



Disney  
**FILES**  
MAGAZINE

**STAR**  
THE LAST JEDI  
**WARS**

Disney Vacation Club

WINTER 2017 • VOLUME 26 • NUMBER 4

# Welcome Home

Every scar tells a story. Mine tells the cautionary tale of a kid whose knowledge of The Force greatly exceeded his respect for hard surfaces, gravity and the fragility of his own head.

I was only four years old in 1977, when the original *Star Wars* became my very first movie-going experience. Thinking as much at that age about safety as I did about the inflation rate, I would spend the next few years dramatically losing lightsaber battles to my big brother, often overly committing to the bit as I threw myself from whatever elevated surface we'd selected for the day's intergalactic clash of dimwitted titans.

When one of those epic battles moved to a patio table on a concrete slab, my ill-advised fall landed me in a local emergency room. I remember thinking as the doctor stitched my scalp that, if I ever met Luke Skywalker, he'd appreciate my commitment...and my scar.

That meeting finally came this summer, when I caught up with an incredibly gracious Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker in the *Star Wars* saga and a newly inducted Disney Legend) at the D23 Expo in Anaheim, Calif. Our visit delighted my inner kid as much as it did my outer adult, and I'm thrilled to share that conversation in this edition of *Disney Files Magazine* (pages 3-4).

This interview 40 years in the making arrives as Luke's - I mean Mark's - eagerly anticipated *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* heads to theaters, and it's part of an unprecedented collection of "One on One" features in the pages ahead (filmed versions of which are available for viewing anytime through the new *Disney Files On Demand* video player online at [disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles](http://disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles)).

You can feed your *Star Wars* fandom further on pages 22 and 24, where we have the scoop about new *Star Wars* experiences debuting this holiday season at Disneyland Resort and Walt Disney World Resort.

If four-year-old me could read this issue, I think he'd be pretty pleased with the old man (though he'd be disappointed that I forgot to show Luke my scar).

Welcome home (and may the Force be with you),



Ryan March  
*Disney Files* Editor



Illustration by Keelan Parham

## VOL. 26 NO. 4

**Editor & Lead Writer:**  
Ryan March

**Design & Production:**  
Andy Crabtree

**Contributors:**  
Jim Korkis  
Dave Bossert  
Becca McBride

Disney Files Magazine    Disney Vacation Club    P.O. Box 10350    Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Information in this magazine is subject to change without notice. Discontinue reading if rash occurs.

Update your mailing address online at [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com)

Contact Member Services from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Eastern weekdays, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Eastern weekends

From the U.S.: call (800) 800-9800 or (407) 566-3800

From Mexico: call 01-800-436-0264

From the U.K.: call 08007832893

Visit the Help & Contact section of [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) for toll-free numbers serving other countries.

Email Member Services at: [members@disneyvacationclub.com](mailto:members@disneyvacationclub.com)

Please recycle this publication (or cherish it forever)

For Member Services in Japanese,  
call 0120-98-4050 Tuesday-Sunday,  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Japan Time)  
Email: [JPMembers@disneyvacationclub.com](mailto:JPMembers@disneyvacationclub.com)

 [facebook.com/disneyvacationclub](https://www.facebook.com/disneyvacationclub)

 Follow us on Instagram: @disneyvacationclub

**#DVCMEMBER**



# What it means to ‘Stay Magical’

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

Enhancing Membership Magic means continually understanding what makes Membership so magical in the first place.

We do this in a variety of ways, engaging you and your Disney neighbors in broad-based surveys, intimate focus groups and casual conversations, always seeking a deeper understanding of what Members love most about being Members. While the answers from these “listening posts” are as diverse as the community we serve, from stretching vacation dollars to stretching out in spacious accommodations, one sentiment has become particularly common during this unprecedented era of expansion at Disney destinations across the globe: knowing that the magic is ever-changing, with new and enhanced experiences that only Disney can deliver.

If you’re an average Disney fan, announcements of new Disney attractions, events and experiences add to a growing list of reasons to wish you had a Disney vacation in the works. But if you’re a Disney Vacation Club Member, such headlines simply heighten the anticipation of that next return “home.” With a Disney vacation always on the horizon, Disney news elicits feelings not of “I wish” but “I will.”

That’s the spirit of “Stay Magical,” a Member-inspired phrase anchoring a new Disney Vacation Club branding campaign that invites more families to discover the magic of Membership.

More than just a marketing tagline, “Stay Magical” is a genuine expression of what it means to be a Member. It’s a Disney double entendre, referencing both the literal magic of staying in magically themed resorts and the emotional magic of enjoying ever-evolving Disney experiences with your loved ones year after magical year. And what magical years we have in store.

The fall edition of *Disney Files* Magazine recapped a dizzying array of Disney Parks

projects unveiled at this year’s D23 Expo in Anaheim. I had the privilege of attending the Expo, and I have to tell you that, in my more than 20 years with Disney, I’ve never seen so much news break from Disney Parks at one time. I was thrilled not just as a fan, but as part of the Disney Vacation Club family. Knowing that you’ll have a front-row seat to one show-stopping debut after another in the months and years ahead makes this an incredible time to be a Disney Vacation Club leader...and an even better time to be a Disney Vacation Club Member.

The *Disney Files* Magazine staff is eager to share updates about those and other projects as new details become available, and all of us at Disney Vacation Club are committed to creating unique ways for you to experience all that’s new around the neighborhood. You’ll read more about next year’s exciting slate of Member experiences, for example, in the spring edition of *Disney Files* Magazine.

In the meantime, I hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season, and I offer you this simple wish for the New Year: Stay Magical.



As part of its own ongoing effort to “Stay Magical,” *Disney Files* Magazine is refreshing its design, inspired in part by the look and feel of the “Stay Magical” campaign. Look for these updates in our spring edition, mailing in March.

# one on One

WITH MARK HAMILL

Since *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* was revealed as the title of the saga's highly anticipated eighth episode early this year, speculation as to the identity of said Jedi has fueled countless conversations among *Star Wars*' biggest fans. The answer, according to Director Rian Johnson, was hidden in plain sight in episode seven. "It's in the opening crawl of *The Force Awakens*," he told the *New York Times*. "Luke Skywalker, right now, is the last Jedi. There's always wiggle room in these movies – everything is from a certain point of view – but coming into our story, he is the actual last of the Jedi ... He's removed himself and is alone on this island for reasons unknown." While those reasons will remain unknown until *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* opens in theaters (Dec. 15 in the U.S.), the reasons actor Mark Hamill was drawn to the Skywalker story came to light as he spoke to *Disney Files Magazine* Editor Ryan March at the D23 Expo, just minutes before being inducted as part of the newest class of Disney Legends. Mark shared his feelings about being named a Disney Legend, his initial reaction to the original *Star Wars* script and memories of his late friend and co-star, fellow 2017 Disney Legend inductee Carrie Fisher.

**Ryan:** What does it mean to you to be named a Disney Legend?

**Mark:** Well I still haven't accepted it. It's so unexpected – words fail me. I always wanted to be in the entertainment industry. You don't really think about awards or recognition ... You just want to be a working actor. So to have something like this happen is truly astonishing.

**Ryan:** Like many kids, I grew up in the '70s and '80s pretending to be Luke Skywalker. I now have a young nephew who does the exact same thing. To what do you attribute the staying power of that character and those stories?

**Mark:** When I read the script [for *Star Wars: A New Hope*], it, more than anything, reminded me not of science fiction but of *Wizard of Oz* – a kid from a desert planet swept off in these amazing adventures with these unimaginable, fantastic creatures.

When I finished, I said, 'You know, if we were riding around in horse-drawn carriages instead of in space ships, it would be seen as the fairytale it truly is.' It's not an accident they said, 'A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away.' It's as close to 'once upon a time' as you can get ... It's





◀ From left, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford take on the Empire in 1977's *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

very much in the mold of the Disney-animated classics, and they're timeless ... Kids don't know when [these films] were made. Little kids, who have no concept of time, think we made [the original] *Star Wars* two weeks ago.

I'm glad I came back in *The Force Awakens*, because there was this long period where the parents would go, 'Look who it is, it's Luke!' And the 4-year-old would look up at me and be appalled - like, 'What happened to this guy? He really let himself go!' But now they can see the way I am today, and I think that's healthy, because the aging process is natural, and there's a whole new generation of young protagonists.

It's truly remarkable, and again, like this award, completely unexpected. We had a beginning, middle and an end [with the original *Star Wars* trilogy]. I certainly never expected to come back in another trilogy.

**Ryan:** Your friend and costar Carrie Fisher is also being honored today, which I suppose

makes this a little bitter sweet.

**Mark:** That's the word.

**Ryan:** What do you remember most about her?

**Mark:** Her incredible zeal for life, her humor - she was hilarious. Wise beyond her years. She was only 19 when I met her. She made everything just more fun.

Her timing was impeccable - except in this case ... It's so sad that she's not around to be here today. Wait'll you see her in Episode VIII [*Star Wars: The Last Jedi*] ...

She wouldn't want us to be in mourning. Well, she'd want us to mourn, and of course we did, but she'd want us to be happy and smiling and laughing, as I know she would be if she were here today.

She was irreplaceable, and I'll never stop missing her.



Check out a filmed version of this interview, along with Ryan's red-carpet conversations with newly inducted Disney Legends Whoopi Goldberg and Julie Taymor, on the all-new *Disney Files On Demand*, an evolving array of Disney Vacation Club-produced video programs available for viewing anytime at [disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles](http://disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles).

