

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

A teal-colored shield-shaped graphic with a white outline. At the top center is a small Mickey Mouse head icon. The text "MEMBERSHIP" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below it, "MAGIC" is written in a much larger, bold, white, uppercase, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the "Disney Vacation Club" logo is displayed in white, with "Disney" in its signature script and "Vacation Club" in a smaller sans-serif font.

MEMBERSHIP

MAGIC

Disney Vacation Club®

WELCOME HOME.

Shrouded in darkness, concealed with caution tape and faintly smelling of commercial-grade latex, my workspace on a recent morning had all the makings of a crime scene investigation, minus the actual crime. (Seems the ridicule of an innocent man on the occasion of his 40th birthday is still legal in this country.)

Picture the children's-play-area ball pit at your local pizza joint or fast-food establishment, only with more insults and (slightly) less bacteria. "Friends" had engulfed my desk in a sea of black balloons, each emblazoned with a different dig from a clever co-worker. Excavating the area like a young Indiana Jones, I read everything from "our interns were born when you were in high school" to "you know you're 40 when someone offers you a seat on the monorail...and you don't refuse."

While I may have been surprised (and, truth be told, delighted) by the *extremity* of the effort, I wasn't surprised by the effort itself. Having now been part of the Disney Vacation Club Cast family for the better part of a decade, I know how much this team loves to celebrate. From births to birthdays, awards to anniversaries, changes in our community to changes in humidity, rare is the month that doesn't bring cause for celebration. We're even headquartered in a town called Celebration.

Our passion for celebrating what - and who - we appreciate should come in quite handy this year, as Disney Vacation Club rolls out Membership Magic, a vibrant array of Membership enhancements, exclusive experiences and special offers. You'll read more about the first wave of offerings on pages 2-6 of this edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, and through this and other Member communications vehicles in the months ahead.

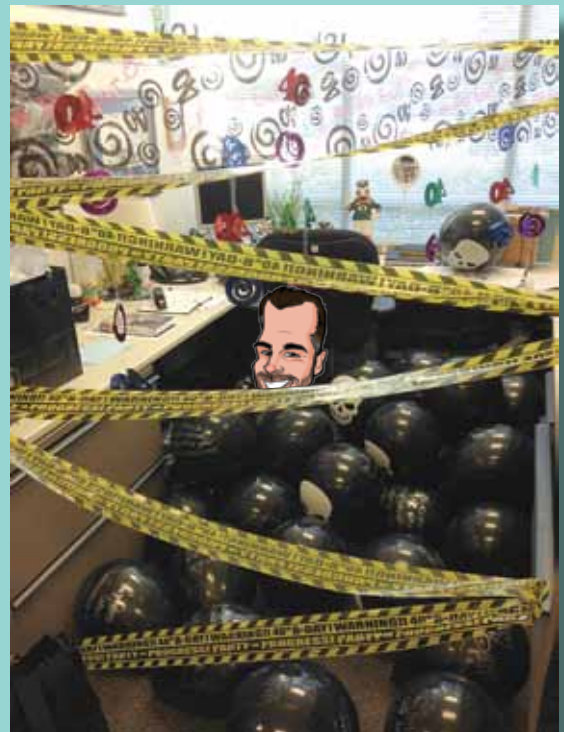
The spirit of celebration has long been a hallmark of *Disney Files Magazine*, and this issue celebrates, not only "Membership Magic," but also collaborative clashes of creative titans (pages 7-10), the simple joy that comes from putting some of our favorite things on wheels (pages 20 and 21), the springtime splendor of flowers and gardens (page 23), and more. Paper couldn't be more celebratory if it was cut into confetti or fashioned into a hat.

All of us at Disney Vacation Club appreciate your being part of our Member community, and we look forward to celebrating - and making magic - with you for many years to come.

Welcome home,



Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



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Disney Vacation Club
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call 0120-98-4050 Tuesday-Sunday,
9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Japan Time)
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Delivering Membership Magic

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

As pleased as I am to help introduce every issue of *Disney Files Magazine*, I'm particularly excited to introduce this one. I say that, not just because my boss is

on the cover, but because this issue details something that's been my primary focus for the past year: Membership Magic. It's a wide range of Membership enhancements, exclusive experiences and special offers that build on your existing Member Perks, and it's our way of expressing how deeply we appreciate the role you play in making Disney Vacation Club a community unlike any other.

While the pages ahead share the first wave of Membership Magic experiences and special offers (with plenty more in the works for the months and years ahead), I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight a few Membership Magic offerings designed to enhance your day-to-day Disney Vacation Club experience at home.

