Pictures provided by Robert Stallard*

### **Q 02 | THE PARKS**

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

Disneyland (Anaheim) I visited for my 50th Birthday and the Disneyland 50th celebrations were amazing. I visited Walt Disney World many times (about every 2 years for 3 weeks) because I had a Disney Vacation Club membership which I have now sold to concentrate on Disneyland Paris. Disneyland Paris is not only my Home Park but my Home. It's the only place I feel really happy. I can honestly say I have made so many good friends in the Park and around the World. I don't want to miss them and love meeting new people.

## Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

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

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/robertandduffy>  
Twitter <https://www.twitter.com/robertandDuffy>  
Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/robert\\_duffy\\_disneyland\\_paris](https://www.instagram.com/robert_duffy_disneyland_paris)

Facebook is my main page.

## 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 have always been a huge Disney fan and after a long illness and 6 weeks convalescence I decided to do something for ME and Disney seemed the perfect choice. At that time, I didn't feel I wanted to be the face of my page, so I choose Duffy. At that time, I didn't realize that because I always have Duffy with me, I would get recognized easier, so that backfired, but in a good way because I have made so many friends because of Duffy. I put so much effort into my page because I get so much back. The power of the Disney community is hard to describe but it keeps me going. I first just wanted to show my pictures and why I love Disney but now like to add some information.

## Q 05 | THE LOVE

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

Watching "The Wonderful World of Disney" Sunday on Television. Back then we all sat glued to the Television wondering what new things Walt was going to show us. I was also at the opening of Disneyland Paris and that blew my mind. I'd never seen anything like it. After the opening I returned year after year and now can't even think about a holiday away from Disneyland Paris. Every time I visit, I see something new or meet new 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 try to visit as often as I can, many times this year. I usually try to stay 3 to 4 days and try to stay longer when I can; usually for special events, but I can't really afford it.

## Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

"Mickey and the Magician" (Walt Disney Studios Park) is a World Class show not to be missed. "Mickey's Xmas Big Band" in its new home (Animagique Theater, Walt Disney Studios Park) is fantastic. I miss the "Main Street Electrical Parade" (Disneyland Park) and really think it should return. "Disney Illuminations" (Disneyland Park nighttime spectacular) always moves me. "Goofy's Incredible Christmas" and "Star Wars: A Galactic Celebration"

are Must See evening shows (Walt Disney Studios Park). I honestly don't have a favorite ride and love them all but also love just taking in the atmosphere in the park.

My first visit, the opening week, I ate at Inventions (Disneyland Hotel, Disneyland Paris) and at that time I was not sure how the interaction would be with the characters as a 'grown up'. Minnie came to my table and pointed at my camera that we should have a picture together. That broke the ice and I knew this was for everyone, not just for children. One of my biggest loves now is the Inventions Sunday Brunch and I really wish I could go every week as it's always different and always fun. The team and characters are amazing and it's a must do if I'm in the park on Sundays.

## Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

Well I actually have quite a few. Meeting Catherine Powell was certainly something I will never forget. We met at the FanDaze Gala Dinner (June 2018) and she was so nice, looked beautiful as always, and came to my table a few times. The highlight came next day in the park (see picture above). I saw her, but she was so far away, and I was trapped in a queue (it was the enclosed queue at the Animagique Theatre). She noticed me, and I suppose she told her entourage she wanted to come over. I was overwhelmed as she said, "Hello Robert". The fact that she knew my name meant so much to me. She put her arm round me and we chatted for such a long time. I was surprised and shocked to know that our picture had been taken. I later found out that that she had asked the photographer if she could have the picture for her personal collection. To know that she wanted a picture of me makes me so proud and I miss her so much.

## 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?**

Take your time! That's my number 1 tip. There is so much to see and rushing you could miss so much. Also, no matter how old or if you are single, married or with children, you will all be treated the same at Disneyland Paris.

## Q 10 | THE QUESTION

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**Do you have a question for me (Niels van Eijkelenburg, Capturing Disney Parks)?**

1. How did you get to love Disneyland Paris?

Niels: *I have always been a fan of Disney and watching films in general. Storytelling, audiovisual details, and an emotional and/or powerful soundtrack are really important for me. I made my first couple of trips to Disneyland Paris when I was in University (around 2000-2003). I came back to Disneyland Paris in March 2013 together with friends and their kids, my wife, and our daughter, who was only 1 year and about 9 months old that time. At that moment I really discovered the magic Disney offers in their parks and we started to visit multiple times a year. In October 2016 we decided to get ourselves Annual Passes and still have them. Being at Disneyland Paris is like entering their animated and live action movies through rides, parades, shows, meet & greets, nighttime spectaculars, dining experiences, and theming in general. I especially love the detailed way Disney incorporates stories or story elements in their parks. This is not just storytelling but true 'story doing'. For me it's really like being in a different world, in a different reality.*

2. I love everything Disney and like change. I always put my faith in Disney that they do the right thing. Are you open for changes?

Niels: *Yes, I'm definitely open for changes. New attractions, updated and upgrade rides, new shows and parades, new events, new and rare character meet & greets, seasonal theming etc. I love the fact that Disney sees their parks as 'never finished' projects, so there will be always something new to explore. That keeps it interesting for me!*

## THE END

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I would like to thank Robert Stallard 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>  
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