# one on one



WITH ANTHONY GONZALEZ

While the Nov. 22 debut of the Disney-Pixar film *Coco* introduced many moviegoers to the singing and voice-acting talent of 12-year-old Anthony Gonzalez (in the role of the film's central character, Miguel), the charming young actor was already a favorite among thousands of Members who sailed on the 2017 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise. Capping the Disney Fantasy voyage's exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the film (then months away from release), Anthony earned a standing ovation with his rousing performance of the signature *Coco* song "Remember Me" on the Walt Disney Theatre stage. The days that followed would see Anthony appear in more photos, sign more autographs and give more hugs than anyone this side of Mickey Mouse. Along the way, he found time to sit down for a visit with *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March.

**Ryan:** Tell me about the day you got the role of Miguel.

**Anthony:** It was [just before] Christmas of 2016. It was just a regular day doing scratch voices [temporary recordings used by filmmakers during the creative process], and at the end of the recording session, [*Coco* Director] Lee [Unkrich] told me they had a present for me ... I opened the present, and it was this beautiful piece of artwork that said, "You got the part."

I was so shocked. That was probably one of the greatest moments of my life. I just couldn't

believe that I was part of [*Coco*]. I even fell to the floor ...

**Ryan:** I would be terrified, at *my* age, to step behind the microphone [at Pixar]. How was that for you?

**Anthony:** At first I was a bit nervous ... but I was also excited ... It was so amazing. When I entered the booth and started doing some lines, I got used to it and ... I've loved it ever since.



**Ryan:** Part of the challenge of acting in animation is that you're alone in that booth. You don't have a costume, or costars or a set to sort of wrap your head around the story. This requires a tremendous amount of imagination. How did you approach that?

**Anthony:** Since Miguel and I are kind of similar, I put myself in his shoes. I imagined what he was feeling at that moment, and then expressed it the way I would ... It came out pretty easily for me, because I identify with Miguel a lot.

**Ryan:** Your performance for us [aboard the Member Cruise] was in the Walt Disney Theatre, which is a huge, Broadway-style theatre. I've got to tell you, I've been hosting shows on these cruises for a long time, but this year was the first time I've hosted in the Walt Disney Theatre, and I was really nervous stepping onto that stage ... I know you had to be a little nervous too. How did you get through those nerves to deliver that kind of performance?

Watch an extended version of this interview – and see part of Anthony's memorable Member Cruise song performance – on the all-new *Disney Files* On Demand, an evolving array of Disney Vacation Club-produced video programs available for viewing anytime at [disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles](http://disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles).

**Anthony:** Well, I practiced a lot, I took a deep breath, let my nerves out and went out on the stage and gave it my full effort. I sang with my heart and did my best.

**Ryan:** Well it was awesome. You killed it.

**Anthony:** Thank you so much.

**Ryan:** This film is about family, and you have some of your family on board. What are some of the cool things you've enjoyed with your family during this cruise?

**Anthony:** We've done a lot of things! We've done the AquaDuck (water coaster), we've gone to cool places like Vibe and Edge (youth clubs) when they've had open houses, we've eaten together – there's a lot of awesome food – and we've just enjoyed this awesome trip.

**Ryan:** While this film would be the pinnacle of most actors' careers, it's just the very beginning of yours. What are some of the things you hope to do with your career in the days ahead?

**Anthony:** I just hope I continue singing and acting for the rest of my life ... that's what I love to do.



Despite his family's baffling, generations-old ban on music, Miguel (voiced by Anthony Gonzalez) dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol, Ernesto de la Cruz (voiced by Benjamin Bratt). Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead following a mysterious chain of events. Along the way, he meets charming trickster Hector (voiced by Gael García Bernal), and together, they set off on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel's family history. The film is directed by Lee Unkrich (*Toy Story 3*), co-directed by Adrian Molina (story artist on *Monsters University*) and produced by Darla K. Anderson (*Toy Story 3*). Learn more at [Disney.com/Coco](http://Disney.com/Coco), and follow Pixar Coco on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

# one on one

WITH ALTON FITZGERALD WHITE

Inspired by the idea that all of us – regardless of our profession – are on one kind of stage or another every single day, Broadway’s record-breaking Lion King set out to do something he never dreamed he could do: write a book. The incomparable Alton Fitzgerald White, known to many Disney Vacation Club Members for his standout appearances on numerous Member Cruise voyages and to countless Broadway fans for his unparalleled 4,308 performances as Mufasa in Disney Theatrical Productions’ *The Lion King*, explores the true meaning of “daily performance” in a book that weaves his remarkable – and deeply personal – stories of triumph over adversity with sage wisdom for meeting the challenges of routine and repetition at work and in personal relationships, both on “stage” and off. *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March sat down with Alton to learn more about the inspiration behind his Disney-published book – *My Pride: Mastering Life’s Daily Performance* – available now wherever books are sold.

**Ryan:** What inspired you to write this book in the first place?

**Alton:** A couple of summers ago, I hit my 4,000<sup>th</sup>-performance-as-Mufasa mark ... There was a lot of love, a lot of congratulations. But there was also a lot of, “Oh, you’re so lucky. You’re so blessed. Disney loves you.” Sort of back-handed compliments ... I don’t really believe in luck. I believe in being prepared

for wonderful opportunities, but there’s an expiration date with luck ... So it’s about skill, it’s about discipline and it’s about passion ...

As I started thinking more about it, I started thinking about how much I sacrificed for my passion – time with my family, watching nephews and nieces grow up, personal relationships – because everything has to revolve around those eight shows a week ... So I just started writing, for my own therapy ...

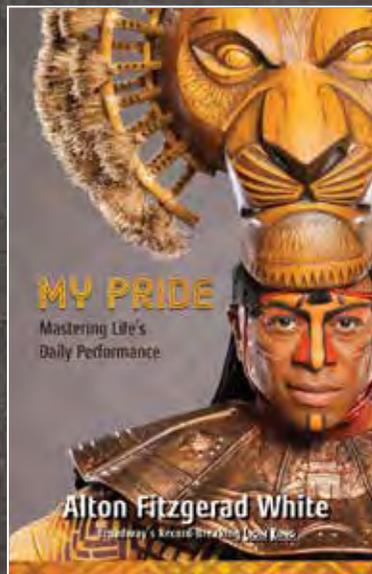
I started sharing it with people I respect, and they were like, “Hey, I think this is something you should share with other people.”

As I continued to write, I started thinking about, “How did I get here? How did I go from being a kid in public housing to six Broadway shows and playing the king in the most successful show in the history of Broadway? What has my path been?”

**Ryan:** What was the process of writing this like for you? You’re still in the middle of this career. It’s rare that you really get a chance to stop and take a long-lens view at where you’ve been. Did it give you an added appreciation for *yourself* –

for everything you’ve done to get here?

**Alton:** Absolutely, because in the business we meet so many people. Every show becomes a family, and you have to leave the family to do other things. So every artist lives so many lifetimes in one life. It helped me remember my path – how I started, where the passion came from. And the more I wrote, the more I remembered ... I had remember very little about my childhood – I blanked a lot of it out. So for



years, I've been going, "At some point, I'm going to need to investigate and really remember my story." And this was like therapy for me.

It was difficult to get started ... I don't like writing. I don't type. I literally hunt-and-pecked this entire book. The most miraculous thing to me is that somehow I found a part of myself that I didn't know existed. I found the patience, I found a different kind of passion ... I'm sitting here right now going, "I can't believe I actually wrote a book."

That, in itself, is something I will celebrate forever ... I hope that it's something that inspires people and helps people, but the pride I feel for having discovered something that I didn't even know about myself is a whole other kind of blessing.

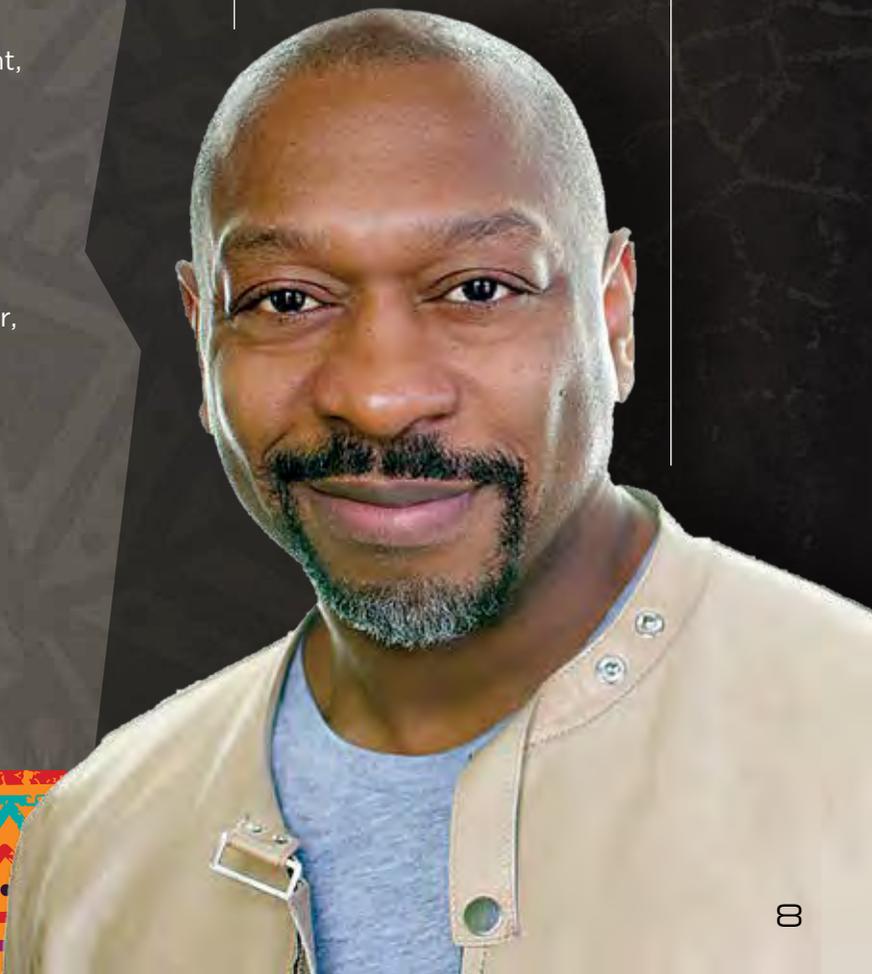
**Ryan:** You mentioned your 4,000<sup>th</sup> performance as Mufasa in *The Lion King*. That reached 4,308 ... When you hear that number now that you have the benefit of some hindsight, what does that number mean to you?

