

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 76 | Erin from @eringoestotheparks | April 19, 2023

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.

My name is Erin, and I live in Orlando, FL, USA. I keep myself busy as a coast-to-coast passholder, for both Walt Disney World in Florida and Disneyland California, as well as Universal Studios Florida. I have two dogs, Astro and Paisley, who are the best pups in the world. I also enjoy participating in runDisney events, and have been lucky enough to travel to Disneyland Paris multiple times for those as well. I have a massive t-shirt collection, mostly the brand Johnny Cupcakes, and I have a lot of fun wearing them at the parks to match the characters or themes. Outside of theme parks, I enjoy travelling, going to concerts and visiting museums. I will always try to find a fun museum in any city that I visit, especially ones with Dinosaurs on display.



Pictures provided by Erin

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

I have been to Walt Disney World FL (my home park), Disneyland California, and Disneyland Paris.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

Instagram: [@eringoestotheparks](https://www.instagram.com/eringoestotheparks)

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 enjoy everything that the parks have to offer and share stories as I experience the fun and magic of each visit. I also like character interactions, as I think that brings the parks to life. So, I'll frequently post photos of those experiences, especially new or rare characters. It started as a way for me to keep track of which characters I had met (and what shirts I have) and has just grown from there.

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

Growing up in Central Florida, everyone assumes I went to Disney all the time. But that's not the case. We went maybe every couple of years, and it was usually when someone came to visit from out of town. Once I became an adult, I quickly grabbed annual passes and the obsession began.

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 typically will be at a theme park a few days a week depending on the season. I'm a local, so it's easy to get to them often. Sometimes I go just for a restaurant visit and a couple of rides.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

My favorite ride is the "Haunted Mansion" (specifically the holiday overlay in California), and I also really love the immersive environment of "Galaxy's Edge" (I'm a big Star Wars fan!). One of my favorite daytime parades is "Magic Happens", which just returned to Disneyland California. By far, my favorite nighttime parade is "Boo To You", which happens during "Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween" parties at Walt Disney World. I hope Florida gets a nighttime parade back soon year-round, as "The Main Street Electrical Parade" and "Paint

the Night” are so amazing. I always enjoy a firework show, and “Wishes” at Magic Kingdom in Florida was spectacular. For a stage show, “Mickey and the Magician” in Disneyland Paris was breathtaking.

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

When I was very young, probably 8 or 9, my family was at “Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas” party in Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World Florida. We were walking through the shops, and I heard a loud noise. It sounded like stomping on the ground, but louder than I’d ever heard. I quickly ran to the door of the shop to see the giant Toy Soldiers marching by in the parade. They were so tall and the shoes were so loud! But it was truly so festive and magical to see. They are still my favorite part of the Christmas parade.

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

My tip-prioritize your day. Know what is most important to you and your family, as sometimes you can't do it all. Plan what you can, but be okay with things going off schedule. Know your group, and take breaks if needed. Don't push so hard that the day is stressful and miserable. I see this often at the parks, families arguing and upset and tired, because they are trying to cram so much in. The parks are full of wonderful experiences, but so many are missed because of stress. Relax and take it all in. Also, drink lots of water. Most people aren't used to the physical aspect of the parks. It can be intense, so take care of yourself.

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Characters | or | <input 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 (note: save money!) |
| <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"/> Nuimo’s |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evening visits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Paid direct access (note: magic shots are fun!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook |

Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

What made you decide to start your page?

And when are you coming to Florida to visit me and my home park?

Answer Niels: Thanks for your question and the invite Erin! It was great to meet you at the InsidEars event recently. I've been to Walt Disney World twice (30 days in total) and would love to come back one day! As for my page... it all started with... a camera full of pictures and not wanting to spam my family and friends too much with Disney Parks pictures on my personal social accounts. That's when I decided to do something with all those pictures in a dedicated Instagram account with some tips, facts and insights in the captions. And from there it grew to more accounts, interviews, podcasts and more.

THE END

I would like to thank Erin 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 (news)

<https://www.twitter.com/captdisneyparks>

Twitter (photos)

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Podcasts with Niels

<http://capturingdisneyparks.com/podcasts>

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