

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

## **Episode 03 | Zakk, Angela, and Johanna from The Main Street Station | December 11, 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 ICONS**

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**Please introduce yourself to our readers.**

**Zakk:** We are Zakk & Angela from The Main Street Station. Angela and I are married and are proud parents of two young boys that we are raising to love Disney just as much as we do. We share a Disney podcast with our best friend (...more like family) Johanna, who happens to love Disney just as much as we do, alright... OK... more than we do. Maybe. We all happen to live in one of Walt's favorite cities, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Johanna:** I'm Johanna from The Main Street Station. I'm 32 years old and from New Orleans, Louisiana. I'm a cancer survivor and mom to a beautiful 3-year-old boy! He's my best friend, and my husband and I love introducing him to different Disney things we love! I have a Disney podcast with my two best friends, Zakk and Angela, where we talk everything from the latest news from the parks to our favorite things about Disney movies! I love living life, and I love all things Disney!



*Picture provided by Zakk, Angela, and Johanna*

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

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

**Johanna:** I've only personally traveled to Walt Disney World, so I would have to say that that's my home park... but I definitely plan to visit some of the other parks in the future!

**Zakk:** Angela and I have visited both Disneyland (Anaheim) and Walt Disney World, and would consider Walt Disney World to be our home park. Though, if we had the chance to spend more time in Disneyland, who knows?

## Q 03 | THE PLATFORMS

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

Answer: You can listen to our podcast, The Main Street Station, on iTunes or Stitcher. Follow us on social media @The Main Street Station on Instagram and Facebook and @themainSTstop on Twitter. You can also head over to our website to interact on our forums or blogs and find all of our info.

Instagram	<a href="#">@themainstreetstation</a>
Facebook	<a href="#">The Main Street Station</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.themainstreetstop.com">http://www.themainstreetstop.com</a>
Twitter	<a href="#">@themainSTstop</a>
Contact	<a href="mailto:hello@themainstreetstop.com">hello@themainstreetstop.com</a>

## 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.

Zakk: I originally had an idea to create a Disney related podcast sometime in early 2017. I started mentioning it to Angela and we agreed that if we were to start a podcast, Johanna would have to be apart of it. It wasn't very difficult getting Johanna to agree to join us on this adventure, but as with everything I set out to do, I overthought every little detail and consequently, pushed the start of the podcast back to 'eventually'. Fast forward one year and Angela finally did what she does best, and said, "If you don't start this podcast now, I'm not doing it; just get it started!" So, I did all that I could to finally get it started as quickly as possible... It's kind of difficult doing something that you have an idea for, without actually knowing how to really do any of it, so it has been a fun learning curve. We mainly cover Walt Disney World, but are open to covering any and all of the Disney Parks around the world. I absolutely love putting our thoughts and conversations together in what I hope to be an entertaining hour or so of anyone's week. I enjoy the Disney community and love all of the different interactions, so hopefully we're helping make this the best community to be a part of.

Johanna: After years of listening to other Disney podcasts and following other Disney social media pages we decided to jump in on the fun! Once we got the ball rolling, we never looked back. We mostly cover Walt Disney World but like to include any news we come across from Disney Parks around the world, as well. We love learning about the differences in each park! The podcast allows us to get together each week to share news, opinions, and excitement about the most magical place in the world, and social media has allowed us to share our experiences with Disney lovers from all over. My favorite thing about doing what we do is the interactions we have and the connections we make with people who understand why we love what we love and who share that same passion. The Disney community is a community like no other!

Angela: When we first started, we weren't sure if we would be able to do a weekly podcast, but it's been working fine so far! We all come up with ideas for episodes and usually plan at least a month of topics out at a time. It's always fun to record the opinion episodes because even though we know each other so well, surprises always come up! We all collaborate on the social media postings and love responding to comments. The online Disney community is amazing and it's a lot of fun talking with everyone! We love the connections we've made with other Disney fanatics!

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

Angela: I have to confess that I actually used to be a Disney hater. I loved all the movies growing up, but I didn't go to the parks for the first time until I was a teenager. Most people in New Orleans like to visit Walt Disney World during the week of Mardi Gras since it's a holiday for us, but the rest of the country still has work/school. That's exactly when my family decided to plan our first trip. So, I was a teenager forced to miss one of the largest free parties on earth to spend a week with my family. Needless to say, I wasn't thrilled, and I didn't enjoy myself on that trip. Then, Zakk came into my life and he had been a Disney Parks fanatic practically his whole life. After we got married, he and Johanna teamed up and forced me to go on a group trip with them. I had such a blast on that trip and I've been hooked ever since.