**Alton:** The first thing that comes up for me is gratitude. Most of my time doing *The Lion King*, I was just grateful to be a working actor. The fact that it was a hit show, the fact that it was a show that made people so happy - that was icing on the cake. But to be a working actor, to be paid to do what I love to do, getting to express myself eight times a week and exercise my passion - that's what got me to the 4,308. I didn't count, but every time I say that number now - it's like the same feeling I have with the book - I can't believe I did it.

**Insider access:** Members who sailed aboard the 2017 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise received a special advance edition of Alton's inspiring book, months before it hit stores.

## Disney FILES ON DEMAND

Watch an extended version of this interview - including incredible true stories of Alton's life and career - on the all-new *Disney Files On Demand*, an evolving array of Disney Vacation Club-produced video programs available for viewing anytime at [disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles](http://disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles).



# 2017 A year to remember forever after

*Disney Files* Magazine looks back at a few of the ways Disney Vacation Club enhanced the value, flexibility and ever-evolving “extras” of Membership in 2017 as part of Membership Magic Ever After.

## NEW Ticket Offers\* (through Jan. 3, 2018)

Disney Vacation Club announced two Walt Disney World ticket offers earlier this year: a **7-day theme park ticket for the price of a 5-day ticket** (valid for six months after first use) and a **discount of at least 25 percent off a Disney Platinum Plus annual pass**. Purchase online at [DVCMagicalTicketOffers.com](http://DVCMagicalTicketOffers.com), through Member Services by phone or in person at Walt Disney World Theme Park ticket windows (with valid Membership Card and photo ID).

## EXPANDED Shopping & Dining Discounts\*

Members continued to enjoy doubled merchandise discounts at select Disney-owned-and-operated shops at Walt Disney World Resort, Disney’s Vero Beach Resort and Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort in 2017 (doubled from 10 percent to 20 percent for a limited time), along with an expanded array of Walt Disney World-owned-and-operated table-service restaurants offering a 10 percent Member discount.

## SMASH-HIT Special Events\*

Members partied after-hours during complimentary Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic events at Disneyland Park, Magic Kingdom Park, Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park and Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park, and will do so at Epcot soon after this magazine mails. Members also gathered for special holiday meals and celebrations at Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts, from Halloween parties to Thanksgiving dinners.

## EXTENDED Member Lounge\*

The Member Lounge, located on the second floor of the Imagination! Pavilion at Epcot, remained open in 2017 and will continue to welcome Members home in 2018! For access, present your valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card and photo ID to the Cast Member at the bottom of the staircase in the pavilion’s merchandise shop.

Watch *Disney Files* Magazine for continuing coverage of Membership Magic Ever After offerings in the year ahead – including 2018’s expanded slate of special events – and visit [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) (My DVC Membership, Member Benefits & More) anytime for the latest updates from around the neighborhood. (Tip: The Disney Vacation Club Facebook page is another great way to stay in the know, with multiple posts each week sharing news and updates. Disney Vacation Club recommends visiting [Facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub) directly, as not all of the page’s posts will appear in your news feed.)

## SPECIAL Sneak Previews\*

Members enjoyed sneak previews of new theme park attractions, including *Guardians of the Galaxy: Mission Breakout* at Disney California Adventure Park and Pandora – The World of Avatar at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park, as well as feature films, including *Cars 3*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* and, aboard the 2017 Member Cruise, *Olaf’s Frozen Adventure*.

## A Whole NEW Wilderness

The opening of Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge added a new frontier to Members’ vacation plans while also adding new dining, recreation and more to the beloved Lodge.

## ENHANCED Member Services

Members made expanded use of a service enhancement that allows them to modify a reservation by re-contacting the same advisor who helped them make the reservation in the first place. As the year drew to a close, Member Services also extended its operating hours (see page 19) to better serve Members.



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



**Carrying the torch:** One of the voyage's many memorable moments came during a pre-show tribute to the late Disney Legend Marty Sklar, as legendary filmmaker Don Hahn (*Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*) announced that he would follow in Marty's footsteps as a periodic contributor to *Disney Files Magazine*. While you await Don's first column in the spring 2018 edition, check out Marty's last conversation with *Disney Files Magazine* Editor Ryan March through the new *Disney Files On Demand* video player online at [disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles](http://disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles). (Tip: Bonus material in the end credits find Don and Ryan discussing Marty's legacy and Don's kind offer to write for the magazine.)

## A voyage of firsts

### 2017 Member Cruise breaks new ground

**Member Cruise:** The 2017 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise – the first to sail aboard the Disney Fantasy and the first to follow an Eastern Caribbean itinerary – broke new ground for this beloved event, earning record-high ratings and introducing an unprecedented “event within the event.”

Presented as part of Membership Magic Ever After, Member Cruise voyages elevate the already spectacular Disney Cruise Line experience with special entertainment, commemorative in-room gifts, custom décor and more.

This year's rare 7-night itinerary (Aug. 26-Sept. 2), which featured three uninterrupted sea days, allowed Member Cruise planners to present more than 30 unique shows and experiences (double the previous high), including those comprising a “Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise Film Festival” that kicked off the event. More than just a collection of films, this sailing celebration of movie magic allowed Members to peek behind the scenes of Pixar Animation Studios' *Coco*, enjoy Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Olaf's Frozen Adventure* in its entirety (months before its release), celebrate both films during lavish deck parties, laugh through a side-splitting sequence from next year's *Ralph Breaks*

*the Internet: Wreck-It Ralph 2*, attend special preview screenings of legendary filmmaker Don Hahn's work-in-progress documentary honoring the late Disney Legend Howard Ashman (one of five documentaries Don presented), hear unfiltered stories about life in show business from journeyman actor Richard Kind (voice of Bing Bong in the Disney·Pixar hit *Inside Out*), see the latest hits from the Disney family of studios with special bonus content and more.

While the Film Festival alone would've ranked as the broadest entertainment lineup in Member Cruise history, it was merely this voyage's opening act, paving the way for a second lineup featuring Imagineers, actors, authors, artists, historians, Broadway stars and more – essentially delivering two Member Cruise voyages in one.

As an added bonus, Disney Vacation Club produced nearly a dozen in-stateroom, on-demand television programs, many of which are now available for viewing through the new *Disney Files On Demand* video player online at [disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles](http://disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles).

While Members cherish their memories of the 2017 voyage, Disney Vacation Club is hard at work on the next highly anticipated Member Cruise, sailing July 23-27, 2018.



From left, *Disney Files Magazine* Editor Ryan March joins Walt Disney Animation Studios filmmakers Kevin Deters and Stevie Wermers-Skelton (and a scene-stealing, warm-hug-loving snowman) on the Walt Disney Theatre stage before an advance screening of *Olaf's Frozen Adventure*.



# Dear Disney Files

By Members. For Members.

*Disney Files Magazine* proudly shares the personal perspectives of real Members in their own words, beginning with this story from Becca McBride of Florida, Member since 2011, whose family has turned to Disney Vacation Club through the years for refuge from storms both literal and metaphorical.

## Unpacking the meaning of 'welcome home'

By Becca McBride

The morning after Hurricane Irma, we arrived at [Boulder Ridge Villas at] Disney's Wilderness Lodge, one of our home resorts. I have stayed at this resort more than a dozen times, but at this time our family checked in as temporary refugees from our first hurricane.

Although our house survived intact, we lost electricity for 6 days, in a climate where the heat index daily tops 100 degrees. In addition to the heat challenges, it is essential that we have connectivity because my husband and I both work from home. Despite the fact that our city was shut down due to the hurricane, we both work on teams that span the country and we had professional responsibilities to maintain. Extending

our stay day by day, we stayed a total of four nights. Every morning, my husband drove home to see if our house was safe, because looters targeted our neighborhood every night. We worked for eight hours every day from the hotel lobby while our kids occupied themselves with homework and electronics.

In the midst of our mini-crisis, we were reminded of how Disney Vacation Club has earned the trust with our family to truly welcome us home.

When we bought Disney Vacation Club in

2011 ... we lived a fairly stable life in Nashville, Tenn. We owned the house where we anticipated growing old, and we envisioned annual vacations with our Disney-loving family for years to come. But since 2011, our life has followed a winding and challenging path. We have moved from Tennessee to Michigan to Florida - living in five homes in six years. We have had many professional successes, including

transitioning careers, acquiring a PhD, gaining professional certifications and publishing a book with a leading academic press. We have also had multiple challenges in our family life, including major surgeries, school challenges with our children and losing my father after a brutal fight with colon cancer. To say the least, it has been a destabilizing six years.

We never anticipated that Disney Vacation Club would be an anchor of stability for our family in

this season of disruption. But our most recent experience in the midst of the hurricane is really just a microcosm of the *refuge* and *community* that Disney Vacation Club has provided for our family. For us, "Welcome Home" has been more than a marketing phrase; it has reflected the reality of our family's experience.

