

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

**A LOOK BACK
AT A YEAR
FOR THE AGES!**



**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
...AND BEYOND!**

Disney Vacation Club



WELCOME HOME



I recently met some seasoned travelers who treat Walt Disney World Resorts as second homes, returning year after year and passing down their vacation traditions from generation to generation. They receive world-class service from dedicated Cast Members despite no cash changing hands at the end of their stay, and while they're here, they make a lot of babies.

Wait, you thought I was talking about Members? Sorry, I should've clarified. I'm talking about birds – purple martins, to be specific.

Each year, these agile aerial acrobats fly more than 3,000 miles from the Brazilian Amazon to Walt Disney World Resort, where they settle into specially created accommodations perched on pedestals before finding mates and...well...you know the rest. You can learn more about these curious creatures through the latest installment of our "Quiz Ed" feature on pages 7-8.

I mention the birds here because, like many stories in the pages ahead, theirs is as much about where they're going as where they've been.

Our community hasn't just celebrated the past 25 years in 2016; we've celebrated 25 years *and beyond*. So where does Membership Magic go in that great "beyond?"

For starters, it sees some of the most popular elements of our 25th anniversary celebration continue in the New Year (pages 3-4), it sees Members sail the Rhine in distinctive fashion (pages 5-6) and it sees one of the most beloved resorts in our neighborhood blaze new trails through the wilderness (page 9). Dreaming about what may happen in the next 25 years can be as much fun as remembering what happened in the first.

Who could've imagined 25 years ago that Disney vacations would someday include pizza with a rat (page 15), dinner with a pig (page 15) or a mission with an armed raccoon (pages 19-20)? And yet here we are, not finding these news items nearly as odd as they sound.

That, for so many Member families, is part of the magic of Disney Vacation Club – having no idea what Disney has in store for the decades ahead but knowing you'll have a front row seat. It also helps to know that, like a bird returning from the Amazon, you'll feel very much at home.

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



Illustration by Keelan Parham

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Update your mailing address online at disneyvacationclub.com

Contact Member Services from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Eastern weekdays, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eastern weekends
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From Mexico: call 01-800-436-0264
From the U.K.: call 08007832893
Visit the Help & Contact section of disneyvacationclub.com for toll-free numbers serving other countries.
Email Member Services at: members@disneyvacationclub.com

Please recycle this publication (or cherish it forever)

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9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Japan Time)
Email: JPMembers@disneyvacationclub.com

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The following important information applies to select offerings as noted in the pages ahead: You should not purchase a real estate interest in a Disney Vacation Club Resort in reliance upon the continued availability or renewal or extension of these offers. These offers may only be available to Members at various times and may or may not be renewed or extended. Membership Extras, such as vacation options in the Disney and Concierge Collections, certain discounts, offers and special events, are incidental benefits. These incidental benefits are subject to change or termination without notice, may require the payment of a fee and cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Membership Extras are also subject to availability, and block-out dates may apply, including high periods of demand, such as Christmas and New Year's Day. To receive any Membership Extras, purchasers must present a valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card, along with a corresponding valid photo ID. Disney and Concierge Collection options are not available for ownership interests not purchased directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc., after March 21, 2011, and, effective April 4, 2016, Members who do not purchase an ownership interest directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc., will not have access to Membership Extras.



Just getting started

**By Ken Potrock, Senior Vice President and General Manager,
Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney**

Is it me, or does it feel like we just got started celebrating 25 years and beyond?

In what can only be described as an example of time flying when you're having fun, 2016 seemed to race through the neighborhood at lightspeed, leaving an unprecedented array of new Member offerings in its wake. And I have to say, my colleagues and I have enjoyed these new expressions of Membership Magic as much as anyone.

Our Cast family has relished the opportunity to visit with you and your fellow Members at our celebratory signature events, from the Disney Vacation Club 25 and Beyond Bash celebrations in Florida and California (taking over Magic Kingdom Park and Disney California Adventure Park respectively) to the Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Beach Bash parties at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park to the Disney Vacation Club Safari Spectacular nights at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. We cherished the four unforgettable days and nights we spent with the Member community aboard our first Member Cruise from New York (a voyage bookended by Member tours of New York with Adventures by Disney and a special performance of the Tony Award-winning *Aladdin*


on Broadway), and we look eagerly forward to celebrating the season with Member families when the beloved Merry Member Mixer returns to Epcot, shortly after I pen this column.

Of course, the celebration wasn't limited to events, as Members took advantage of a host of new offerings daily, experiencing the enormously popular Member Lounge at Epcot (pictured on this magazine's cover), enjoying a free Theme Park day added to select Walt Disney World ticket purchases, capturing complimentary family photos at Disney Vacation Club Resorts, planning their vacations more easily than ever through our enhanced services online and by phone, showing off their Member pride with new merchandise and complimentary anniversary buttons, taking advantage of special offers from Disney Cruise Line and Adventures by Disney, and more.

It would be a shame to stop celebrating the magic of Membership just because the calendar turns to 2017, and I can tell you we have no intention of doing so. If 2016 was about celebrating 25 years and beyond, you could say 2017 will celebrate the year "beyond" begins.

The Member offerings* highlighted as part of the year-in-review feature in the pages ahead are only the beginning of what's in store. Because as we move from "25 years" to "beyond," we really are just getting started.

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1



Ken, left, joins Broadway's Genie (Tony Award winner James Monroe Iglehart) and Make-A-Wish family the Shapoos to announce a \$25,000 donation from Disney Vacation Club to Make-A-Wish following a special performance of *Aladdin* on Broadway.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
...AND BEYOND!

Disney Vacation Club

A YEAR FOR THE AGES

As Disney Vacation Club moves from “25 years” to “beyond,” *Disney Files* Magazine takes a numerical look back at a year for the ages and looks forward to more Membership Magic on tap for the year ahead!

70,000



The approximate number of **Members and their guests who will have, by year’s end, attended Disney Vacation Club signature events at Disney Parks**, including Disney Vacation Club 25 and Beyond Bash parties at Magic Kingdom Park and Disney California Adventure Park, Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Beach Bash parties at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park, Disney Vacation Club Safari Spectacular nights at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park and Merry Member Mixer gatherings at Epcot.

180,000



The approximate number of **Members and their guests who will have, by year’s end, visited the new Member Lounge at Epcot**.

11



The number of **ceremonial trees planted around the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood** this spring.

13



The number of **unique shows and experiences Disney Vacation Club added to the already spectacular Disney Cruise Line slate for the first Member Cruise from New York**. The memorable voyage to the Canadian coast featured special content created in collaboration with Walt Disney Imagineering, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures (live action), DisneyNature, Lucasfilm, Walt Disney Home Entertainment, Disney Character Voices, Disney Publishing, Disney Theatrical Productions, ESPN and more.

25,000



The number of **dollars Disney Vacation Club donated to Make-A-Wish** at a special performance of *Aladdin* on Broadway for Members and their guests.

2



The number of **special Adventures by Disney trips enjoyed by Members and their guests**: a pre-Member Cruise tour of New York City and the first Adventures by Disney Danube River cruise.

120,000



The approximate number of **complimentary photos** Members will have taken home from kiosks at select Disney Vacation Club Resorts by the end of 2016.

4,000 

The approximate number of **Members and their guests who will have, by year's end, attended exclusive holiday dinners and events** at Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts.

25 

Fittingly, both the number of **dream vacations awarded** to Members through quarterly sweepstakes and the number of **25th anniversary merchandise items released**, from apparel and handbags to collectibles and accessories (including commemorative MagicBands).

3 

The number of films from the Disney family of studios screened for **Disney Vacation Club Members and their guests before opening in U.S. theaters**: Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Zootopia* and Disney•Pixar's *Finding Dory* at both Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts, and DisneyNature's *Born in China* (opening in U.S. theaters in spring 2017) aboard the Member Cruise.

6 

The number of **resorts added to Members' vacation options**: Northstar Lodge (Calif.) and Sirena del Mar (Mexico) by Welk Resorts, Wyndham Resort at Avon (Col.), Hyatt Regency Maui, Riverwalk at Loon Mountain (N.H.) and Tokyo Disney Celebration Hotel.