Our Member Services team, for example, has begun testing "**Homecoming Calls,**" a new service through which they proactively contact Members with reservations at select Disney Vacation Club Resorts to assist with vacation-planning details, including dining, tickets, tours and more. Plans call for the service to extend to more Members and Resorts in the months ahead.

I'm tremendously proud of our Member Services Cast Members, who also have launched **online chats**, answering Members' questions live online at DVCMember.com. Launched in October 2013 and accessible once you've logged into the

site during Member Services operating hours, the new service has allowed Cast Members to conduct more than 20,000 online chats to date.

Of course, we recognize that vacation dreams don't have operating hours, and it's with that in mind that we continue to enhance your ability to dream up your next trip through DVCMember.com on your own schedule. The site recently introduced a dynamic **new homepage** and a host of **new features** designed to help you not only plan your next vacation and manage your Membership, but connect with your neighbors and get your "Disney fix between trips." Look for many more new features and capabilities in the months ahead.

Your Member website also shares tips for getting the most out of **MyMagic+**, a

new collection of tools and services designed to take your Walt Disney World vacations to new levels of convenience and personalization, making the experience yours like never before.

Beyond the website, our focus on making information easier to access and digest has sparked the development of a **personalized, regularly scheduled email** that'll consolidate pertinent Membership account information, news and more beginning this spring.

Whether you prefer to get your information online, by phone, in your inbox or through the pages of this magazine, we're committed to delivering the *right information* in the *right format* at the *right time*.

It's all an important part of Membership Magic, though it's not the *most* important part. At the end of the day, Membership Magic isn't about the information we deliver, the services we provide or the experiences we enable. It isn't really about *us* at all. It's about *you*. Without your faith and trust, there'd be little use for pixie dust.



NEW YEAR. NEW MAGIC!

Whether you're new to the Disney Vacation Club family or have been hearing "welcome home" for as long as you can remember, you are the key to making our community such a special place to work and play. To help express our appreciation for the magic you bring to our neighborhood year after memorable year, Disney Vacation Club is rolling out Membership Magic, a broader-than-ever array of Membership enhancements, exclusive experiences and special offers. The *Disney Files* staff is pleased to share this look at highlights from the first wave of "Membership Magic" offerings, and we look forward to delivering details about new waves of magic in the months and years ahead.

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENTS

In addition to the Member Services and DVCMember.com enhancements shared by Disney Vacation Club Senior Vice President and General Manager Ken Potrock on page 2, Disney Vacation Club is enhancing the magic of Membership by broadening vacation options around the world and making it easier than ever for Members to enjoy the exchange destinations they desire most*.

The Disney Collection – the most popular of all exchange options in our community – will continue to allow Members to "adventure together" with the expert guidance of Adventures by Disney, experience Disney magic on the high seas with Disney Cruise Line and make their dreams come true at Disney Theme Park destinations across the globe. The enhanced collection offers an

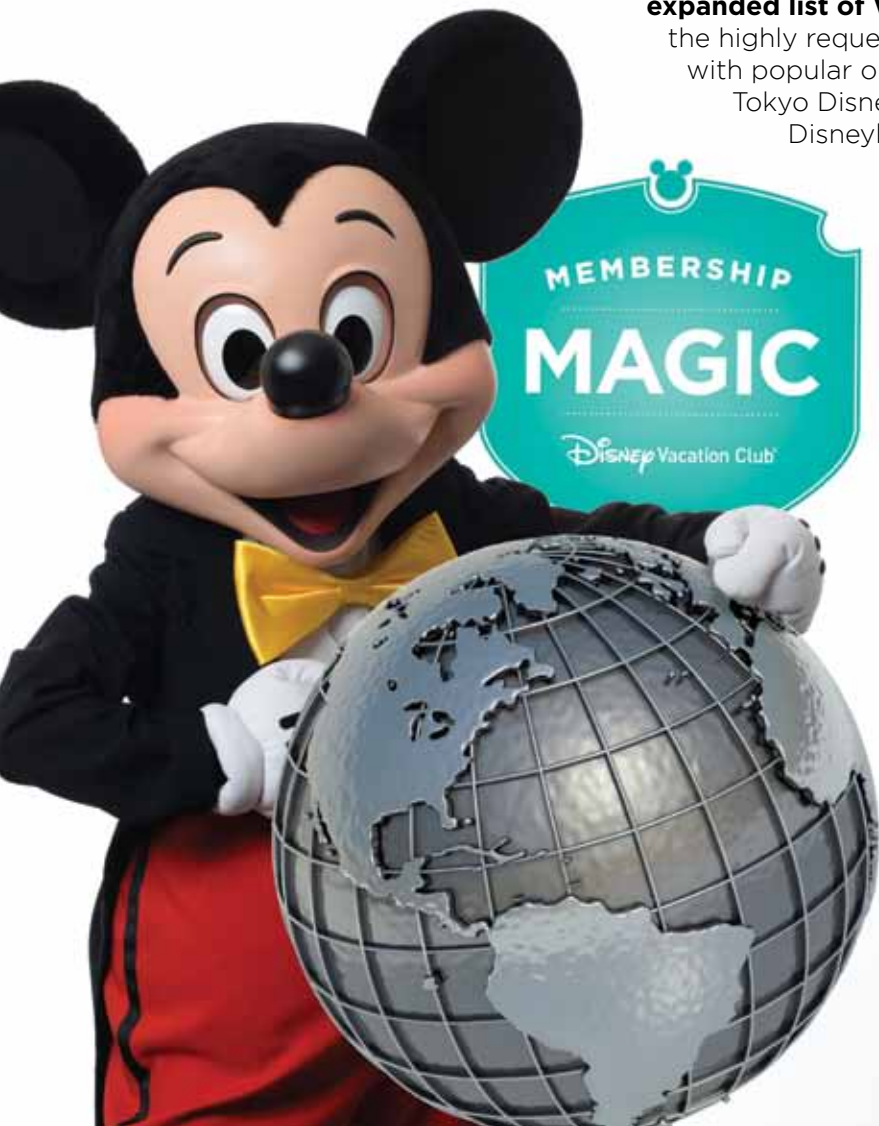
expanded list of Walt Disney World Resort hotels (including the highly requested Disney's Art of Animation Resort!), along with popular options at the Disneyland Resort in California, Tokyo Disney Resort, Disneyland Paris and Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