A *refuge* is by definition a safe place to take shelter through the storm. Even though that has literally been what Disney Vacation Club became for our family last week, we have been taking refuge in Disney Vacation Club through



**Have a story to share?** Mail your vacation stories for consideration to Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Please include any supporting photos, your name, email address, hometown and "Member Since" year, along with a signed release form (available online at [disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform](http://disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform)).

the metaphorical storms of our life for years now. We have strategically scheduled Disney Vacation Club stays between closing on the sale of one home and buying another home twice; on those "homeless" stays Disney Vacation Club has literally been the only "home" we owned. Moreover, Disney Vacation Club has been a safe place we could regroup and recover from disruptive life events like my father's death and a major jaw surgery that changed the contours of my face and made it temporarily difficult for me to eat or speak clearly ...

But perhaps even more life changing for our family has been the *community* we have experienced through Disney Vacation Club. This surprising community has sustained us through life's successes and challenges alike, and has come from two sources. First, over the past six years we have developed a network of "vacation" friends that spreads from New York to Ohio to St. Louis to Virginia to Georgia to Florida to South Carolina. These families have lived some major life moments with us while we have shared downtime at the resorts, and while we visited each other at our homes across the country ...

The Cast Members at our home resorts have become an extended family that has cared for us way beyond our stay at the resorts. When my dad was diagnosed with cancer, they contacted us and showed us they were thinking of us. When I had my jaw surgery, they laughed with me at the thumb-sized gap between my

teeth, and made me feel normal in a time when I felt awkward in all social settings. They have celebrated my kids' birthdays, left us wine and board games for rainy days at the resorts, and made my children feel like they were the most important people in the world ...

For these reasons, when we were staring down hurricane displacement and insecurity, I immediately packed my family in the car and drove to Disney's Wilderness Lodge. Even though I knew we would be welcomed there, I was still surprised at the lengths they went to decrease stress and anxiety for our family. They

extended our reservation day by day and made an effort to keep us in the same room. They couldn't always honor our requests, but when they couldn't, they said "no" with compassion and empathy. When we got the news that our stay would likely stretch out indefinitely, the front desk manager told us we had [accommodations] there ... at a rate well

below anything I would have imagined they could arrange for us. When our power was restored, the front desk staff who had come to know us by name all celebrated with us.

For a family as transient as ours, you spend a lot of time thinking about how to build a home in the midst of constant change. Disney Vacation Club has been a key strategy for our family as we have sought refuge and built community across multiple states, and I am thankful for the stability the company has provided for our family in the midst of disruption.



# MEMBERSHIP EXTRAS

PART OF



Disney Files Magazine is pleased to highlight select Membership Extras available as part of Membership Magic Ever After. For a more comprehensive look at available extras, visit [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) (My DVC Membership, Member Benefits & More).

## Enjoy the ultimate night of adventure

### New tour offers 15 percent Member discount

**Walt Disney World Resort:** The new “Ultimate Nights of Adventure VIP Tour” of Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park is giving explorers easy access to popular attractions while the park transitions from day to night, and as part of Membership Magic Ever After, Disney Vacation Club Members are enjoying a 15 percent discount\* off the price of \$249 a person (plus Theme Park admission).

Available rain or shine on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 5-9 p.m. (times vary based on sunset and Rivers of Light show times), the experience finds a VIP Tour Guide leading as many as 25 guests to experience, through the expedited magic of FastPass+, the Flight of Passage and Na’vi River Journey attractions in Pandora – The World of Avatar, Expedition Everest: Legend of the Forbidden

Mountain in Asia, Dinosaur in DinoLand U.S.A., and Kilimanjaro Safaris in Africa, as well as the Rivers of Light nighttime spectacular.

Select snacks and beverages, including cocktails for those of legal age, are included in the tour price (please remember to communicate any allergies or dietary restrictions when booking the tour), as is a commemorative VIP lanyard.

While there are no age restrictions for the tour, please note that the Flight of Passage and Expedition Everest attractions have a 44-inch height requirement, while Dinosaur has a 40-inch height requirement.

Call Member Services to book your “ultimate night of adventure!”

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



## Taste at the Top

### Beverage tastings have Members on 'Top of the World'



**Walt Disney World Resort:** The weekly Beverage Tasting Series at Top of the World Lounge has Members\* and special guests enjoying the happiest of happy hours atop Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort.

Presented as part of Membership Magic Ever After and priced at \$40 a person plus tax, the 5-6 p.m. experience for as many as 20 participants (maximum of four people in a party) shifts its focus each week – from beer to wine to bourbon to the art of mixology – with each session delivering expert insights and small-plate food pairings with every round of featured beverages. As an added bonus, attendees are welcome to remain in the lounge after the event, or even return to the lounge later in the evening.

Call Member Services for dates and details of tastings available during your vacation, and to make reservations for the experience.

Payment is due in full at the time of booking, and any cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance to avoid surrendering full payment. Be sure to mention any food allergies or dietary restrictions when making your reservations, and remember to present your required Membership Card and photo ID when checking in at the event. Note that this experience is available exclusively to Members and guests ages 18 or older, and alcohol is available only to those ages 21 or older.

---

## Store your stuff

### Owner's Locker presents introductory offer

**Walt Disney World Resort:** Some of the savviest Members around the neighborhood are enjoying the convenience of storing their stuff through Owner's Locker, and special offers\* are sweetening the deal as part of Membership Magic Ever After.

Owner's Locker is a Central Florida company that, for the past decade, has allowed frequent vacationers to securely store their personal items in local climate-controlled "lockers" and have them delivered to their resort each time they visit. Owner's Locker members, who simplify their travels (avoiding the process of carrying bags through security or the cost of checking excess luggage) by storing everything from clothing and accessories to toiletries and recreational gear, have the ability to manage their account, schedule deliveries and even create online inventories of their stored items 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For Disney Vacation Club Members utilizing the service for the first time, Owner's Locker is currently waiving its customary \$75 Membership

Fee, as well as its monthly storage fee (while Owner's Locker previously billed annually, it recently added a monthly payment option) for the first six months. For months 7-12, these Members enjoy a 50 percent discount off the monthly fee, paying \$5.25 per month instead of \$10.50, and receive one complimentary delivery and pickup during that first year of Owner's Locker Membership.

To learn more about the service and take advantage of this offer, click the specially created link within the Owner's Locker listing at [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) (My DVC Membership, Member Benefits & More).



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



# 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 Ray Moseley of New Mexico, Member since 2012.**

As Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge adds another chapter to a story rooted in the history of America's railroads, *Disney Files Magazine* is pleased to present Ray Moseley's miniature (G-scale) backyard railroad, initially inspired by his childhood rides aboard the Mine Train Through Nature's Wonderland (a Frontierland attraction that operated from 1960-1977 at Disneyland Park). Ray's railroad, featuring trains named in honor of Disney Legend Ward Kimball (complete with tiny guests in mine cars) and the Disney-animated Casey Jr., circus train (as well as a third train pulling flat cars inspired by Disneyland parade floats), travels past everything from pirate ships and a Pinocchio village to Fantasyland castles and Radiator Springs.



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](http://disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform).

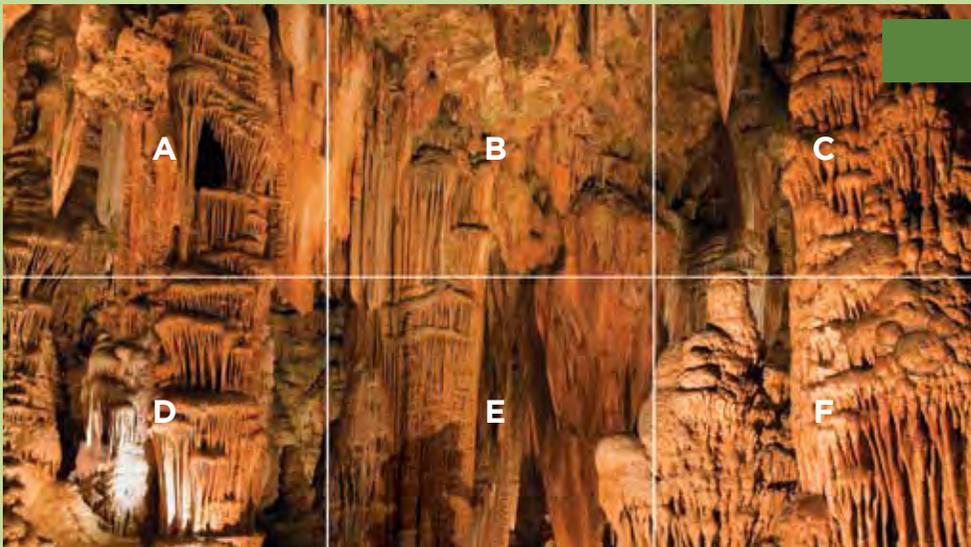
# picture this

What may look like a photo taken during a wild ride through Big Thunder Mountain Railroad is actually an image captured inside one of the eight magnificent caverns in Virginia's picturesque Shenandoah Valley, one of the many U.S. destinations available to Members through our friends at RCI. With the caverns' underground temperatures fluctuating in the comfortable 50s throughout the year, exploring these natural wonders is a favorite activity among vacationers looking to beat the summer heat or escape the winter cold. See if you can spot the seven things we've altered in this photo, and visit [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) to learn more about the thousands of World Collection exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic Ever After. (As the cavern setting makes this puzzle particularly challenging, we've divided the altered photo into six labeled sections to help you more easily navigate the answers.)