0 

The **amount Members paid for an extra Theme Park day** by taking advantage of a limited-time Walt Disney World Theme Park ticket offer. The special offer added a free Theme Park day to Members' multi-day ticket purchase of four days or more, with no start-date expiration.

500,000 

The approximate number of **complimentary Disney Vacation Club 25th anniversary buttons** gifted this year to Members at Disney Parks, resorts and at sea.

8 

The number of **Disney Vacation Club Resort enhancement projects** initiated in 2016. (See page 18 for the latest resort-refurbishment updates from around the neighborhood.)

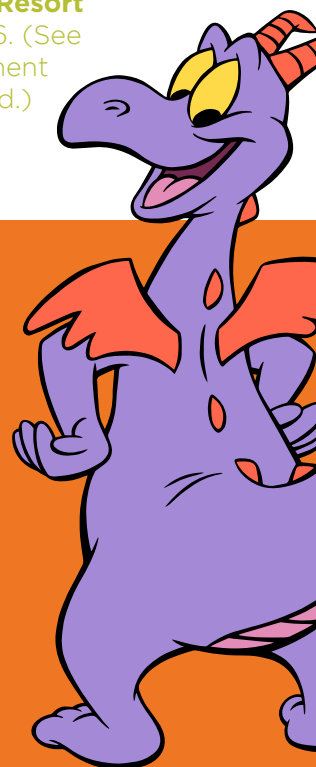
BEYOND 2016

Watch *Disney Files Magazine* and disneyvacationclub.com for details about these and other Member offerings in the New Year and beyond!

Member Lounge*: We are pleased to announce that, by popular demand, the Member Lounge at Epcot will remain open throughout 2017! Stop by the second floor of the Park's iconic Imagination! Pavilion (enter through the Figment-filled merchandise shop) for complimentary soft drinks and Wi-Fi service, assistance from Member Services, rest and relaxation, and more!

Signature events*: Members' enthusiastic response to signature events in 2016 has sparked an equally epic lineup for 2017, with signature events in the works for both U.S. coasts. The year ahead also features the first Member Cruise aboard the Disney Fantasy ship — an already-sold-out, 7-night Eastern Caribbean voyage sailing Aug. 26-Sept. 2, 2017 out of Port Canaveral, Fla.!

**See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1





First in line for the Rhine

Adventures by Disney voyage for Members departing next spring

Adventures by Disney: Just as Disney Vacation Club Members were the first to experience a Danube River Cruise with Adventures by Disney this summer, our magical community will sail on the inaugural Adventures by Disney Rhine River Cruise next spring.

This dedicated Disney Vacation Club sailing will depart Basel, Switzerland on April 8, 2017, and visit six destinations in four countries over eight days and seven nights in the heart of the region's famed tulip season, culminating in Amsterdam, Netherlands, where an optional post-cruise extension package is available*. As an added bonus just for Members and their guests, the inaugural voyage will feature daily gifts and a special Disney-insider "host" whose stories will connect the sailing's destinations to the Disney legacy.

The all-inclusive Adventures by Disney sailing with AmaWaterways allows families to customize their trip with a variety of activities both aboard the ship and at ports along the way for every member of the family – with all shore excursions included in the price of the cruise.

Excursion options include tobogganing or zip-lining through Germany's legendary Black Forest; playing indoor and outdoor sports in Neuss, Germany; embarking on a privately guided tour of Germany's famous storybook Heidelberg Castle; exploring France's Alsace region by canoe and horseback; participating in a chocolate-making workshop in Cologne, Germany; learning the art of clog-painting and cheese-making in Holland; and more.

Like the Danube River cruises this summer, the Rhine River cruises promise an active and



immersive way to experience Europe, with exceptional service delivered by dedicated Adventure Guides who take care of all the details.

William Vidaud of Texas, Member since 2010, enjoyed the inaugural Danube River Cruise with his wife, Aileen, and son, Joseph. William singled out the voyage's Adventure Guides as true difference-makers on his family's vacation, calling them "very knowledgeable of the places we're going" and noting that they were always "in tune with children and how to make it fun for them."

Dramatically smaller than ocean-liners, the 170-passenger vessel is able to sail close to shore, arriving in the heart of the cities and towns it visits, and allowing families to spend less time *getting to* points of interest and more time *enjoying* them.

"You're getting to tour these amazing cities,

and at every stop, there is something for your kids to do," Aileen added of her family's river-cruising experience.

Danube and Rhine River cruises are among the many guided vacations now available through Adventures by Disney, with options in more than 30 destinations across the globe. Visit the Adventures by Disney section of disneyvacationclub.com (Plan Vacations tab, Points & Destinations, Disney Collection) to learn more about available itineraries before calling Member Services to book your adventure**.

*The optional Adventures by Disney Rhine River Cruise Extension Package includes a night of accommodations in a prime Amsterdam location, transportation, one lunch, one dinner and two breakfasts.

**See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1



For the birds

By Dr. Ed Yukatid Gess



Like many Disney Vacation Club Members, a fascinating bird species returns to deluxe Walt Disney World accommodations year after year. They're called purple martins, and their journey to Central Florida from the Brazilian Amazon each January is critical to their survival. More than a vacation, their extended visit finds them choosing mates and preparing their chicks for a summer return to South America. Dependent upon humans for nesting sites, the birds settle into specially designed "vacation clubs" perched on pedestals at several Walt Disney World locations (including Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa), where they're fitted with tiny transmitters that allow experts from Disney's Animals, Science and Environment team to track their travels, gaining a deeper understanding of how they get here and where they go next. As we look forward to the birds' arrival later this winter, this edition of "Quiz Ed" tests your knowledge of - or ability to make educated guesses about - these fine feathered friends.

1. Purple martins are what type of bird?

- a) swallow
- b) sparrow
- c) finch

2. Purple martins prefer to nest away from trees. What are they trying to avoid?

- a) shade
- b) sap
- c) predators

3. What do Disney Cast Members place atop the purple martin houses to attract them?

- a) decoys
- b) food
- c) "welcome home" signs

4. The most distinguishing feature of a male purple martin is its...

- a) tail feather length
- b) coloration
- c) refusal to ask for directions

5. What were the first human-made purple martin houses made from?

- a) clay pots
- b) wire baskets
- c) hollow gourds

6. How long does it take for an egg to form in a purple martin?

- a) 1 week
- b) 1 day
- c) 1 hour

7. What is a purple martin's favorite snack?

- a) dragonflies
- b) earthworms
- c) churros

8. The average purple martin nest contains how many eggs?

- a) 1-3
- b) 4-6
- c) 7-9

9. Why do purple martin chicks have yellow coloring on the corner of their beaks?

- a) To help their parents feed them
- b) To scare off predators
- c) To reflect light into their still-developing eyes

10. Purple martins store fat on their...

- a) thighs
- b) throat
- c) shoulders

Give yourself 10 points for each correct answer, and see where you rank in the bird world.

90-100 points: soaring eagle
70-80 points: wise owl
50-60 points: pompous penguin
30-40 points: eating crow
10-20 points: dodo
0 points: bird brain



Learn more about purple martins and other amazing species online at DisneyAnimals.com

ANSWERS: 1: a (purple martins are the largest North American swallow), 2: c (nesting away from trees helps purple martins avoid pests and predators, including snakes, squirrels and hawks), 3: a (Cast Members use recorded vocalizations and place decoys atop the houses to attract purple martins), 4: b (male purple martins have a distinctive dark blue-purple color all over, a contrast to females' lighter undersides), 5: c (Native Americans attracted purple martins with dwellings made from dried, hollowed-out gourds), 6: b (female purple martins can create an egg in a single day, which allows her to lay one egg each morning until her clutch is complete), 7: a (purple martins love snacking - in mid-flight - on dragonflies), 8: b (the typical nest contains 4-6 eggs, with last year's Walt Disney World nests averaging 5 eggs), 9: a (the yellow markings help parents deliver food as they can more easily spot the open mouths of their chicks in dark nests), 10: b (among the places purple martins store fat is at the base of their throats, where biologists check the amount stored as an indicator of overall body condition)

Take a dip in Boulder Ridge Cove

Future pool has a 'rocky' past

Boulder Ridge Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge: As noted in the fall edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, a sweeping re-imagining of the former Hidden Springs Pool area will help tell the richly layered back story of Boulder Ridge, thematic home to the recently renamed Boulder Ridge Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.