Johanna: My love for Disney started when I was a little girl growing up right in the middle of the Disney Renaissance. Having the absolute best movies with the best music throughout my childhood definitely added a little magic to my life. My mom had loved Disney her entire life as well, so I was also introduced to all of the earlier Disney films, both animated and live action, and soon developed a need for even more magic. My love for the parks, however, came much later. I didn't actually visit Disney World until I was fifteen years old. I had loved Disney my entire life but wasn't able to visit until then. I think that made my first trip even better, though. It was something I had waited for, for a long time, and it not only lived up to my expectations, it exceeded them. With each and every trip it got better and better. I think as we grow up and the world changes around us it's important for us to have an escape. Something or somewhere that can take you back to a place of simpler times. A place where we remember what it feels like to be silly and just enjoy the world for what it was supposed to be when we were young. For me, Disney World is that escape. When I enter a Disney Park I truly feel transported out of this grown-up, messy world we live in and into a world of pure joy. I know there are people out there who say they don't get Disney or that it's for children, and they're right in a way. It's for everyone's inner child. But it's also executed with such detail and perfection that you can't help but have a huge appreciation for what they can accomplish at these parks as an adult. I'm in awe of something different every time I visit. It really is the perfect escape for all ages!

Zakk: My love for Disney has been deep rooted in my entire life. Since I was young, my family had a love for Disney movies, Disney music, and of course, the Disney Parks. I was fortunate to have a family that was big on vacations, and maybe had already figured out how magical of place it really is. We would (unsafely) pile into the family van for a 10-12-hour road trip with games, toys, and snacks, anticipating of what's to come. The travels alone created some fun memories growing up. I had a 'Disney dry-spell' in my late teens, which we'll blame on Angela 'hating' Disney. Thanks to her longtime best friend Johanna, and her love for Disney, we were able to convince her to give it another chance with a couple of people that could point her in a better direction. Ever since then, we've tried to make it to the parks at least once each year, with friends, family, or just a small quick trip with the kids. It's a place where I can leave exhausted, knowing I crammed every little thing I could into each day and still be happy about needing another vacation to relax, or going to the parks without a plan and wandering around waiting to stumble upon the next thing to do. Disney will always be the place that allows me to, for a least a short time, forget all of the busy day-to-day pressures, and to really clear my head and focus on what's most important, and that is time spent creating memories with my wife, my family, and friends. This is why I will always consider Disney, Home.

## 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?**

Johanna: I try to visit Walt Disney World at least twice a year. Our favorite time to visit is during Halloween time and Food and Wine Festival in October. We also love going for the Flower and Garden Festival in May. My husband and I had our honeymoon in Disney World during Flower and Garden back in 2011, so we try to make it back for our anniversaries. Our trips are typically 7-10 days.

Zakk: Angela and I like to visit Walt Disney World at least once per year and we usually visit for a week at a time. Realistically, we would love a 10-day trip. In 2017, we purchased annual passes and made two shorter trips and one long trip. Being annual passholders is definitely something we look forward to doing again in the near future.

## Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

Angela: Disneyland (Anaheim): Pirates of the Caribbean (it's better than Walt Disney Worlds version), Indiana Jones Adventure (way better than its Dinosaur counterpart ride at Walt Disney World), and Mr. Toads Wild Ride.

Walt Disney World: Haunted Mansion, Tower of Terror, and I love the new firework show "Happily Ever After" at the Magic Kingdom.

Johanna: This is always a tough question! As far as actual rides go, I have to go with "The Haunted Mansion", "Spaceship Earth", and "It's a Small World". "The Enchanted Tiki Room", "Fantasmic!", and "Star Wars: A Galactic Spectacular" are my favorite shows to see. Of course, "Boo to You" is my favorite parade, because it's the best! If I had to pick just one thing to do, though, it would be to simply walk around the shops of the World Showcase. I love, love, love Epcot!

Zakk: Even though Angela took my answer, I'll say one of my favorite rides is "Pirates of the Caribbean", but the Disneyland (Anaheim) version because it is actually much better than the Walt Disney World version. I absolutely love "Splash Mountain" (either Disneyland or Walt Disney World), "Tower of Terror", "Haunted Mansion", and "Tomorrowland's Transit Authority" AKA "The People Mover". I love "HalloWishes!" Hands down the best nighttime show/firework spectacular.