\*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: Section A (two alterations: a stalactite hanging from the top of the cavern has grown longer and a section of the formation to the right of that stalactite has disappeared), Section B (a faint Disney "D" has appeared near the top of this section), Section C (a new stalactite now hangs from the top of this section), Section D (more light is shining against the formation in the lower-left quadrant of this section), Section E (a yeti's shadow now appears at the bottom of this section), Section F (a hidden Mickey has formed in the upper-right quadrant of this section).



**Disney's Hollywood Studios:** The new BaseLine Tap House is now open at Disney's Hollywood Studios. Located in the park's new Grand Avenue area (between MuppetVision 3-D and the Sci-Fi Dine-In Restaurant), this cheerful corner pub is part of a thematic and architectural celebration of present-day Downtown Los Angeles. Its quaint brick building is said to have once housed the Figueroa Printing Company, a mom-and-pop print house with ties to the Disney studios in nearby Burbank. Vintage printing equipment and artifacts detail the exposed-brick interior, while a tree-shaded terrace adds open-air seating outside. California craft ales, lagers, ciders and wines anchor a drink menu that also includes specialty cocktails, and a signature non-alcoholic lemonade and soda on tap. Small-plate foods range from a Bavarian pretzel with mustard and beer-cheese fondue to spiced almonds to a charcuterie board with California cheeses. BaseLine Tap House opens at 11 a.m. daily.

**Disney's Yacht Club Resort:** A sweeping re-imagination of dining at Disney's Yacht Club Resort is scheduled to have materialized by the time this magazine mails. Among the new additions is The Market at Ale & Compass, featuring made-to-order and grab-and-go breakfast, lunch and dinner options, including beer, wine and kid-friendly items. The re-imagined Ale & Compass lobby lounge, meanwhile, has

expanded to 58 seats and debuted a new menu of classic cocktails and light bits to go with its new look. The biggest change is the adjacent Captain's Grille, which has become Ale & Compass Restaurant, a casual, table-service restaurant featuring New England-style breakfast, lunch and dinner comfort food in a lighthouse-inspired "gastropub" environment, complete with an on-stage hearth oven. Ale & Compass Restaurant is part of the Disney Dining Plan.

**Disney's Wilderness Lodge:** Artist Point, the farm-to-fork, fine-dining restaurant now serving more Members than ever with the recent opening of Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge, offers a "Secret Supper Menu" to those who ask their server. It's an ever-changing, multicourse dining experience creatively influenced by Sous Chef Damon Lauder based on seasonally available ingredients, so be sure to ask your server to reveal the "secret" menu available during your visit. This hidden menu offering complements the restaurant's more overtly marketed "Taste of the Pacific" menu, which offers a fixed-price, five-course experience with an optional wine pairing. Artist Point continuously evolves its Pacific Northwest-inspired menu, which recently added an aged, 32-ounce bone-in Rib Eye steak for two, a 14-ounce Berkshire Pork Porterhouse, a "Butcher Cuts" menu option that allows you to pick and choose your sides, and an Oregon Cherry Milk and Cookies Dessert, complete with a house-spun milkshake and crisp almond butter cookies (pictured here).





## Scotch Eggs with mustard sauce

Just because the 2017 Epcot International Food & Wine Festival ended its record-setting, 75-day run in November doesn't mean foodies should end the culinary celebration at home. Here to aid you in that pursuit is the recipe for one of our favorite festival foods - Scotch Eggs with mustard sauce. It's the kind of dish that can make any home feel like the perfect pub, and it's enough to make us want to move the *Disney Files* offices to Scotland.

Makes: 8 Scotch Eggs

### Ingredients:

- 12 eggs
- 1 quart canola oil
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups breadcrumbs
- 1 ½ pounds pork sausage

### Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and heat oil in a deep fryer (or a frying pan wide and deep enough to safely contain your quart of oil) to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Place 8 eggs in saucepan and cover with water. Bring to boil. Cover, remove from heat and let eggs sit in the hot water for 10-12 minutes. Remove eggs from water and allow to cool before peeling.
3. Beat remaining 4 eggs in a bowl, and set aside.
4. Place flour in a bowl, and set aside.
5. Place breadcrumbs in a bowl, and set aside.
6. Divide sausage into 8 even pieces. Flatten a portion of sausage and evenly form it around a hard-boiled egg. Lightly flour the sausage-covered egg before rolling it in the bowl of beaten egg to coat. Then roll it in the breadcrumbs to cover evenly. Repeat for the other 7 eggs.
7. Fry eggs (a few at a time so as to not over-crowd your fryer) for 3-5 minutes until golden brown. Remove from fryer and place on baking sheet. Bake in oven for 10-12 minutes.
8. Cut in half before serving.



**Sauce it up:** For the accompanying mustard sauce, mix 1 teaspoon of minced shallots, 1 teaspoon of minced garlic, ½ cup of spicy mustard, ½ cup of mayonnaise, ½ cup of sour cream, 1 teaspoon of lemon juice and 1 teaspoon of red wine vinegar in a bowl until fully incorporated. Season with salt and pepper to taste, and refrigerate until ready to serve.

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's Old Key West Resort:** Members are adding a distinctive accessory to their wardrobe in the form of this exclusive pin (pictured above) celebrating Conch Flats, the imagined setting of the flagship resort that put Disney Vacation Club on the map. Not available in stores, the pin is a parting gift for those embarking on "The Legend of Conch Flats" tour of Disney's Old Key West Resort. The complimentary, 45-60 minute walking tour of the resort's Hospitality House area reveals how Walt Disney Imagineers weaved historical fact and charming fiction in their creation of this tropical oasis. The tour takes place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, departing Papa's Den (adjacent to the lobby) at 10 a.m. Pre-registration isn't necessary, and the tour is suitable for all ages.

**Disney's BoardWalk Entertainment District:** With the arrival of the college football and NFL postseason comes bigger-than-ever demand for prime seating at ESPN Club on Disney's BoardWalk, where nearly 100 screens carry all the action. Savvy fans take advantage of the club's Premium Seating option, eliminating the wait at the door by securing a table in advance.

The Premium Seating fee of \$75 each for guests ages 21 or older and \$50 each for guests ages 3-20 doubles as the food-and-beverage minimum and is deducted from the guests' check. To secure Premium Seating this football postseason or any time of the year, call (407) 939-5656.

**Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort:** *Disney Files* Magazine congratulates Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort on being named the best resort in South Carolina by travelers participating in *Conde Nast Traveler's* recent "Readers Choice Awards" survey. Hundreds of thousands of travelers participate in the annual survey, submitting millions of ratings to help shape this coveted list of vacation favorites.

**Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa:** Sunrise Yoga takes Members and guests on a mental and physical journey each Monday and Wednesday (weather permitting) at 7 a.m. in the Congress Park area of Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa. This complimentary, outdoor experience for as many as 20 participants includes drinking water, and the use of yoga mats and towels. Also available at the resort is a weekly 1.44-mile Derby Dash run. Participants of all fitness levels enjoy fruit, drinking water and the use of towels, and upon finishing the race, receive a commemorative medal. Call the resort's Community Hall at (407) 827-4843 for Derby Dash pricing and schedule details.

**Member Services:** The Member Services team recently extended its operating hours to 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Eastern (previously 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.) on weekdays, and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (previously 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) on weekends. Hours for the Japanese Member Services team remain unchanged. As a reminder, Member Services phone numbers and operating hours are listed at the bottom of page 1 in this and every edition of *Disney Files* Magazine.



**Disney's Wilderness Lodge:** New facilities and amenities continue to change the landscape of Disney's Wilderness Lodge, where Salon by the Springs began serving Members and guests in October and Reunion Station is scheduled to open early in the New Year. Salon by the Springs offers manicures, pedicures, makeup, hairstyling and other salon services. Located next to the Copper Creek Springs Pool area, the salon features picturesque views of Fire Rock Geyser and Bay Lake. For reservations, call (407) WDW-SPAS (939-7727) or press the Massage/Health Club or Spa button on your resort's in-room phone. Reunion Station, adjacent to Geyser Point Bar & Grill at the edge of Bay Lake, turns what appears to be a former railroad station into a welcoming Member lounge. The paid Reunion Station lounge-access option\* (offered based on availability to entire travel parties for the duration of their stay) includes select food and beverages during specified morning and evening

hours daily. During other times of its operating day, Reunion Station will host a variety of premium experiences with a participation fee. These experiences do not require Members to add lounge access to their vacation plans. Call Member Services for more details or to add Reunion Station lounge access to your stay.

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

**Annual Dues Tips:** The Annual Dues section of [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) (under the My Membership tab) allows you to request enrollment in a monthly auto-payment program (direct debit from a U.S. checking or savings account), modify your bank account or credit card information, apply Disney Gift Cards and Disney Reward Redemption Cards to Annual Dues payments and, until Feb. 14, make partial Annual Dues payments. Now is a good time to visit the site's Profile Settings section to update mailing addresses on file for your family before the Dues statements generate in mid-December. And, for those with a Disney Vacation Club mortgage, note that you may access your 1098 Mortgage Interest amount from the site each year after Jan. 30.

## PARDON OUR Pixie Dust

Refurbishment news from around the neighborhood\*

**Disney's Old Key West Resort:** The multi-year Disney's Old Key West Resort refurbishment project noted in the summer 2017 edition of *Disney Files Magazine* is now underway, with work scheduled in waves through mid-2019.

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

## Be inspired by 'Artful Epcot'

### Epcot International Festival of the Arts returns, expands

**Walt Disney World Resort:** The visual, performing and culinary arts will come together once again during the 2018 Epcot International Festival of the Arts.