Depicted in the artist rendering below and scheduled to open in summer 2017, Boulder Ridge Cove will feature an expanded sun deck and zero-depth-entry pool in what appears to have been an abandoned rock quarry.

Such rejuvenating transformations were

common in the Pacific Northwest following the mid-20th-century fading of the Transcontinental Railroad, as locals turned rails into trails, repurposing everything from bridges and tunnels to cranes and quarries.

A nearby "Boulder Ridge Railway and Mining Co." water tower and vintage mine cart will be among the pool area's landmark reminders of its pioneering past.

Watch *Disney Files Magazine* for more details about enhancements to Disney's Wilderness Lodge, including a new poolside dining venue scheduled to debut in spring 2017.





Community Calendar

As part of Disney Vacation Club's commitment to helping Members plan their vacations, *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to highlight Member events* on tap for the season ahead and beyond. Please note that event dates, locations and other details are subject to change, and that further details (including pricing and registration information if applicable, as well as new events materializing after this magazine hits the press) debut on the Event Calendar online at disneyvacationclub.com when available. Located under the site's Plan Vacations tab, the calendar allows you browse all events, sort by destination or event type, and more.

*The events listed here are considered "Membership Extras," and eligibility restrictions apply. For details, please see the important information at the bottom of page 1.



**AROUND
THE
CORNER**

Walt Disney World Resort

- Jan. 1, 2017: Disney Vacation Club New Year's Day Brunch, Disney's Contemporary Resort



**DOWN
THE
ROAD
(2017)**

Disneyland Resort

- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

Walt Disney World Resort

- May 14: Disney Vacation Club Mother's Day Brunch, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- July 3: Disney Vacation Club Independence Day Dessert Party, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Nov. 23: Disney Vacation Club Thanksgiving Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort



ONGOING

Disneyland Resort

A variety of Member events take place at, or begin from, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, including **Disney Vacation Club Fitness in the Park** most Tuesday mornings from March-November and the **Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Powerwalk** (weather permitting) on most Thursday mornings. Members looking for a more leisurely experience can head straight to Disney California Adventure Park most Wednesday mornings for a complimentary **behind-the-scenes** tour of the recently re-imagined Soarin' Around the World attraction. (See page 11 for details about a similar Soarin' experience now available at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort.)

Walt Disney World Resort

Bowl with your neighbors during **Disney Vacation Club Member Night at Splitsville**, at Disney Springs West Side on most Wednesday evenings, compete for the best catch during the **Disney Vacation Club Member Fishing Tournament** at Disney's Contemporary Resort Marina on most Thursday mornings and enjoy the **Disney Vacation Club Member Magic Kingdom Fireworks Cruise** from Disney's Contemporary Resort Marina on most Wednesday evenings.

Plan your pool time:

Visit disneyvacationclub.com for complete details about Members' ability to "hop" to other eligible pools at select Walt Disney World Resorts during their vacation. The frequently updated site lists a variety of important rules and restrictions, including block-out dates.

Aulani

Member offerings at Aulani include the **Member Maka'ika'i: Art & Nature Walking Tour of Aulani**, beginning in the Maka'ala Lobby on most Wednesday and Sunday afternoons; and the **Disney Vacation Club Member Culinary Dessert Demonstration** at Makahiki – The Bounty of the Islands restaurant on most Thursday afternoons.

Disney Vacation Club®

MEMBERSHIP



Go Soarin' behind the scenes

Complimentary tour makes cultural connections at Epcot

Walt Disney World Resort: Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look and VIP ride experience at one of Disney's most popular attractions during a new – and complimentary – tour created with Members in mind*.

Offered most Wednesday mornings, the hour-long tour explores how Walt Disney's vision for bringing people and cultures together evolved into what we know today as Epcot and helped inspire the new Soarin' Around the World

attraction.

Members and their guests discover the technology behind the attraction before taking flight – all before the Park opens to the public.

For more information (including available dates and booking details) about this tour and a similar experience launched previously at Disney California Adventure Park (noted on page 10), visit disneyvacationclub.com (My DVC Membership, Member Benefits & More).

*Note that, while the tour itself is complimentary, paid Theme Park admission is required. **See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.



Your place to be for special treatment

New Disney Springs proprietors offer Member discounts

Walt Disney World Resort: With the strikingly detailed Town Center neighborhood having now joined The Landing between the Marketplace and West Side at Disney Springs, Members have more places than ever to enjoy Membership Extras at this bustling shopping, dining and entertainment destination. Here's a look at some of the latest Disney Springs proprietors offering Member discounts.

Chef Art Smith's Homecoming (pictured below) –
10% off food (lunch and dinner)

Dig into delectable farm-to-fork cuisine showcasing Florida's fresh flavors, all crafted from recipes by an award-winning celebrity chef.

Columbia Sportswear – 10% off merchandise

Gear up for your next big adventure with a brand name known for its innovative, rugged and stylish apparel, footwear and equipment.

L'Occitane en Provence – 10% off purchase of \$65 or more*

Visit a cheerful, French-inspired apothecary, where you can sample all-natural beauty products, mix your own essential oils and more.

*Discount valid on full-priced merchandise only and isn't combinable with gift sets, purchase with purchases, gift with purchase or any other promotional offer.

Shore – 15% off merchandise

Dive into vacation mode at this beachy boutique inspired by the sea and sunshine, where you'll find an array of lifestyle essentials for men, women and kids.

Sperry – 15% off merchandise

Discover a breezy collection of apparel, accessories and footwear crafted by the brand behind the world's first boat shoe.

Superdry – 10% off merchandise

Explore a British label known for its incredible tailoring and high-quality fabrics infused with a unique blend of vintage Americana- and Japanese-inspired graphics.

Vince Camuto – 15% off merchandise

Scoop up stylish shoes, accessories and apparel at this brand's sole Central Florida location.



DISNEY
SPRINGS

Trip tip: Visit the Member Benefits & More section of disneyvacationclub.com before or during your next vacation to see the latest discounts and offers available as part of Membership Magic. The frequently updated site lets you easily sort offers by benefit type and destination to help you make these Membership Extras part of your vacation plans.



my Disney home

Where Members Live

Disney Files Magazine proudly presents photos and stories from Members who have made Disney part of their home decorating. This edition's submission comes from the Sievers-Pester family of California, Members since 2010.

A smile means friendship to everyone at the table in the dining room of the Sievers-Pester family, who spent months turning this happy space into an artful toast to Disney Legend Mary Blair and her iconic work on the “it’s a small world” attraction, now celebrating 50 years at Disneyland Park. (The beloved attraction made its Disneyland debut in 1966 after premiering at the 1964-65 New York World’s Fair.) Beyond the colorful wall mural, the dining room features “it’s a small world” tableware, accessories and poster art, along with a framed restaurant menu signed by Walt Disney himself. The *Disney Files* staff eagerly awaits our invitation to dinner.



Did you know? An Audio-Animatronics doll within the “it’s a small world” attraction at Disneyland Park pays tribute to Disney Legend Mary Blair. Look for the blonde girl in glasses, flying from a balloon over the Eiffel Tower.

Do you have a Disney home? Whether it’s an expansive collection of Disney memorabilia or your own Disney-inspired space, we’d like to see it. Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won’t return ours), along with a letter containing your Member Since year and describing your unique Disney style, to Disney Files Magazine’s “My Disney Home,” Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include a signed release form, available for download and printing online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

RCI PRESENTS



picture this

As winter brings sub-freezing temperatures to many Members' hometowns, *Disney Files Magazine* focuses its lens on the Gold Coast of Australia, where the December-average 26-degree weather is in Celsius - more than 78 delightful degrees Fahrenheit! See if you can spot the seven things we've altered in this soul-warming shot of the Gold Coast, one of several Australian destinations Members may enjoy through our friends at RCI*. Visit disneyvacationclub.com to learn more about the thousands of exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic.

