

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 78 | Beth, Vanessa & Marq from Dedicated to DLP | May 08, 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.

Hello, bonjour, hallo and also yassas! We are Beth, Vanessa and Marq- three people from three different countries whose love of Disneyland Paris brought them together to become the heart of Dedicated to Disneyland Paris.



Pictures provided by Dedicated to DLP

Vanessa is in Germany, but is always ready to hop over for a weekend getaway to drink champagne on Main Street, like she once did all the way from Scotland! She's very organised and is the voice of reason, both on our podcast and in real life. If you need someone to tell you that you should or shouldn't buy yet another Disney mug, she's your go-to! She occasionally raises her legal index finger on the podcast.

Marq is half Dutch, and the other half he'd rather not mention because of Brexit, but lives in Greece and has the best English accent of the three of us, somehow. He is a professional photographer/videographer/editor, so he keeps our Instagram feed looking stellar. He is also responsible for 100 % of the terrible dad jokes on our podcast. (Sorry to throw you under the shuttle bus, buddy.)

Beth is originally from the USA, but lives in France now, just a shortish TGV ride away from the parks. She loves Disney history and trivia and is also mildly obsessed with Fort Comstock. She is responsible for 99.9 % of the awkward GenZ slang usage on our podcast. (Vanessa said she was « shook » last week on air, so she is also part of the problem). Cringe.

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

Beth has been to the Tokyo Disney Resort and was completely blown away by her experiences there. That said, Disneyland Paris is forever our "home park". It is where the three of us finally met in person for the first time! Beth and Vanessa have been working on Disneyland Paris fan sites together since 2017...but only met face to face in April 2023 at Disneyland Paris. So many great memories associated with the French park, for all of us.

Marq visited Disneyland in Anaheim as a teenager, and the "Main Street Electrical Parade" tune has lived somewhere in his subconscious mind ever since.

Vanessa started young with Disneyland Paris and has never looked back. Disneyland Paris is definitely her home park!

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

Website	: https://dedicatedtodlp.com	Full of information, reviews and guides
Instagram	: @dedicatedtodlp	News from the parks, along with plenty of photos and videos
Twitter	: @DedicatedToDLP	DLP related news and nonsense
YouTube	: @Dedicatedtodlp	
Podcast*	: Dedicated to Disneyland Paris	It comes out twice monthly, with news, reviews, special guest interviews & more

*Available on Spotify, Apple and mostly wherever else you listen to podcasts.

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.

Our main media outlet is our podcast, which just went to a twice a month format this year! The show is semi-scripted, as we always have news and announcements and we tend to do a lot of background research before each show. That said, the structure still allows for lots of fun and banter between the three of us. Controlled chaos, we like to think, anyway!

Vanessa and Beth actually were part of the team from another Disneyland Paris (DLP) fan site, The DLP Café, which took over the podcast and associated platforms back in April 2019. Dedicated to DLP has existed since 2010, but the person running it needed a change, so he left it to us to really run with it. But sometimes it's a marathon and we needed help. That is when Marq joined the team and things really took off in the right direction.

As for the parks we cover- as it says in the name, we truly are dedicated to DLP. That said, when one of us ventures off, we do give it coverage. Beth's trip to the Disney parks in Japan was certainly the source of a lot of fun content for us!

Why do we do it? Good question! It does take a lot of work to keep all of the D2DLP social media platforms humming along. And the twice a month podcast format is very time consuming, as editing each hour long (or more!) show can take many more hours, not to mention writing the scripts, recruiting and scheduling guests and all the rest. So why do it?

Here's our theory:

We are three playful, imaginative and creative people who feel that the world needs more fun, happiness and fantasy. It is so thrilling that there is a magical place called Disneyland Paris, that is full of the stories we love and that is made so that people of all ages can play together and make memories. Our activities at Dedicated to Disneyland Paris are a way of prolonging that magic- of living it nearly every single day. Being able to share that with other Disney fans out there is pure pixiedust!

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

Beth grew up watching "The Wonderful World of Disney" on a non-flat screen tv. Before the days of streaming or even VHS tapes, it was the main way to get a bit of weekly Disney magic in your life. Seeing the promotions for Walt Disney World that aired on the show in 1970's, she dreamed of going there. But the center of the USA is very far from both Florida and California. So, the dream went dormant, until Beth was living in France, had a little daughter of her own... and a thing called Euro Disney was just opening up. Beth was hooked from the first moment because it was just as magical as she thought it would be, with unparalleled storytelling and amazing attention to detail. Soon after, though, she moved again and ended up living for 10 years in Africa, so park access was not...easy. But moving back to France in 2008 changed all that. Since then, she has an annual pass and uses it as often as she can.