Inspired by the first-time festival that turned weekends in the park into the ultimate cultural celebration in early 2017, the 2018 event expands to seven days a week (with additional entertainment on weekends), engaging guests in colorful, musical, palate-pleasing fashion from Jan. 12-Feb. 19.

Visit Epcot any day during the festival to admire the work of visiting artists, explore Disney and cultural galleries, pose for photos inside iconic works of art, participate in hands-on workshops, sample flavors from art-inspired menus at "Food Studios," collect event-exclusive merchandise (at the Art of Disney and Mouse Gear shops, and at about 30 specialty merchandise tents throughout World Showcase) and more.

In addition to chalk artists, living-art statues, Disney Performing Arts youth shows and other atmospheric acts, the festival's expanded weekend-entertainment slate includes the star-studded Disney on Broadway Concert Series, capping evenings at the America Gardens Theater each Friday through Monday.

The visual spectacle of the festival will once again turn construction walls (concealing work on the upcoming Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival) into oversized canvases

as Disney artists create masterful murals that materialize throughout the event's run. Some murals even offer an interactive experience, inviting guests to grab a brush and join the fun.

Other interactive experiences range from children's arts and crafts at Kidcot Fun Stops to complimentary seminars to paid workshops that let guests try their hand at a variety of art forms, ranging from floral design to character sketching to mixed-media arts.

Disney Vacation Club Members enjoy a **15 percent discount** on the festival's paid workshops as part of Membership Magic Ever After. Learn more about the festival online at [Disneyworld.com/ArtfulEpcot](http://Disneyworld.com/ArtfulEpcot) before calling Member Services to book your discounted workshops.

**Trip tip:** For a fun, affordable way to explore the festival with your family, stop by the park's Pin Central, Disney Traders or World Traveler shops to purchase a "Figment's Brush with the Masters" map of World Showcase. The map includes a colorful collection of event-exclusive Figment stickers. Follow the map through the World Showcase pavilions, search for each pavilion's hidden work of Figment art and place the corresponding sticker on the appropriate spot on your map. Then exchange your completed map at the Disney Traders shop for an artsy surprise.





## Discover 'Secrets of the Empire'

New *Star Wars* experience blends physical, virtual environments

### Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts:

This holiday season marks the highly anticipated debut of *Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire*, an immersive new experience in the Downtown Disney District at Disneyland Resort and Disney Springs at Walt Disney World Resort.

Created by Lucasfilm, ILMxLAB (Lucasfilm's Immersive Entertainment division) and The VOID (creators of interactive experiences that combine physical sets with real-time effects), the new attraction sends guests moving freely through the *Star Wars* galaxy, interacting and engaging with friends, family and *Star Wars* characters.

"A truly transformative experience is so much more than what you see with your eyes," said The VOID co-founder and Chief Creative Officer Curtis Hickman. "It's what you hear, feel, touch and even smell. Through the power of The VOID, guests who step into *Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire* won't just see this world - they'll know that they are part of this amazing story."

The experience represents another step forward for ILMxLAB, a team that combines compelling storytelling, technological innovation and world-class production to create experiences for virtual reality, augmented/mixed reality, real-time cinema, theme park

entertainment and narrative-based experiences for future platforms.

"At ILMxLAB, we want people to step inside the worlds of our stories," explained ILMxLAB executive-in-charge Vicki Dobbs Beck. "Through our collaboration with The VOID, we can make this happen as guests become active participants in an unfolding *Star Wars* adventure. By combining Lucasfilm's storytelling expertise with cutting-edge imagery and immersive sound from the team at Skywalker Sound, while invoking all the senses, we hope to truly transport all those who experience *Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire* to a galaxy far, far away."

The collaboration with The VOID is part of the organization's participation in the Disney Accelerator program, through which emerging tech companies gain access to the creative expertise and resources of The Walt Disney Company to help develop their innovative new entertainment experiences and products.

Look for *Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire* near Sprinkles in the Downtown Disney District at Disneyland Resort and near Once Upon a Toy in the Marketplace neighborhood of Disney Springs at Walt Disney World Resort. Tickets for this hyper-reality experience are available online at [TheVOID.com](http://TheVOID.com).





# BUZZWORTHY

8 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger



## Holiday broadcasts from Disney

**Parks:** Look for four Disney Parks specials on Disney television networks this holiday season. “Disney Parks Presents a Disney Channel Holiday Celebration,” featuring performances by favorite Disney

Channel stars, is available for viewing on the DisneyNOW app. “Disney’s Fairy Tale Weddings: Holiday Magic,” premiering Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. on Freeform, follows two couples as they say “I do” in festive fashion – one at Disneyland Resort and the other at Walt Disney World Resort. The show also shares a hidden-camera beach proposal at Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai‘i. “Decorating Disney: Holiday Magic,” debuting Dec. 18 at 8 p.m. on Freeform, takes a behind-the-scenes look at holiday transformations at the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts while also sharing Disney holiday memories from real families (check local listings for encore performances of the Freeform specials). And on Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. on ABC, tune in as Julianne Hough and Nick Lachey take viewers on a magical ride down Main Street, U.S.A. and beyond during the “Disney Parks Magical Christmas Celebration.”

**Walt Disney World Resort:** The upcoming Walt Disney World Marathon Weekend presented by Cigna, taking place Jan. 3-7, 2018, will mark the event’s milestone 25th anniversary. Among the celebratory weekend’s tens of thousands of participants will be more than 75 runners who have participated in all 24 preceding marathons. Also among the runners will be a growing number of Disney Vacation Club Members, many

of whom take advantage of early-registration opportunities presented as part of Membership Magic Ever After. Beyond the annual marathon, *runDisney* events include Kids Races, 5Ks, 10Ks and half marathons, each presented with unique Disney themes and courses (including runs through Disney Theme Parks before they open for the day!) and each ending with coveted Disney finisher medals. Learn more about *runDisney* events and early-registration offers by visiting [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) and typing *runDisney* in the search field.

**Walt Disney World Resort:** Guests are discovering four new retail locations at Disney Springs, just in time for holiday shopping. Bowes Signature Soy Candles, located inside the Marketplace Co-Op, specializes in eco-friendly candles, while Swings N’ Things offers hammocks and porch swings from a kiosk near the Cookes of Dublin eatery. Fans of rinse bath & body co. products (a favorite proprietor at Epcot festivals) now find the company’s natural deodorants, shower bombs and more at a kiosk near the Paddlefish restaurant. And moving from a kiosk to an expanded space near The Ganachery is Savannah Bee, home to honeys, hive-inspired beauty products and even honey wines.



**Walt Disney World Resort:** Watch *Disney Files* Magazine and [Disneyworld.com/PartyForThePlanet](http://Disneyworld.com/PartyForThePlanet) for dates and details about a bigger-than-ever Party for the Planet event in the works for Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park in 2018. Presented in celebration of Earth Day and the park’s milestone 20th anniversary (both on April 22), the multi-day party (included

**Celebrate the season:** Get the latest details about holiday happenings at Disney Parks across the globe – including the new “Flurry of Fun” celebration at Disney’s Hollywood Studios (featuring the new “Sunset Seasons Greetings” projection displays on Sunset Boulevard and the back-by-popular-demand “Jingle Bell, Jingle Bam” projection show on the Chinese Theatre) and the Epcot International Festival of the Holidays (complete with more than a dozen “Holiday Kitchen” kiosks) – by accessing each destination’s website through [DisneyParks.com](http://DisneyParks.com).

with theme park admission) will include special conservation-driven offerings throughout the park.



**Walt Disney World Resort:** The first Slinky Dog Dash ride vehicle has arrived at Disney’s Hollywood Studios, where Toy Story Land remains on pace for a summer 2018 debut. The playful coaster is one of two new attractions Guests will discover in an area inspired by Andy’s backyard, joining Alien Swirling Saucers and the existing hit Toy Story Mania!



**Walt Disney World Resort:** Two Sumatran tiger cubs born recently at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park are scheduled to make their onstage, Maharajah Jungle Trek debut this

winter. The healthy male and female cubs, who have spent the first few months of their lives bonding with their mother backstage, were bred through the park’s ongoing participation in the Species Survival Plan, overseen by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to ensure responsible breeding, and to support diverse populations of threatened and endangered species. Sumatran tigers are critically endangered, with habitat loss, poaching and the illegal wildlife trade reducing the wild population to fewer than 500 tigers. This summer, Disney’s Animal Kingdom guests participating in a limited-time “Connect to Protect” digital-adventure game voted to direct \$100,000 from Disney Parks to help fund a survey of more than 12 million acres of rainforest in Indonesia to identify the most important areas to protect to reverse the decline of Sumatran tigers.