*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities require a fee and may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice. RCI and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved.



original



altered



ANSWERS: From left to right, (1) trees at the far left of the photo have disappeared, (2) a row of individual windows in the furthest-left tower have become a single panoramic window, (3) a new tower reflection has appeared in the water beneath the first gap between towers, (4) a shorter building in that same gap on the shore has disappeared, (5) a tree in the second gap between towers has disappeared, (6) the building to the right of that missing tree has lost its rooftop marquee and (7) the tallest tower to the right of that now marquee-free building has lost its penthouse.



community kitchen

tasty tidbits • nourishing news



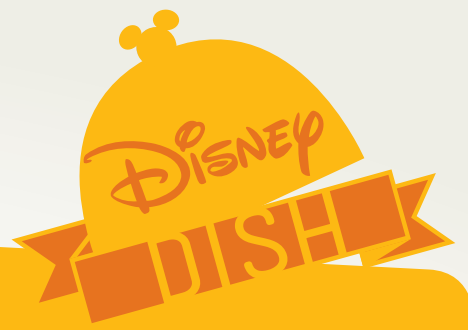
Disney's Hollywood Studios: Bistrot Chez Remy at Disneyland Paris is no longer the only rat-run restaurant in a Disney Park, as the Muppets' Rizzo the Rat is scheduled to have opened his new pizzeria across the courtyard from Jim Henson's Muppet-Vision 3D at Disney's Hollywood Studios at Walt Disney World Resort by the time this magazine mails. Located in the former Toy Story Pizza Planet location, the two-story, quick-service Pizzerizzo is the wisecracking Muppet's take on casual Italian-American dining, with indoor and outdoor seating, an appropriately "cheesy" banquet room, a special booth designated for Rizzo's celebrity friends, and plenty of clever nods to Rizzo and his extended family.

Disney Springs: One of the most recognized families in Central Florida's culinary community is developing a new fast-casual restaurant at Disney Springs Town Center at Walt Disney World Resort called The Polite Pig. James Beard Award nominees James and Julie Petrakis, proprietors of the popular Ravenous Pig restaurant in nearby Winter Park, Fla., are creating the concept with James' brother, Brian, who operates the popular local eatery Greens & Grille. Scheduled to open next spring, The Polite Pig will serve wood-fired

smoked and grilled items, along with local beer (including varieties brewed at the Petrakis' Cask & Larder restaurant in Winter Park, Fla.), wine and cocktails. The open-kitchen establishment continues a wave of new Disney Springs restaurants from celebrated chefs, following in the footsteps of Morimoto Asia, STK Orlando, Frontera Cocina by Rick Bayless, Chef Art Smith's Homecoming: Florida Kitchen and Southern Shine, and the new Guy Fieri-created burger and sandwich menu as part of the offerings at Planet Hollywood Observatory.

Disney's Contemporary Resort: Enjoy "Brunch at the Top" of Disney's Contemporary Resort as California Grill turns leisurely Sundays into sophisticated culinary affairs. The distinctive dining experience adds live musical entertainment and interactions with the restaurant's culinary team to a feast that features charcuterie, sushi, market-inspired salads, seasonal entrees, mimosas, chocolate truffles and more. Complimentary valet parking is included. Details and advance reservations are available online at Disneyworld.com/dine and through the My Disney Experience app.

Disney's Wilderness Lodge: The seasonal menu at Artist Point has added a variety of fresh fall and winter flavors, including a new roasted beet salad with house-made ricotta cheese, Berkshire prosciutto, Washington apples, aged vinegar, extra virgin olive oil and sea salt. Be sure to ask your server about other seasonally inspired menu updates, from fall cows' cream cheeses on the restaurant's "Artisanal Cheeses" board to the latest cured meats and accompaniments included in its "Handcrafted Charcuterie" – a rustic homage to the field-to-table dining culture of the Pacific Northwest. The restaurant also features an extensive wine list of more than 130 award-winning selections from Pacific Northwest wineries.



Naan bread, Sanaa, Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas

While tandoor clay ovens at Sanaa - part of Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas' Kidani Village - help make the restaurant's naan bread one of the *Disney Files* staff's favorite Disney dishes, our friends in the kitchen have graciously shared this recipe for making naan bread in a conventional oven. Finally, our homes' absence of tandoor ovens is a *naan* issue. (Insert rim shot here.)

Makes: 5 (8-inch) breads

Ingredients:

3 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon coarse salt
1/2 tablespoon baking soda
1/2 cup milk
2/3 cup warm water
1 tablespoon canola oil
4 tablespoons butter, melted



Steps:

1. Combine flour, sugar, salt and baking soda in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Stir to combine.
2. Combine milk, water and oil in a medium bowl. Whisk to combine.
3. With the mixer running, pour wet ingredients into dry ingredients. As soon as the mixture comes together, switch attachment to a dough hook, and mix until dough is smooth and no longer sticky. Do not over-mix.
4. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and set aside at room temperature for 1 hour.
5. Place a pizza stone on a top rack of the oven, positioned approximately 6 inches below the broiler. Preheat oven to 500 degree Fahrenheit for at least 30 minutes.
6. Divide dough evenly into 5 pieces. On a lightly floured surface, roll each piece into an 8-inch circle.
7. Turn oven to broil. Carefully slide one circle of dough onto the preheated pizza stone, and broil until bread is bubbled and golden brown, about 2-3 minutes. Watch carefully, as the bread can burn very quickly. Repeat with remaining dough rounds. Brush the warm bread with melted butter, and serve immediately.

This recipe has been converted from a larger quantity in the restaurant kitchens. The flavor profile may vary from the restaurant's version. All recipes are the property of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc., and may not be reproduced without express permission.



neighborhood notes

new or noteworthy in our magical community



▲ **Disney Vacation Club Resorts:** Distinctively themed décor is part of the magic of the holiday season at Disney Vacation Club Resorts and their sister properties, from intricately detailed wreaths and garlands to towering trees and over-the-top edible displays. Among the returning installations now finding their way into countless Member photos are the life-size gingerbread house at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa (above), the edible carousel at Disney's Beach Club Resort and the *Frozen*-themed gingerbread display on the Grand Canyon Concourse at Disney's Contemporary Resort. Many of these festive areas offer gingerbread treats for purchase, helping Members and guests avoid the unsanitary temptation of licking the architecture.

Disneyvacationclub.com: Membership-management tools continue to evolve online at disneyvacationclub.com as Disney Vacation Club celebrates 25 years and beyond. The latest enhancements include a new feature that allows Members to enroll for auto-payment of their loans and annual dues, expanded loan and annual dues payment-method options (adding Disney Gift Cards and Disney Rewards Redemption Cards), the ability to make partial loan and annual dues payments, enhanced features designed to help Members more easily and intuitively manage their vacation points (from banking and

borrowing to viewing transactions) and further enhancements to the popular resort-availability tool (based on Member feedback).

Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i:

Aulani, now celebrating its fifth anniversary, is scheduled to have debuted two new entertainment offerings inspired by the Hawaiian tradition of canoe exploration by the time this magazine mails. *Ka Wa'a, The Sacred Canoe*, is a luau experience that takes Members and guests on a voyage through Hawaiian history and culture with food, music, dance and Disney's signature storytelling. Also new at Aulani is *Moana*, the adventurous teenage heroine from the new Walt Disney Animation Studios film of the same name. The dynamic Polynesian character, who in the film sails out on a canoe with the demigod Maui on a daring mission to prove herself a master wayfinder and save her people, now joins the resort's beloved Uncle and Aunty to visit with Members and guests. To help mark the resort's five-year milestone, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts donated \$25,000 to a local nonprofit organization dedicated to the perpetuation of canoe building and the preservation of Hawaiian heritage.

Disney Collection: Recent changes to Disney Collection* booking options for 2017 are giving Members enhanced control of their vacations. Members booking 2017 hotel rooms at Disneyland Hotel or Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, for example, are choosing their desired view with greater clarity, thanks to the division of the previous "Premium View" category into more distinctive categories on vacation points charts. For Disneyland Paris accommodations, vacation points charts now reflect five seasons instead of the previous three. Finally, Hong Kong Disneyland Theme Park tickets are no longer bundled with accommodations booked using vacation points, improving vacation point rates while giving

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1



PARDON OUR *Pixie Dust*

Refurbishment news from around the neighborhood*

Members the *option* of adding Theme Park tickets through Member Services. In other Disney Collection news, the Tokyo Disney Celebration Hotel at Tokyo Disney Resort in Japan recently joined the portfolio of resorts available to Members.

