

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

**Episode 58 | Anna from @my\_DLP\_life | January 26, 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.**

Hi Mousketeers, I'm Anna, 28 years old from London, in the sunny (?) UK!

I've been visiting Disneyland Paris for 20 years now, so it's safe to say, I'm a fan. I'm an event manager by profession, so naturally love talking to and meeting new people. Aside from Disney, I love swimming, cooking and learning languages - I can currently speak 6, with varying fluency (so don't test me too much!) I guess it also helps being half Serbian, quarter German and quarter Ukrainian!

I hope you enjoy this little read of my Disney Icon Spotlight, and come say hi if you haven't already; my virtual door is always open for follow up questions or if you just fancy a giant Disney chat.



*Pictures provided by Anna*

## **Q 02 | THE PARKS**

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

Disneyland Paris is DEFINITELY my home park!! But I've been lucky enough to visit Walt Disney World in Florida twice, and Disneyland California once.

## Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

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

Instagram: @my\_DLP\_life ([https://www.instagram.com/my\\_DLP\\_life](https://www.instagram.com/my_DLP_life))

I'm very much a trigger-happy Disney photographer, and I like nothing more than to share my pictures with the community and hopefully bring the joy of Disney magic to people, wherever they are.

## 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.**

Because I have been visiting Disney parks for such a large portion of my life, I have racked up TONS of photos and vintage memorabilia! Now with the pandemic lockdown, and even me taking time out to recover from having coronavirus, has given me the time and opportunity to share these publicly with fellow Disney fans.

I mostly like to capture the beautiful and really clever Disney theming in the different lands and attractions. My mission with my photos is to try and mentally/visually transport the viewer to the Disney parks - so they can feel like they're walking down Main Street, hearing all the ragtime music and smelling all the fresh baking, before staring directly up at Sleeping Beauty's Castle.

When I'm not at the parks, I miss them, so I focus my photography efforts in capturing as real a representation of the Disney parks as I can - hoping to make us all miss the parks a little less when we're away from them.

## Q 05 | THE LOVE

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

Picture the scene... It was eight year old Anna's birthday, I was obsessed with Disney movies (literally all of them!).... my parents took me to Disneyland Paris for the first time ever.... I was the most happiest ever, so happy, that I ugly cried as soon as I walked through the gates! That moment literally changed my life forever. Every birthday since, I have spent it in Disneyland Paris. What started as a birthday trip for an eight-year-old Disney fan girl, has turned into a 20-year long tradition!

## 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?**

Typically 3/4 times a year - we always do my birthday, and in more recent years, runDisney, then maybe a couple of times in between.  
I usually go for 3/4 days at a time - it's enough to see and do everything, but enough to keep my wanting more and to do it all over again!!

## Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

Attractions: “Big Thunder Mountain” and “Pirates of the Caribbean” - because theming!

Parades: 100% vintage on this one – “The Main Street Electrical Parade” will forever be my number one parade! The music, the lights, the frantic waving at all the characters - unbeatable!

Shows: Another blast from the past – “Mickey’s Winter Wonderland” and the Mulan show (which is very under talked about - it was one of the most exciting shows ever!).

## Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

In 20 years of visiting the park, you only want me to pick ONE?!?! Impossible, so here are a few snippets of some of my favourites:

- Not being able to speak amazing French but singing the “Bear Necessities” perfectly in French during karaoke night at the Sports Bar in Disney Village.
- Having my hair sprayed orange and green and my face painted like a pumpkin for Halloween when there was a ‘make up station’ in Fronteirland - washing my hair and face at the end of the day was the saddest moment! Big thanks to my mum who queued with me for hours for me to get this done!
- Working up the courage with the help of my dad to ride my first ever rollercoaster (Big Thunder Mountain) when I was like 13! He said: “What would Indiana Jones do?” And that’s how I overcame my rollercoaster fear!
- Taking my best friend Michael to experience Disney for the first time - seeing him wide eyed and amazed as I always am was such a magical moment.
- Having a wild champagne filled night at Billy Bob’s, dancing to pop music with Michael until 3am - who said Disney was just for kids.....?

## 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?**

Transport (from London)

If you’re travelling from London, the best mode of transport to get to the parks is by Eurostar train from Kings Cross Saint Pancras. I find it the easiest and quickest as you don’t have to worry about a huge security ordeal at the airport and wait hours for a flight. The train drops you off right in front of the park gates, where you can easily access the parks and hotels. Adults can event treat themselves to some pre-holiday train champagne from the on board Benugo cafe.

Best Time to visit

Do not go to the park on the weekends if you can help it - it’s much quieter during the week, meaning shorter queue times and more rides! If you can brave the cold, winter is an amazing time to go to Disneyland Paris, again because it is less crowded. Just be sure to wrap up warm and buy lots of tasty hot chocolate! Disneyland Paris in comparison to its American counterparts isn’t huge either, so a 3/4 day stay is probably sufficient time to see and do everything.

### Where to stay

Off-site partner hotels are a great cost friendly alternative to on site hotels. They're themed to Disney standard and have Disney stores located in them, plus amazing swimming pools and the cost of breakfast is also included (sometimes). They provide a free shuttle bus to and from the parks, roughly arriving every 10mins. My personal favourite off site partner hotel is the Explorers Hotel with its whimsical, round the world theming and two water slides!!

### Ticket and hotel booking

If you don't have an Annual Pass, you can get some great value deals on tickets and hotels from the Travel Republic website. Tickets have to be bought outright, but you can put a small deposit on the cost of the hotel and pay it off bit by bit until up to a few weeks before your trip.

### Park tips

If you don't mind missing the parades, these are the ideal time to go on some of the more popular rides. If people are watching the parade, they're not in a queue line! So, run to the likes of "Hyperspace Mountain", "Indiana Jones et le Temple Du Peril", "Big Thunder Mountain" and "Tower of Terror"!

Book those restaurants in advance through the Disney phone booking line to avoid disappointment! The Agrabah Cafe is my favourite - Mediterranean style all you can eat buffet, with kebab meat, hummus, olives, baklava and €11 carafes of wine!

Get to know the little cut throughs and alleyways - they're dotted around the park and will save you time if you're rushing to catch a parade/show.

## Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Mickey                  | or | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parades      | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Nighttime spectaculars    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site hotel           | or | <input checked="" 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

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**Do you have a question for me?**

What was the thing/moment that got you into loving Disney and Disney Parks in the first place? Where did the Niels/Disney prequel story begin?

Niels: *I'm a movie fan since I was young, with a special place for Disney productions (strong storytelling and visually very innovative). My mom took me to local projections of classics like "Bambi" when I was a kid, I watched a lot of animated Disney series on TV in my younger years like "Duck Tales" and "Gummi Bears", while "The Little Mermaid" was my first real cinema experience. Disney books and the weekly Dutch Donald Duck magazine were also part of my childhood. I only discovered my first Disney park (Disneyland Paris) when I was in University. I definitely liked it, but the real Disney Parks love started when I visited again with my wife and 1 year old daughter in 2013. I then really discovered how the world of Disney movies came to live in a park, how they added great new stories, and I started to deep dive into all the details and history. Nowadays I have my Disney Parks Instagram account, Twitter, website, podcasts...*

## THE END

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I would like to thank Anna 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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owner of Capturing Disney Parks

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