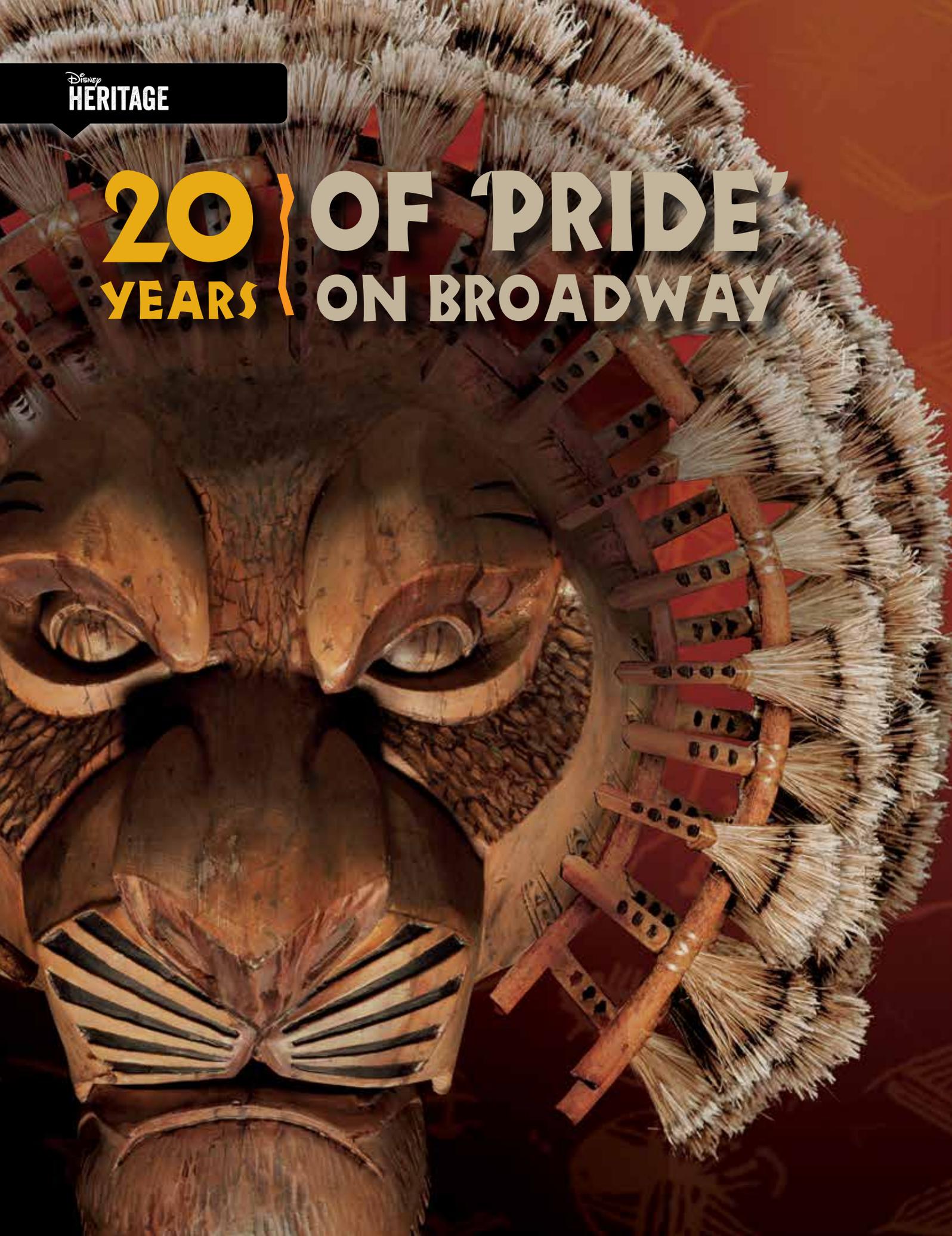
**Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts:**

Crait, a remote planet featured in the highly anticipated film *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (opening in U.S. theaters Dec. 15), is scheduled to have joined the intergalactic flight itinerary at Star Tours – The Adventures Continue at Disneyland Park and Disney’s Hollywood Studios by the time this magazine mails. According to [StarWars.com](http://StarWars.com), “Crait is a mineral world dusted by a layer of white salt, reflecting the planet’s sunlight. It was once the site of a Rebel Alliance outpost and has become a haven for the fleeing Resistance forces.” Crait’s addition continues the evolution of the dynamic theme park attraction, which previously added destinations from 2015’s *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

**Shanghai Disney Resort:** A Mandarin stage production of Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* will debut in the 1,200-seat Walt Disney Grand Theater in Disneytown at Shanghai Disney Resort in 2018. The production is part of the resort’s ongoing commitment to developing local musical theatre talent in Shanghai.

Disney  
HERITAGE

# 20 OF 'PRIDE' YEARS ON BROADWAY



## The Lion King celebrates theatrical milestone

Hearing that *The Lion King* is turning 20 gave the *Disney Files* staff the same sense of where-has-the-time-gone disbelief we experienced four years ago, when someone told us that the impossibly handsome John Stamos had turned 50. (Speaking of Stamos, check out our visit with the age-defying actor - and avid Disney fan - online at [disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles](http://disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles).) Hearing clarification that *The Lion King* celebrating the big 2-0 isn't the animated classic but rather the Broadway production that followed made us reach for our canes and head to the local 4 o'clock dinner buffet.

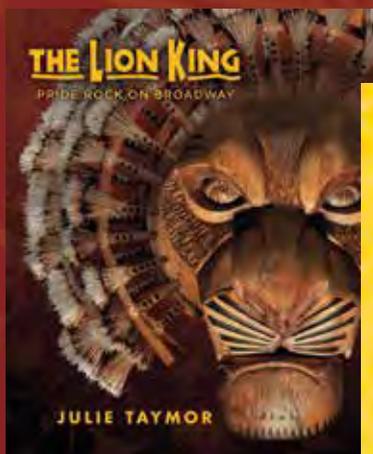
And yet, like the aforementioned "Full House" star, *The Lion King* continues to "fill houses" with its ageless charm, becoming Broadway's highest-grossing show of all time. Beloved by critics and audiences across the globe, the production has earned more than 70 artistic honors, including Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical, the latter of which making visionary director Julie Taymor the first woman to receive the honor.

Our friends at Disney Editions are celebrating the show's anniversary with a new book, *Disney's The Lion King: Twenty Years on Broadway and Around the World* by Michael Lassell, tracing the production's origins from the hit animated film, sharing stories from the show's creators and performers, and showcasing never-before-published images captured on stage and behind the scenes.

Also marking the milestone is Disney Editions' re-release of Julie Taymor's book *The Lion King: Pride Rock on Broadway*, updated to include additional images and new perspectives from the esteemed author and director.

"It's been a privilege to do *The Lion King* and do it for so many years," Taymor told *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March on the red carpet this summer before being inducted as an official Disney Legend (a filmed conversation also available for viewing through Disney Files On Demand). "It's pure joy."

Citing her world travels as a key source of



inspiration, Taymor described *The Lion King* as belonging, not to its creators, but to all who perform and enjoy it.

"The piece really belongs to every culture," she told Ryan. "It's the one thing that we have in common. We're always about our enemies and our differences, but when you do *The Lion King* everywhere, it's owned by each country, each culture. And that fills me with a certain kind of, not just pride ... but connection and joy. There's a depth to that experience that we all share as humans ... the coming-of-age story, the battle, going home and taking responsibility, taking care of your clan, your family, your pride."

Deliberately short on special effects, *The Lion King* relies on physical art forms that, like the circle of life itself, stand the test of time, from costume and set design to the masterful puppetry of Michael Curry (beloved by Disney Theme Park fans for his standout work on everything from *Finding Nemo - The Musical* and Rivers of Light at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park to *Frozen - Live at the Hyperion* at Disney California Adventure Park).

"It uses the oldest of theatre forms," Julie concluded on the red carpet. "I wanted *The Lion King* live theatre event to be visceral, physical, 3D, 4D, 5D theatre - something that film and TV can't do."

Look for *Disney's The Lion King: Twenty Years on Broadway and Around the World* and *The Lion King: Pride Rock on Broadway* wherever books are sold, and visit [lionking.com/tickets](http://lionking.com/tickets) to purchase tickets for the Broadway production or North American tour.



# 80 years and still the fairest

By Jim Korkis

Even after 80 years of entertaining generations of Disney fans, Snow White is still the fairest of them all.

Bolstered by its strong story, lovable characters and memorable songs, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* remains as beloved in 2017 as it was upon its headline-grabbing release in 1937.

The film was such an instant sensation (breaking box office records in 1937) and has become so ingrained in the fabric of Disney that it's easy to forget just how risky a proposition it was.

Among the many honors bestowed on this groundbreaking animated feature was a special Oscar comprised of a traditionally sized statuette accompanied by seven smaller figures.

Actress  
Shirley

Temple Black, who famously presented the award to Walt Disney when she was only 11 years old, charmingly told me in 1987 that, when presenting the now-iconic award, she thought the large statuette was for Walt and the seven little ones were for the Seven Dwarfs, leading her to worry that Snow White wasn't receiving anything. Snow White did, in 1987, receive her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (find it at 6910 Hollywood Boulevard) in recognition of the film's 50th anniversary, making her one of 16 fictional characters to receive the honor (with Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Tinker Bell, Winnie the Pooh and Kermit the Frog among the others).

Walt's fascination with the Snow White story began as a young boy in 1916 upon seeing a silent, live-action film version of the fairy tale. "I was so impressed that I could have seen it over and over again," Walt wrote in 1937. "I thought it was a perfect story. It had the sympathetic dwarfs, you see? It had the heavy. It had the Prince and the Girl, the Romance. I just thought it was a perfect story. I just hope that our audiences will take Snow White to their hearts and welcome our new black-haired heroine and her seven dwarf friends with all the enthusiasm that they accorded Mickey, Minnie and Donald."

Welcome her they did, paving the way for Snow White to establish and maintain a presence in Disney Parks since 1955.

Snow White's Scary Adventures was among the original dark rides at Disneyland Park and continues to engage guests in similar experiences at Tokyo Disneyland Park and Disneyland Paris. Interestingly, the attraction's original version did not feature Snow White herself, as guests were cast in the role of the title character. (Snow White made her first appearance in the Disneyland attraction in 1983.)

The Walt Disney World version of the dark ride operated from 1971-2012, before the story moved to a grander stage in the form of The Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, which began leading guests into the mine where a million diamonds shine in 2014.