Disney's Old Key West Resort: Get an inside look at the Disney Vacation Club Resort that started it all during "The Legend of the Conch Flats," a complimentary tour beginning in Papa's Den (adjacent to the Disney's Old Key West Resort lobby) most Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m. The 45-60-minute walking tour of the Hospitality House area reveals how Walt Disney Imagineers created this tropical oasis through an imaginative weaving of historical fact and charming fiction. The experience is suitable for Members and guests of all ages, and no registration is necessary.

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: Did you know that you can now make advance reservations for the popular Sea Turtle Night Walk experience at Disney's Vero Beach Resort? Offered on select nights in June and July, the Sea Turtle Night Walk shares information about local sea turtles and leads groups on a guided night walk on a nearby beach for a chance to watch a sea turtle lay her eggs, cover her nest and return to the sea. Participating in the walk helps protect these endangered creatures, as 100 percent of the proceeds from the nonrefundable \$35-a-person registration fee supports Disney sea turtle monitoring, public education and scientific study at Disney's Vero Beach Resort. Call Member Services to make reservations for available walks in June and July 2017. Please note that this experience is limited to participants ages 8 or older, and that those ages 8-17 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Also note that the itinerary, content, duration and availability are subject to change without notice.



▲ **Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas:** Similar to the recent refresh of Jambo House accommodations, the ongoing Kidani Village accommodations refresh (continuing in waves through early next year) aims to create a lighter living space, with updated décor and larger televisions.



▲ **Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort:** The refreshment of Bay Lake Tower accommodations, including updated décor, larger living-room televisions, enhanced lighting and more, is scheduled for completion by the time this magazine mails.

Boulder Ridge Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge (formerly The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge): A wide range of enhancements are taking shape around the villas, including a re-imagining of the former Hidden Springs pool area (see page 9), with work scheduled to continue through 2017.

Disney's Old Key West Resort: The Sandcastle Pool is scheduled to close for routine maintenance – including a full resurfacing – in January and February 2017. The resort's leisure pools will remain open. Elsewhere at the resort, designers are putting the finishing touches on plans for an accommodations refurbishment that's scheduled to begin next year.

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: A refurbishment of villas and Inn Rooms is taking place in waves, with crews refreshing fabrics and décor, updating bathrooms, installing larger televisions, replacing select furniture and more. With the Inn Rooms now complete, work on the Beach Cottages and remaining villas is scheduled to continue throughout 2017.

The Villas at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa: An effort to refresh fabrics and décor within the resort's villa accommodations began this fall, with work scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

*Due to the nature of construction, dates and designs are subject to change.



Use your smartphone's QR code reader to access footage of Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde sharing the vision behind the new Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: BREAKOUT! attraction.



Guardians of the Galaxy to “break out” at Disney California Adventure

New attraction to anchor broader universe of Super Heroes

Disneyland Resort: Beginning in summer 2017, Disney California Adventure guests will “fall” for a thrilling new experience as Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission BREAKOUT! transforms the current home of The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror into an epic new adventure.

Featuring an all-new story, and new visual and audio effects, the attraction will offer a variety of unique ride experiences inspired by the smash-hit 2014 Marvel film *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

The project is a collaboration between the creative forces of Walt Disney Imagineering and Marvel, including two not-so-average Joes in Marvel Chief Creative Officer Joe Quesada and Walt Disney Imagineering Portfolio Creative Director Joe Rohde.

“The setting is a kind of fortress that’s owned by the mysterious Collector, and it’s packed with creatures and his latest acquisitions from across the universe,” Joe Rohde revealed. “Now he has imprisoned the Guardians of the Galaxy, and they’re hanging in display cases over a giant abyss. The captor doesn’t know it, but Rocket Raccoon has escaped and is enlisting our aid — all the guests — to help the Guardians in a breakout scheme. And the rest is comical chaos; a very funny, very irreverent story and a really wonderful addition to Disney California Adventure.”

Joe Quesada expressed his team’s excitement in collaborating with an Imagineer whose legendary work is well known around the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood, from Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge to Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai’i (and, of course, Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park).

“It’s such a thrill to be working alongside a

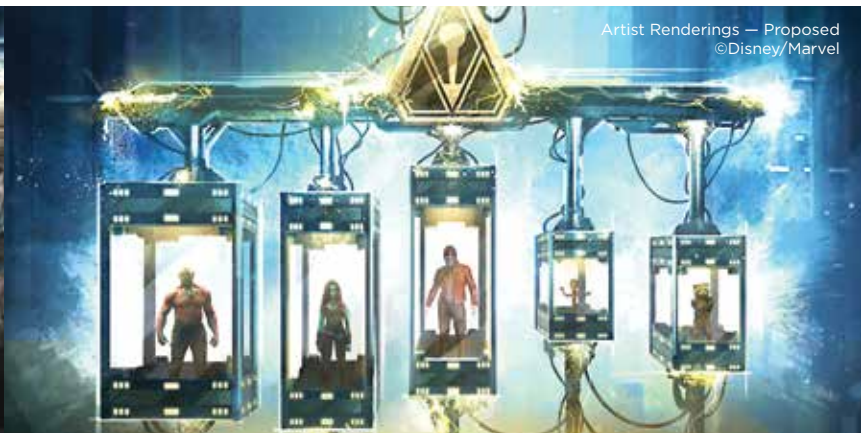
true visionary like Joe Rohde and the entire Walt Disney Imagineering team,” Joe Quesada said. “Like our stories and characters, projects led by Joe are the stuff of legend, so Marvel fans, rejoice! The universe couldn’t be in better hands! Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: BREAKOUT! is going to be an out-of-this-world experience, and what has me even more excited are Joe’s ‘secret’ plans for the future. We’re just getting warmed up.”

The new attraction, which will anchor a broader universe of Super Heroes that’ll grow over time at Disney California Adventure Park, will allow guests to experience multiple, random and unique ride profiles in which the rise and fall of the gantry lift rocks to the beat of music inspired by the film’s popular soundtrack.

Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige announced the project to fans at this year’s Comic-Con in San Diego, saying, “The incredibly talented Disney Imagineering team has found a way to harness the spirit which drove *Guardians of the Galaxy*’s success to create this immersive experience. With its debut timed to the release of the film’s sequel, we are eager to present the attraction to the millions who visit Disney California Adventure and place them in the center of the action as they join in a mission alongside our audacious Guardians of the Galaxy team.”

Fans of The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror may experience the attraction from now until its final “drop day,” which will be celebrated in true Disney fashion in early January.

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BUZZWORTHY

7 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger

Disneyland Resort: The Rivers of America area and its beloved attractions at Disneyland Park, including the Mark Twain Riverboat, Sailing Ship Columbia, Davy Crockett Explorer Canoes, Pirate’s Lair on Tom Sawyer Island and “Fantasmic!,” are scheduled to reopen in summer 2017. The area’s reopening will mark the official debut of its new northern riverbank, complete with waterfalls and a new elevated trestle over which the Disneyland Railroad will travel. Until then, the Disneyland Railroad steam engines will remain available for up-close viewing at the Main Street and New Orleans Square stations.



▲ **Walt Disney World Resort:** As work continues on the new indoor-sports venue at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex – reported in the summer edition of *Disney Files Magazine* – a new artist rendering (above) reveals the arena’s striking architecture. Scheduled for completion within the next 14 months, the new venue will sit adjacent to the Jostens Center and feature a flexible design allowing the arena to seat more than 8,000 fans in one large competition space or be divided into four separate competition areas. While the facility will be the first of its size in America specifically designed with cheerleading and dance competitions in mind, its flexibility will allow it to host other indoor sports, as well as concerts.

Walt Disney World Resort: Guests will embark on a white-water adventure through relics of global treasure hunts when Miss Fortune Falls opens next spring at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park. Located near the popular Crush ‘n’ Gusher attraction, the new family friendly raft experience tells the story of Captain Mary Oceaneer, a treasure-hunting heroine stranded at Typhoon Lagoon years ago by a rogue storm. Guests will discover some of Captain Oceaneer’s greatest treasures during their refreshing journey, which at two minutes in length will rank as Disney’s longest Water Park attraction.