Among the other enhanced collections taking shape as this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine hits the press is one that's designed to deliver the destinations most requested by Members. This carefully crafted collection will include high-quality resorts that Members have long enjoyed through RCI and the Concierge Collection, with many now **requiring fewer vacation points and offering greater availability**.

A third collection, meanwhile, will allow Members to dream even bigger as **the hundreds of vacation options available through RCI grow to thousands**, adding more diverse options than ever before to the magic of Membership.

Look for more details about these enhanced exchange options online at DVCMember.com beginning this spring.

*Some vacation options are available only to Members who purchased their ownership interest directly from Disney.



EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES



There's a special kind of magic that happens when Members gather, and Disney Vacation Club is dreaming up a diverse array of opportunities for Members to gather at Disney Parks and Resorts, through Disney Cruise Line and Adventures by Disney, and even in Members' hometowns.

Adventures by Disney

Members and their Guests may embark on not one but two exclusive Adventures by Disney itineraries* this summer and fall, including a reprisal of the popular **New York City** trips that debuted in 2013 and an all-new **San Francisco** adventure exploring the "City by the Bay." (See page 11 to learn more.)

Member Cruise

The Aug. 24, 2014, Member Cruise*, sailing on the Disney Dream ship out of Port Canaveral, Fla., marks **the event's first summer sailing** – a move driven by Member feedback. Members responded to the move with enthusiasm, booking the ship to capacity in less than a week. Event planners are busy creating this year's special-entertainment lineup, balancing all-new concepts with returning-favorite speakers and presenters.

"Great Moments with Walt Disney"

From our neighborhood to yours comes "Great Moments with Walt Disney," a **new Disney Vacation Club live-theater experience making five U.S. tour stops** this spring.

Hosted by Disney historian and author Tim O'Day, and *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March, the lighthearted, 90-minute show for Members and their Guests features an entertaining array of Walt's rarely seen (and heard) appearances, from the hosting duties that helped make him a celebrity on television to more spontaneous moments that capture the colorful character of the man behind the legend.

To reach as many Members as possible with this complimentary experience, Disney Vacation Club has scheduled March and April tour stops in three U.S. cities with large numbers of Members (Newark, N.J., Boston and Chicago), as well as the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts. Members in the planned tour-stop areas will receive emails inviting them to register to attend the show. Learn more about the event, including how to register without an email invitation, online at DVCMember.com.

Recreation Magic

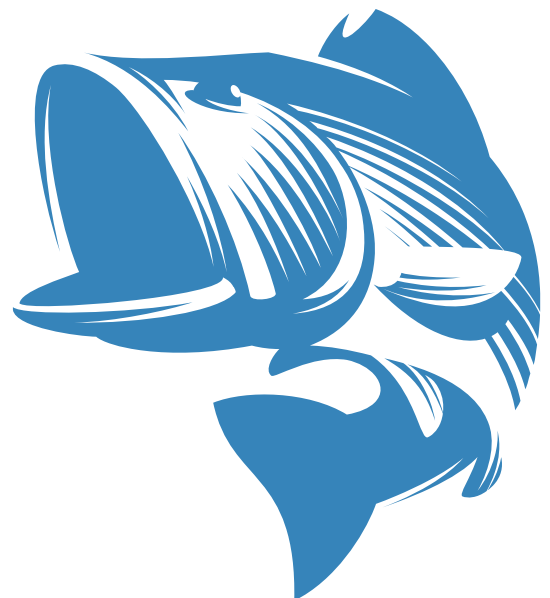
From catching the best fish to catching the best view of the fireworks, two new experiences are available exclusively to Members and their Guests on Walt Disney World waterways.