Disneyland Park also is home to marble *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* sculptures that arrived as a gift to Walt Disney in 1960 and presented Imagineers with a creative challenge.

Carved from pure-white Carrara marble, the figures were the work of Italian sculptor Leonida Parma, who used as his reference a set of licensed hand soap bars depicting the characters. Just as she was in the soap collection, Snow White was roughly the same size as the dwarfs in Parma's sculptures.

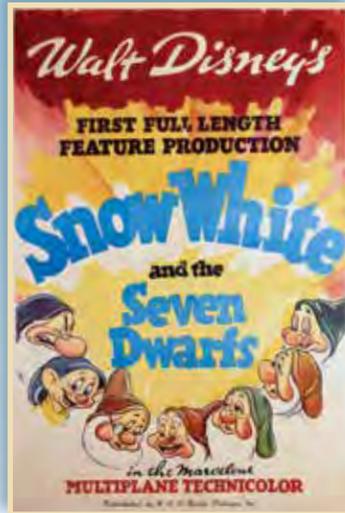
"Walt called me down to the studio warehouse to look at them, and told me he wanted them somewhere in Disneyland," Disney Legend and Imagineer John Hench told me. "I had to tell him that we would have a perspective problem with the figures."

John's solution was to place the Snow White figure atop a cascading waterfall, next to an undersized deer and bird, and to place dwarfs much lower and closer to the guests so it created a forced-perspective effect that made Snow White appear to be of proper proportion when viewed from a distance.

Imagineers temporarily removed the characters from the Snow White Grotto years later as they copied the figures to create a similar grotto for Tokyo Disneyland Park. New figures eventually took the weathered sculptures' place in the Disneyland grotto, while the restored originals later took up residence at the Walt Disney Imagineering campus in Glendale, Calif.

Adjacent to the Snow White Grotto at Disneyland Park sits an inviting wishing well inspired by the animated feature film. Designed by Walt Disney Imagineers and constructed at the Disneyland mill, the well delivers more than just good luck to those who fill it with spare change. Coins tossed into the well benefit children's charities and trigger an audio clip from the *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* song "I'm Wishing."

That song, of course, features the voice of the late Adriana Caselotti, who - like Moana voice talent Auli'i Cravalho - was merely a teenager when she performed the role in the film. I think



it's safe to assume that Auli'i was paid more than Adriana, who received \$970 to provide the character's speaking and singing voice. Adriana was a big part of the film's marketing efforts, even donning a custom Snow White costume during its publicity tour.

In 1983, the need for a clearer, crisper audio track prompted Disneyland officials to commission a new recording of "I'm Wishing" for the Snow White Grotto. Adriana returned to the recording booth to record the new track but was unable to reach the necessary high notes. Fearing she'd be replaced, she reportedly turned away from the microphone, looked skyward and whispered, "Mr. Disney, if you are up there - please help me find Snow White's voice." She proceeded to nail every take, and her voice continues to sing out from the wishing well.

Adriana, whose personal home included a dwarf bridge and wishing well inspired by the film that made her famous, was named a Disney Legend in 1994, becoming the first female voice talent to receive the honor.

Among the countless fans inspired by *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was legendary musical artist John Lennon, whose mother often sang him songs from the film when he was a child. The Beatles 1963 hit single "Do You Want to Know a Secret?" was reportedly inspired by the Snow White song "I'm Wishing," which begins with the lines, "Listen. Do you want to know a secret? Do you promise not to tell?"

Even after eight decades, Snow White still has some secrets to surprise us all.



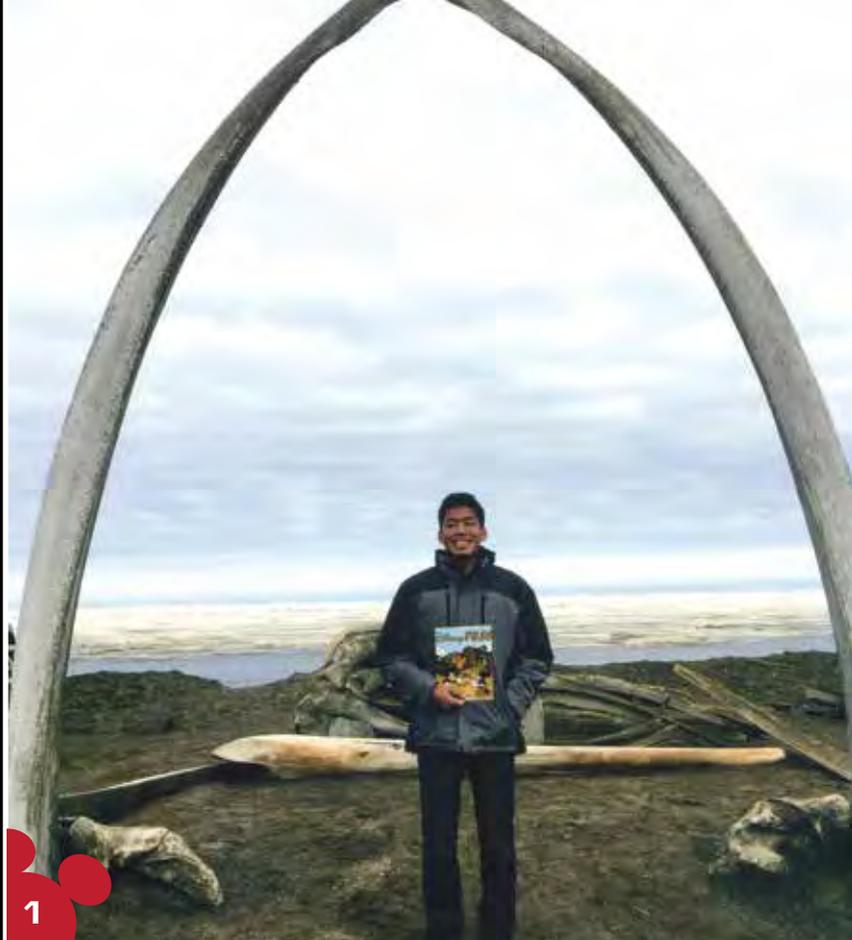
Snow White voice actress Adriana Caselotti.



1. Jonah of Hawai'i, Member since 2015, takes *Disney Files* Magazine to Whale Bone Arch – gateway to the Arctic Ocean – in Barrow, Alaska, northernmost city in the U.S.
2. Mairead and Seamus of Pennsylvania, Members since 2008, visit Ireland's Donegal Castle, dating back to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, with an edition of *Disney Files* Magazine dating back to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. Young Liam of Florida, whose grandparents have been Members since 1997, demonstrates the simple pleasure of new ears during his first visit to Disneyland Park.
4. Christina of Florida, whose parents have been Members since 2010, strongly encourages sisters Izzy and Sophie to have the best day ever at Magic Kingdom Park.
5. Jocelyn of New York, Member since 2013, joins doppelganger Belle to prove that there's nothing wrong with having your nose stuck in a book (or magazine) at Epcot.
6. Hayden of California, Member since 2010, does some light reading under the sea in Bora Bora.
7. From left, Erin, Erika and David of Florida, Members since 1992, visit the Swiss Matterhorn modeled after the Anaheim original. (We may have that backward.)
8. Canine critic Arwen of Arizona, part of a Member family since 2006, reviews the fall edition of *Disney Files* Magazine.

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](http://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.





3



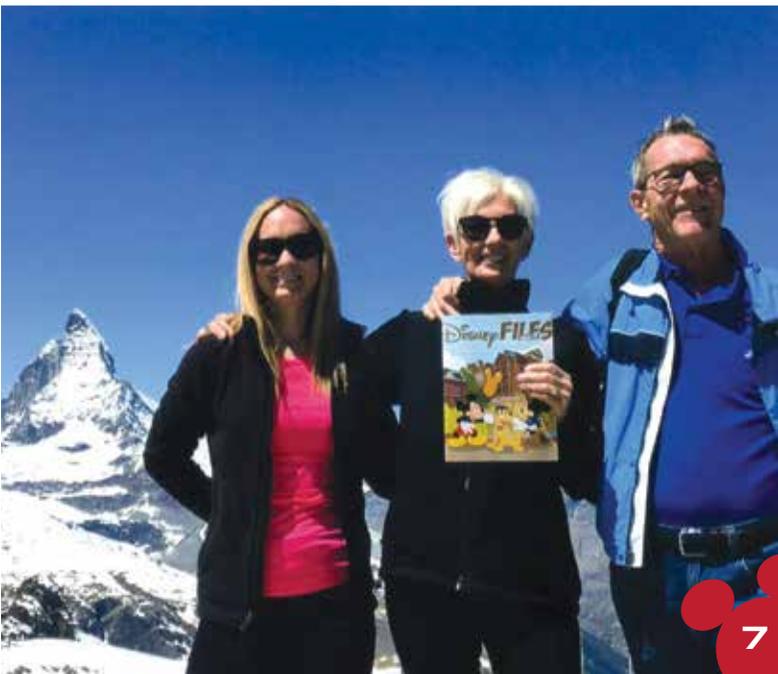
4



5



6



7



8

# 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.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Texas resident Chanda, a Disney Vacation Club Member since 2012, shared with *Disney Files* Magazine that her family weathered the storm in part by hunkering down and reliving fond Disney memories through vacation photo albums. Included in one of those albums is this otherworldly shot of Chanda and 9-year-old son Trahan reading their favorite magazine to their favorite droids during a Disney Cruise Line *Star Wars* Day at Sea celebration. Honored to be part of a company that provided a welcome dose of fantasy to a family dealing with a challenging reality, *Disney Files* Magazine is thrilled to give Chanda and Trahan this edition's last word.