Walt Disney World Resort: From the midnight ride of Paul Revere to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, historical tales are playing out in hysterical fashion during “The Muppets Present...Great Moments in American History,” a new live show now performing multiple times daily in Liberty Square at Magic Kingdom Park. Presented outside The Hall of Presidents and featuring an original song, the comedic show stars the fiercely patriotic Sam Eagle, along with Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, The Great Gonzo and Liberty Square Town Crier James Jefferson. To catch up with the Muppets between Walt Disney World vacations, follow them on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TheMuppets](https://twitter.com/TheMuppets).



Visit DisneyParks.com to learn about holiday happenings at Disney destinations across the globe, from seasonal attraction overlays and live-entertainment experiences to special ticketed events.



Walt Disney World Resort: As Members and guests continue to discover how Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park comes alive with magic after dark, a new premium tour is taking the experience to the next level. Designed for as many as 12 guests (ages 8 or older only), the intimate "Savor the Savanna" tour pairs a private, two-hour safari trek at dusk through the Harambe Wildlife Reserve with an African-inspired dinner served at an exclusive savanna-viewing area. The dining experience includes tapas, beers, wines and specialty drinks, and the evening ends with a special take-home keepsake. Note that valid Theme Park admission is required, and that Disney Vacation Club Members receive a 15 percent discount off the tour price of \$169 a person. Call Member Services for reservations.

Tokyo Disney Resort: The importance of family ties will come to light in distinctively *Frozen* fashion during "Frozen Forever," a limited-engagement nighttime entertainment experience scheduled to dazzle Guests at Tokyo Disneyland Park from Jan. 13-March 17, 2017. Projected onto the exterior of Cinderella Castle, the 15-minute nightly show will celebrate Anna's and Elsa's sisterhood through scenes and music from the

blockbuster animated feature, punctuated by a pyrotechnic finale.

Disney Cruise Line: Disney Parks aren't the only destinations turning the *Frozen* phenomenon into live entertainment experiences, as the Disney Wonder cruise ship is scheduled to have debuted *Frozen, A Musical Spectacular* by the time this magazine mails. Exclusive to this ship, the elaborate production is backed by an all-star creative team that includes Tony Award-nominated director Sheryl Kaller (*Next Fall, Mothers and Sons*), four-time Tony Award-nominated playwright Chad Beguelin (*Gotta Dance, Aladdin, The Wedding Singer, Elf*), Tony Award-winning costume designer Paloma Young (*Peter and the Starcatcher*) and master puppeteer Michael Curry (*The Lion King*), just to name a few. The music of Academy Award winners Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez comes to life in new ways on the Walt Disney Theatre stage, with "For the First Time in Forever" and "Love is an Open Door" expanded into ensemble pieces, "In Summer" and "Fixer Upper" realized as lavish production numbers and, of course, "Let it Go" transformed into a full-fledged stage spectacle.



Going 'Rogue'

One man's journey from *Star Wars* fan to *Star Wars* filmmaker



In a time of conflict, a group of unlikely heroes band together on a mission to steal the plans to the Death Star, the Empire's ultimate weapon of destruction. That's the premise behind *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, opening in U.S. theaters on Dec. 16 as the first standalone film in the *Star Wars* universe.

This intergalactic heist – a key event in the *Star Wars* timeline – brings together ordinary people who do extraordinary things and become part of something greater than themselves.

The same could be said for the film's director, Gareth Edwards (*Godzilla*), who sat down with *Disney Files Magazine* to discuss, not only

the highly anticipated film, but also his own journey from lifelong *Star Wars* fanatic to in-the-spotlight *Star Wars* filmmaker.

Edwards, who was about two years old when the original *Star Wars* film premiered in 1977 and remembers the saga being omnipresent in his youth, shared memories of a gifted Betamax tape that would change his life.

"I remember a drive home with my parents, who said to me, 'We've got a surprise for you. We've got a copy of *Star Wars* – your very own copy that you can have forever,'" he recalled. "They said I had to eat my dinner first, and I remember excitedly rushing through that dinner, thinking to myself, 'I know what I'm going to be doing for the rest of my life. I'm going to be sat in front of that TV set watching this over and over and over until the day I die.'"

Accepting with age that he couldn't spend his life watching a film, he decided instead to do the next best thing: follow in the footsteps of George Lucas and become a filmmaker.

"But never in my wildest dreams did I expect that path to be so literal, leading me to direct a *Star Wars* film," Edwards noted.

Asked if his lifelong fandom added pressure to the creative process, Edwards likened the experience to taking on a daunting challenge while being wrapped in an old security blanket.

"You grow up with these *Star Wars* toys, and you play with them all day long, maybe until a much older age than you'd admit, and you watch the films over and over, and that imagery really comes to represent the best part of your



youth,” he explained. “So even though there’s this massive pressure on the set as a director of a *Star Wars* story, the second you stand next to a stormtrooper, it’s like you’ve gone back home. It feels so comfortable – more comfortable than the real world, in a way. There’s this sort of blanket around you the whole time you’re filming that helps compensate for the pressure you’re feeling. I wasn’t expecting that, but it’s hard to get nervous when you’re surrounded by these characters you grew up loving so much.”

Young girls today are growing up loving *Star Wars* characters as much as boys, thanks in part to such dynamic female heroes as Rey in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and now Jyn in *Rogue One*. In discussing his film’s female lead, Edwards revealed that creating the character began with essentially removing gender from the equation.

“We simply tried to see this character as ourselves, regardless of our gender,” he recalled of early creative sessions. “It just so happened that, when we cast the role, we chose a female (Felicity Jones, *The Theory of Everything*), but the truth is, if you flipped the gender of the character, it wouldn’t change anything. Gender really isn’t inherent to her journey ... I love the idea of guys going to a fan event dressed as Jyn – a costume that’s neither masculine nor feminine. Jyn is a wonderfully relatable character, no matter who you are.”

While *Rogue One* isn’t a new “episode” in the *Star Wars* saga and doesn’t tell the story of the Skywalkers, Edwards and his team took special care to protect the *Star Wars* cinematic DNA.

“You can’t just place the words ‘Star Wars’ on a film and have it be a *Star Wars* movie,” he said. “There are things inherent to the *Star Wars*

universe that you have to retain – good versus evil, a distinctive design aesthetic and an epic canvas with intimate stories about personally connected characters. We’ve given those elements a little twist in *Rogue One*, but it’s all deeply grounded in *Star Wars* ... That was the real balancing act of this entire movie. You want to do something different ... but it has to be *Star Wars* at its heart. Policing that commitment to remaining true to *Star Wars* in every detail was almost a full-time job. It can come down to the subtlest of things ... and I’m really proud of that effort.”

So how, if at all, has the experience of directing a *Star Wars* story changed Edwards’ *Star Wars* fandom?

“My biggest fear when I started this was that I wouldn’t be able to watch and enjoy *Star Wars* films the same way again after being behind the camera,” he shared. “Strangely, that hasn’t been the case. Everywhere you go these days, you see someone with a *Star Wars* character on a T-shirt. I see those people and I think, ‘Oh cool – I like that design. I should buy that shirt online.’ And then I suddenly think, ‘Wait a minute; that character is in the film I’m directing’ ... Someday I may look back at this as an older man and finally see myself as being part of all this, but for now, I still see myself first as a fan.”

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story stars the aforementioned Felicity Jones, along with Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn, Donnie Yen, Mads Mikkelsen and Alan Tudyk, Riz Ahmed, with Jiang Wen and Forest Whitaker. Kathleen Kennedy, Allison Shearmur and Simon Emanuel are producing, with John Knoll and Jason McGatlin serving as executive producers.





A Beloved Tale as Old As . . . 25!

By Tim O'Day

Every few years, a film comes along that becomes an event - a movie of such impact and importance that it not only captures the imagination of millions around the world but also moves the proverbial needle in the art of cinematic storytelling and technical innovation. Twenty-five years ago, such a film came along in the form of *Beauty and the Beast* from Walt Disney Animation Studios.

