

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 67 | Manuela from @ela.dlp | August 13, 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.

Hello everyone, my name is Manuela but I am more known as Ela. I was born in France, in Provins precisely. I'm 22 years old. I love Disney and I discovered a real passion for photography when I went to the Parisian park. I have had an annual passport for a few years now and, not living far from the park, I like to go there very often to share the news and above all to share the Disney magic.



Pictures provided by Manuela

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

At the moment, I haven't had the chance to go to any other parks than Disneyland Paris. So, I will say that my home park remains Disneyland Paris. I discovered my true passion over there and it is also where I met the love of my life and also my best friend.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

I have an Instagram account, @ELA.DLP (<https://www.instagram.com/ela.dlp>), I love to post my work on. I post all kinds of photos of the park. I have also found that my followers like to see pictures in which I appear (alone or with friends) and not just pictures of shows or characters. So, I try to post those a little more too. If you want to discover my universe then you have to come over to Instagram and follow me.

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 started my Instagram account on a whim, to share the truth. But I really started when I got my first Disneyland Paris Infinity annual pass. I do not regret at all because now it allows me to share my work and meet exceptional people every day.

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

I went to Disneyland quite late to be honest. I must have been 9 years old and all the kids in school kept telling me about this park that I couldn't afford to go to at the time. I will always remember my first visit to Disneyland Paris. It was with my mom and my twin sister and it was Christmas time. We then got an annual passport (the cheapest) and I think that during this first visit the passion was born in me.

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?

I really can't give any numbers because since I got my Infinity pass, and before the COVID-19 crisis obviously, I used to go there about 5 times in a week. So, there you go. I go there mostly to clear my head and enjoy the magical place.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

My favorite attraction is "Phantom Manor". I have always had a passion for horror movies, ghosts and spirits. This attraction has a real story to it and that's what makes me love this mansion and this land (Frontierland aka Thunder Mesa). My favorite show is the "Jungle Book Jive". It symbolizes a lot for me because I met my boyfriend there for the first time. It was such a special festive and joyful atmosphere, just before the difficult COVID-19 period that we have all been living for a while now.

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

I will say the reopening party for "Phantom Manor" where I met my best friend. He was supposed to go to the party alone, just like me. In the end we decided to go together and now we don't let go.

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

I would advise to always take the left line at “Big Thunder Mountain” because it goes much faster. (Red: Sssttt.... Don't tell anyone ;-))

I would also advise not to go to restaurants at noon but when the restaurant opens (often 11:30 am) or rather around 1:30 pm.

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Parades | or | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input 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?

Thank you very much for this interview. I would like to know what your 'essential go to' in the park is.

Niels: *Thanks for that question, Ela! Essential if Thunder Mesa aka Frontierland. Big Thunder Mountain and Phantom Manor are my favorite rides and their stories – and the whole town of Thunder Mesa – are so well connected. I just need to go there!*

THE END

I would like to thank Manuela 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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