Vanessa owes her love of DLP to her mum, who was that keen on visiting Euro Disney back then. So, they made their way to the parks in May 1992! They were hooked right away and started visiting the parks several times a year with various family members and friends in tow and have the fantastic 90s all over denim fashion photos to prove it. While they tried almost all on site hotels (minus Hotel New York which got veto'd by V's mum) - they quickly fell in love with the convenience of the Davy Crockett Ranch and its fabulous pool and outdoor spaces and returned many times throughout the decades. Safe to say - DLP is a family affair in her own household as an adult, leading to 10 years of an annual pass now.

Even though Marq passed by the Euro Disney Visitor Center with his father before the park opened in 1992, and even went to a Cast Member recruitment event in The Netherlands (he was still too young), he didn't actually visit Disneyland Paris until 2012 with his own children. Especially in those early years it was amazing to see their reaction to the rides and parades and beaming as characters waved at them. He's usually very pragmatic but that's where he understood "the magic".

They would visit almost once per year until the Pandemic hit, and with time on his hands and in need of escapism, he dove into DLP's history and imagineering, as well as trying to find any fan podcasts specific to the resort. That's when he stumbled upon our Virtual DLP walk-throughs and got transported once again. A couple of messages later offering to help out with our website (which was itself under virus quarantine) and he became part of the team.

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?

Between the three of us, we visit about 9 or 10 times a year. Due to work, Vanessa often just gets weekend getaways. Beth definitely prefers midweek 3 or 4 day stays. Marq takes whatever he can get, whether it is quick solo trips or slightly longer ones during his children's school holidays. Their last family visit was for the 2022 Halloween soirée where in fact they met up with Vanessa!

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

We were all three just at DLP on April 12th for the return of the iconic nighttime spectacle "Dreams" I think we, along with many other fans, rate that as our all-time fave. We're also very impressed with what Ben Spalding has been doing with the drone shows. Our "Big Thunder Mountain" is just a joy of theming, thrills and Imagineering, and Marq would like it to be known that talking "Skull Rock" and pirate zombies in the caves should be back every Halloween, although Vanessa will not go anywhere near them.

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

As individuals, we all have different moments with family and friends at Disneyland Paris that we will never forget. But as a group, I think we have to go with walking down main street on April 12, 2023, together in person for the first time. Sitting down at the Market House Deli, eating beignets, drinking hot chocolate and watching the colourful "Dream and Shine Brighter" cavalcade roll down Main Street was just like a dream! Then we got out our podcasting gear and recorded some show segments right then and there. Great memories all around!

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

Disneyland Paris is a park to savor and experience. Rushing through just to get from one attraction to another is a huge error. You need to slow down and smell the roses (which some weird, violent card people just may be painting red!) The park is lovingly landscaped, with a spacious layout and a plethora of walk-through attractions made to be enjoyed at your leisure. It's not a thrill park- it's a theme park. The Queen of all theme parks, even! So, give yourself at least two or three days, realize there is no way to do everything, don't be in a rush and just breathe! (And don't forget to visit Fort Comstock in Frontierland!)

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

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|--|----|--|----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald | (but Vanessa says 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 | (if we're paying! LOL!) |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening visits | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Paid direct access | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook | |

Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

If you were a Disney executive with the task of creating a new Disney Park, where and what would it be?

Answer Niels: Thanks for the question and also for having me on your great podcast by the way (Please check-out episode 170). And about that question... that's a difficult one! I personally would love to see a 3rd park being added to Disneyland Paris first. Something unique on top of our castle and studios parks, like a re-imagined EPCOT with a World Showcase that excludes countries nearby France, a nature-themed Animal Kingdom-alike park, or a huge Toon-park with a Mickey inspired Toon Town like in the US, a Duckburg from Duck Tales and even a Zootopia like they're developing in Asia. But besides expanding Paris, a new location would be awesome too. I'm not sure if the European market needs a 2nd Disney Park resort, so economically wise I think a market like India or South America would be interesting to target for Disney.

THE END

I would like to thank Beth, Vanessa and Marq 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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