As the lyrics of its title song conveys, Disney's 30th animated feature film tells a "tale as old as time" that audiences the world over took to their hearts in 1991 and throughout the ensuing quarter century.

The unbridled popularity and success of the film owed as much to things new, for 1991, as to things old. The alchemy of things old and new made *Beauty and the Beast* an instant classic. It was not only a testament to Disney's unbelievable animated past but made unprecedented steps in advancing the medium of film animation into the future.

"Probably before *Cinderella* (1950), Walt asked us to read *Beauty and the Beast* and come up with some ideas for it," recalled Disney Legend Ollie Johnston in the early 1990s in the book *Disney's Art of Animation* by Bob Thomas. "The story guys may have done some work on it, but I never heard any more about it." (It's worth noting that the Walt Disney Archives collection contains no trace of early efforts to adapt the story.)

However, good ideas never die at Disney, and the notion of producing an animated feature based on *Beauty and the Beast* lay dormant until the late-1980s. By then, a 1946 live-action film version had been written and directed by Jean Cocteau (*La Belle et la Bete*), and a popular CBS TV series based on the story aired from 1987-1990. Riding on a wave of success from the *The Little Mermaid* (1989) and the strength of the *Beauty and the Beast* story's name recognition, the Disney animation team was emboldened to finally tackle the dark tale. Don Hahn, in his first role as a film

producer, counseled his team of development artists.

"Don't look at either the Cocteau or the television version," he cautioned. "We'll make our own."

After a false start in which the team aimed to tell the story in dark tones and as a non-musical, the storyline was completely scrapped, and the film was started anew. New directors were installed, and the film as we know it today began to take shape.

With the music and songwriting team of Alan Menken and Howard Ashman bringing an even greater musical sensibility to the storytelling than they had with *The Little Mermaid*, the movie started to feel like a classic Disney animated feature for contemporary audiences and sensibilities (including a modern-day, independent, literature-loving heroine).

Although the film was beginning to feel almost light-opera-like in tone, akin perhaps to *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, it also shared with that groundbreaking 1937 film an entirely new technical approach to animation. As *Snow White* introduced the innovative multi-plane camera to feature animated films, adding a very realistic sense of depth and dimension to the image, *Beauty and the Beast* took the revolutionary, and newly introduced, Computer Animation Production System (CAPS) to unprecedented new heights (recognized with a Special Technical Academy Award).

The images in *Beauty and the Beast* are simply unforgettable, from the intricate opening number ("Belle") to the sweeping, climatic ballroom scene in which Belle and the Beast fall in love. The dramatic crane and dolly shots would simply be impossible to achieve with traditional animation techniques, and the sequence remains one of the most iconic in Disney animation history.

Buoyed by an incredible voice cast that included future Disney Legends Paige O'Hara (Belle) and Angela Lansbury (Mrs. Potts), the



A surprise at sea: Members and their guests aboard the 2016 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise from New York received a “beauty” of a surprise when a complimentary copy of the new 25th anniversary edition of *Beauty and the Beast* on Blu-ray arrived in each stateroom – personally signed by legendary filmmaker Don Hahn!

film required the talents of many hundreds from virtually all disciplines of filmmaking. In the end, 120,000 drawings and 1,295 painted backgrounds took audiences on a journey through one of the great romantic film musicals of all-time.

The film was nominated for six Academy Awards and was the first animated feature to receive an Academy Award nomination for best picture. It won two Oscars – best song and best original score – and a Golden Globe Award for best comedy/musical. The pop version of the award-winning title song helped an up-and-coming singer named Celine Dion secure one of her early hits.

“When they announced the Oscar nominations, it was like an out-of-body experience,” says Hahn. “I tossed my coffee away and went running around the garden in my underwear.”

Film critics were universal in their praise of the film. The movie reviewing duo of Siskel and Ebert gave the film two large thumbs up. “Good Morning America” film reviewer Joel Siegel said (at a time before The Walt Disney Company owned the network on which “Good Morning America” airs), “This is up there with *Cinderella*, *Pinocchio*, even *Snow White*.”

American music commentator and critic Jim Svejda extended his praise even further by

stating, “*Beauty and the Beast* is Disney’s crowning achievement and probably the greatest animated film of all time.”

Beauty and the Beast later became Disney’s first animated film adapted into a Broadway musical. It ran for 5,464 performances from 1994-2007 and has since delighted more than 35 million people worldwide.

On March 17, 2017, audiences will experience the thrilling retelling of the original tale through Disney’s live-action adaptation of the film, starring Emma Watson (of *Harry Potter* fame) as Belle and featuring music from Disney Legend and eight-time Oscar-winner Alan Menken.

If you’re a film lover (and collector) like I am, you’ve likely also discovered the recently released 25th anniversary edition of *Beauty and the Beast* on Blu-ray and DVD. The Walt Disney Signature Collection edition Blu-ray features three versions of the film, including the original theatrical film, an extended version that includes the “Human Again” song sequence and a never-before-released-for-home-entertainment sing-along version.

However you enjoy this “tale as old as time,” I hope you enjoy sharing your Disney Vacation Club community’s milestone 25th anniversary with this beloved Disney classic.



Walt Disney World 1971

By Jim Korkis

As this fall marks the 45th anniversary of Walt Disney World Resort, I thought it would be fitting to look back at the creation and opening of the place where Disney Vacation Club was born.

Heading East: The decision to develop a Disney destination on the East Coast stemmed from studies revealing that roughly two thirds of Disneyland guests came from the Southern California “drive market” and that less than 8 percent traveled from east of the Mississippi (where almost 75 percent of Americans lived at the time).

While Walt considered Miami, St. Louis and multiple areas of New York for his eastward expansion, a search that included careful analysis of climate, land cost and availability, accessibility, population density and potential for overall vacation appeal ultimately led Walt and his team to secretly purchase land in Central Florida, amassing an area more than twice the size of Manhattan island.

“This concept here will have to be something that is unique, so there is a distinction between Disneyland in California and whatever Disney does in Florida,” Walt told the public during a press conference that officially confirmed the land’s secret buyer in November 1965.

Dreaming big: Walt envisioned his “Florida Project” as part entertainment venue, part experimental community – a place to showcase new technology and celebrate international cultures. Unlike Disneyland, where guests might visit for a day or two, the Florida development was intended to be enjoyed for a week or more.

Walt’s preliminary plans to include “themed resort hotels” was an innovative concept at the time, and his inclusion of a campground, international airport of the future (on a parcel of land that eventually became the Town of Celebration), industrial park, water-recreation facilities and more spoke to his vision beyond Theme Parks.



Moving forward:

Walt’s untimely passing in December 1966 placed the ambitious project in serious jeopardy until Walt’s older brother, Roy O. Disney, delayed his planned retirement to lead the effort to make Walt’s dream a reality. This was no small order, of course, as this would rank as the largest private construction project on Earth and require the services of more than 9,000 workers over the course of two years.



Opening the gates: Having learned from the overwhelming and problematic July 1955 opening of Disneyland Park, Roy and his team chose October 1971 for the Walt Disney World opening, as October was Florida’s slowest month for tourists and would allow the facilities and Cast to get their footing before the busier seasons. Plans called for an Oct. 1 “soft opening” three weeks ahead of a grand opening celebration, which would unfold from Oct. 23-25.

That three-day celebration featured a special performance by the World Symphony Orchestra, the filming of a national television special, banquet events that included a special beach luau at the Polynesian Village Resort, and famed *Music Man* composer Meredith Wilson conducting a 1,076 piece marching band on Main Street for the Monday dedication.

For many, the highlight was Roy O. Disney’s memorable reading of the plaque still displayed near the Town Square flagpole on Main Street, U.S.A., dedicating not just Magic Kingdom Park, but the entire Walt Disney World Resort.



Mixing it up: Aiming to appeal to both Disneyland fans and those yet to experience Walt's original park, the Magic Kingdom opening-day attraction slate featured a mix of unprecedented attractions and adapted favorites. Among the attractions unique to Florida were the Hall of Presidents; the Country Bear Jamboree, originally conceived for Walt's never-realized "Mineral King" resort development in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains; and Mickey Mouse Revue, an Audio-Animatronics show featuring a cast of Disney characters performing selections of memorable Disney music. (Mickey Mouse Revue fans may recognize the Three Caballeros figures from that show in the updated finale scene of the Gran Fiesta Tour Starring the Three Caballeros attraction in the Mexico pavilion at Epcot.)