## Q 08 | THE MEMORIES

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

Angela: So many good memories in Walt Disney World but my favorite has to be when Zakk and I brought our oldest son for the first time. His reaction to seeing the castle was priceless! I can't wait to make it back with our youngest son when he is old enough to understand and be amazed by Disney World.

Zakk: I would have to agree that after many visits to the parks, my favorite memory would have to be seeing our oldest sons face light up after rounding the corner by the



Confectionary and watching him see the castle for his very first time in person. It's such a magical place and I have so many memories from my childhood and some incredible memories going to the parks with Angela, and Johanna and her husband Jerry, that it's difficult to pin point one specific memory as most memorable.

Johanna: I have SO many memories that are memorable and would all tie for second place, but I do have one specific memory that stands above the rest! My son's first trip was in October of 2017. He was two and a half and at that age when the characters were very scary to him. He cried for every single one, so we didn't have high hopes for Winnie the Pooh and friends at Crystal Palace. At home Winnie is his favorite, so we thought we'd still try anyway. We were very glad that we did! He was so excited to see those characters that he was jumping up and down. The staff and characters were all so good with him, and we got some really awesome pictures!

## Q 09 | THE TIPS

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

Johanna: My best advice would be to never be afraid to ask! The Cast Members do a wonderful job of making everyone's trip a magical one! If you ever have a problem they will almost always go above and beyond to help. Not to mention, they sometimes have good stories to tell. Striking up conversations with Cast Members usually turns out to be some of my favorite experiences. They're always friendly and helpful, and it's also nice to get to know a little bit about somebody from another part of the world who shares the same passion for Disney as you!

Angela: Remember to relax and enjoy your time in the parks with the people you are there with. It's easy to get overwhelmed with planning and schedules, but the best memories can be made just strolling around the parks. Something is inevitably going to go wrong. Don't let it derail your entire trip! Just remember you are in the happiest place on earth.

Zakk: Anytime you see a name, date, or number in the parks, use Johanna's tip and ask a Cast Member why it's there, or 'Google' it, because it's probably referencing a famous person or event in Disney history. It adds another level of detail and magic to your experience.

## Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

Angela:

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

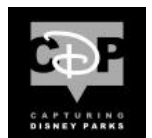
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|--------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits    | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evening visits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass    | or | <input type="checkbox"/> FastPass                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook              |

Johanna:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey        | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Characters               | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attractions            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Star Wars     | or | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass     | or | <input type="checkbox"/> FastPass                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow             | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook           |

Zakk:

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|---------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey        | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Characters               | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attractions            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Star Wars     | or | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass     | or | <input type="checkbox"/> FastPass                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow  | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook                      |



## Q 11 | THE QUESTIONS

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

Johanna: Who is your favorite Disney Legend, and what is it about their creation that you love the most?

Niels: *Difficult question! I don't know all Disney Legends by heart but the first name that pops-up is Tony Baxter from Walt Disney Imagineering. He played a big role in imagineering Disneyland Paris, my home park, and Tony was also responsible for 2 of my favorite attractions: "Star Tours" and "Big Thunder Mountain". Especially the Disneyland Paris version of "Big Thunder" (on the island) is amazing! It perfectly blends into the little Western town of Thunder Mesa and all its connected story elements.*

Angela: When did you start your Instagram account and what made you want to do it?

Niels: *I've started my Instagram account ([@capturingdisneyparks](https://www.instagram.com/capturingdisneyparks)) in May 2016 to express my love for Disneyland Paris and to share its beauty. It's not just a place for kids, or just another theme park. I wanted to share the many great details, stories, and unique experiences with the world. And also provide some 'insider' tips - where possible - for people planning their trips.*

Zakk: You know that I'm a huge "Phantom Manor" fan, and you recently visited Walt Disney World... Given the opportunity, would you swap "Phantom Manor" with "Haunted Mansion" in Disneyland Paris and send the Manor to Walt Disney World?

Niels: *Although I loved the "Haunted Mansion" in Walt Disney World, I definitely think "Phantom Manor" is the best version. It looks so amazing on that hill. When you're up there, ready to knock on that old door, you get a beautiful view over "The Rivers of the Far West" and "Big Thunder Mountain". I also love the fact that the story of "Phantom Manor" is connected to one of my other favorite rides, "Big Thunder Mountain", and Thunder Mesa (Frontierland) as a whole. I'm willing to swap for a limited time, so you can experience the Manor too, and for me to explore the Mansion a bit further. ;-)*

## THE END

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I would like to thank Zakk, Angela, and Johanna 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>

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