Many of the Disneyland favorites adapted for Florida included unique twists, including a double track with different experiences at Mr. Toad's Wild Ride (replaced in 1998 with The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh attraction), an indoor temple scene for the Jungle Cruise, a roof over the Mad Tea Party attraction to shelter guests from frequent Florida rains and more.

Unique attractions designed but ultimately not developed for the park included dark rides inspired by *Mary Poppins*, *The Sword in the Stone* and *The Headless Horseman*.

Here's a look at opening day attractions, grouped by the ticket voucher required to enjoy the experience (attraction tickets were required in addition to the park-admission fee, which in 1971 was \$3.50 a day for adults and \$1 for kids):

A ticket (10 cents in 1971): Main Street vehicles (including Omnibus and Horse Cars), Cinderella's Golden Carrousel

B ticket (25 cents): Main Street Cinema, Frontierland Shootin' Gallery, Mike Fink Keelboats, Swiss Family Treehouse

C ticket (50 cents): Tomorrowland Grand Prix Raceway, Dumbo the Flying Elephant, Peter Pan's Flight, Snow White's Adventures, Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, Mad Tea Party, Davy Crockett Explorer Canoes

D ticket (75 cents): Main Street Railroad, Skyway to Fantasyland, Flight to the Moon, Skyway to Tomorrowland, Country Bear Jamboree, Admiral Joe Fowler Riverboat

E ticket (90 cents): "it's a small world," Mickey Mouse Revue, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea Submarine Voyage, Hall of Presidents, Jungle Cruise, Tropical Serenade (name changed in September 1972 to Enchanted Tiki Room and repositioned as a D-ticket attraction), Haunted Mansion (Pirates of the Caribbean, if you were wondering, would debut in December 1973)

Packaging paradise: A "Vacation Kingdom" package priced at \$90 for adults and \$33.50 for kids included accommodations for three nights at the Contemporary Resort or the Polynesian Village Resort, four days of unlimited use of the Walt Disney World transportation system, four admissions to Magic Kingdom Park, 28 "Theme Park Adventure" ticket coupons good for any attraction and \$30 of recreation coupons for golf, water sports and more. (Recreational watercraft on Seven Seas Lagoon included "Bob-A-Round boats," pedal boats, sailing outriggers, jet boats, ski boats and "Aqua Cats," while land-based recreation ranged from bicycling and badminton to archery and horseshoes.)

Welcoming the world: Early in its first year of operation, Walt Disney World Resort became the No. 1 U.S. destination for international tourists, prompting Robert Jackson, an official from the United States Travel Service, to remark that, "With only a year's history behind it, Walt Disney World has already had an extraordinary past."

Nearly 11 million guests visited Magic Kingdom Park during that first year, exceeding expectations and paving the way for extraordinary growth to come.

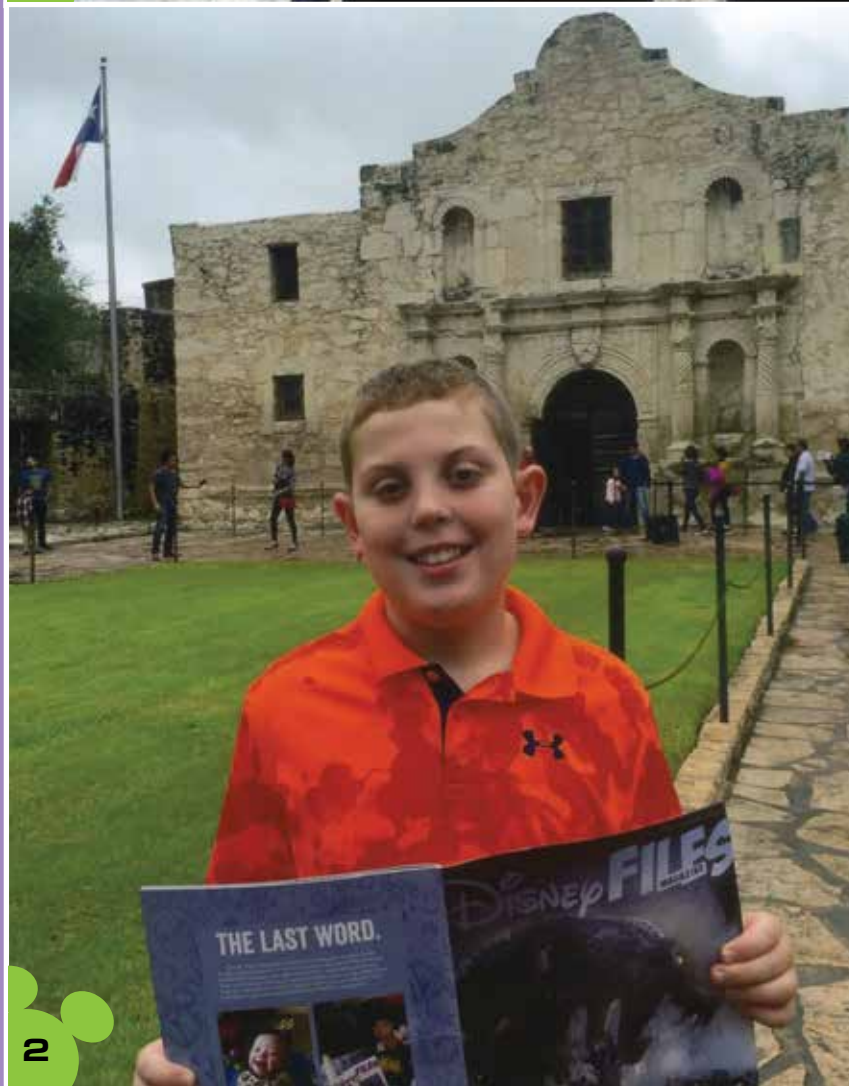
With more Walt Disney World developments in the works for the years ahead, we can all rest assured that, as was the case in 1971, there's a great big beautiful tomorrow, shining at the end of every day!



1. We instantly loved this Antarctica vacation photo from Jackson and Melissa Whitman of Illinois, Members since 2004. When we noticed the penguin behind them, we loved it more.
2. Jackson, part of the Early family of Michigan, Members since 2008, remembers (to bring some reading material to) the Alamo.
3. To young Rocco, part of the Santamassino family of New Jersey, Members since 2011, we say, "Cheer up little chipmunk. You're surrounded by friends."
4. Gary and Karen Alliss of the United Kingdom, Members since 1997, share their favorite magazine with an inquisitive kangaroo at a sanctuary in Brisbane, Australia.
5. An excited Molly, part of the Locke family of Florida, Members since 2008, spots Goofy at a surf class during her family's Aulani vacation.
6. The mother-son duo of Kathy and David McAlpine, now of Illinois and Pennsylvania respectively, both Members since 2003, take *Disney Files* Magazine to Peru's Machu Picchu.
7. Nolan, part of the Masten family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2000, discovers that it isn't so tough to befriend a bug at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.
8. Sebastian, part of the Bratton family of Georgia, Members since 1997, leads his fellow stormtroopers on a search for rebels near the Star Wars Launch Bay at Disney's Hollywood Studios.

Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours) to *Disney Files* Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The form is available online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

Better your chances of seeing your family in the magazine by capturing compelling, candid moments, which almost always beat posed photos. We do, however, enjoy when you pose with the magazine, particularly when you do so in exotic locations beyond the Disney Parks.





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THE LAST WORD.

Disney Files Magazine is pleased to dedicate its back cover to the playful purpose of turning Member memories into editorial exclamation points, with each installment celebrating moments that we think are worthy of having the last word.



A dashing young Flynn, grandson of Alfonso and Ellen Pellegrini of Pennsylvania, Members since 2007, spends a memorable moment with Cinderella while celebrating his first birthday with a Walt Disney World vacation. For visibly expressing the trepidation many of us feel when we fall in love, we're pleased to give this "Charming" young man this edition's last word.