Members who book a **Magic Kingdom Fireworks Cruise** departing Disney's Contemporary Resort on Wednesday nights enjoy complimentary pre-cruise sparkling wine and chocolate-covered strawberries, followed by a premium, unobstructed view of the "Wishes" fireworks spectacular from the boat on picturesque Seven Seas Lagoon. Two pontoon boats are available for this experience, each accommodating as many as 10 Guests.

For a more competitive experience, head to Disney's Contemporary Resort and try your hand in the new Disney Vacation Club Thursday-morning **largemouth bass tournament** on Bay Lake and Seven Seas Lagoon. Fuel up with a continental breakfast before competing for the biggest catch, with special prizes for largest bass and total limit catch weight (both determined by pound and ounce). A limited number of boats are available, each accommodating four Guests.

Call Member Services for reservations, pricing and more details about these special marina experiences.

*Some vacation options are available only to Members who purchased their ownership interest directly from Disney.



EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES

Culinary Magic

Recognizing that culinary adventures are playing a bigger-than-ever role in vacationers' travel plans, Disney Vacation Club has collaborated with renowned Walt Disney World chefs to create **special dining experiences for Members and their Guests** at some of the top restaurants in the vacation kingdom.

As this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine goes to press, restaurants preparing to host these eventful dinners include Flying Fish Café on Disney's BoardWalk, Citricos at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, and Artist Point at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.

Each carefully crafted, fixed-price dinner will allow Members to enjoy exquisite dishes paired with expertly chosen wines or beers on select Thursday nights, and each will include live introductions or presentations from a culinary insider. To make the experience as intimate as possible, the dinners are limited to 40-60 people, depending on location.

Visit DVCMember.com for available dates, locations, prices and booking details.

Member Night at Splitsville

The most rockin' (and rollin') gatherings take place at Downtown Disney West Side at the Walt Disney World Resort, where Splitsville Luxury Lanes now hosts weekly bowling nights for Members and their Guests.

The special package includes an extended bowling time of an hour and 45 minutes with shoe rental, a shared appetizer, a select entrée (or kid's meal), a signature beverage and a special Disney Vacation Club gift, all for a fixed price (\$50 plus tax for adults, \$40 plus tax for kids ages 3-9) that represents a significant savings off the regular cost of a standard bowling session with equivalent food and beverage. Special decor and entertainment, including music by Radio Disney, add to the festive atmosphere.

These unique neighborhood events eliminate the wait time and premium upcharge for reserved lanes at this hugely popular Downtown Disney hot spot and include special prizes and open access to a communal Member lounge area.

Visit DVCMember.com for event dates and more details.





“Me Time” Magic

Members and their Guests may enjoy exclusive access to Senses – A Disney Spa during select hours on Tuesday nights. In addition to taking advantage of their usual 15 percent discount off spa treatments, Members indulging in some well-deserved “me time” on these special nights receive a glass of wine upon arrival (for those ages 21 or older, of course), enjoy a complimentary service-enhancement upgrade (a \$25 value) on any 50- or 80-minute massage and/or facial (based on availability) and leave with a spa-product sample as a gift. This experience takes place on Tuesdays from 5-8 p.m., rotating weekly between the spas at Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa and Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa each week. Reservations for treatments during these “Me Time” Magic hours are available exclusively through Member Services. To familiarize yourself with the spas’ offerings before calling to book your appointment, visit Disneyworld.com/spas.

Guests ages 18 or younger must be accompanied by an adult during any spa treatment. Cancellations made within four hours of spa treatment or within 24 hours of a spa package will result in a charge for the full amount of the service. For your convenience, a 20 percent gratuity will be added to each spa service. Spa license numbers: MM30134 for the location at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa and MM31094 for the location at Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Park Pass Magic

Through April 30, 2014, Members can enjoy additional savings off the purchase of an eligible Disney Parks Annual Pass, including the Walt Disney World Premium Pass, the Disneyland Resort Deluxe Pass and the Disney Premiere Passport (valid for Disneyland *and* Walt Disney World Theme Parks).

The **Walt Disney World Premium Pass**, which includes unlimited Park hopping at all four Walt Disney World Theme Parks with free parking and no blockout dates, is available only to Members during this limited time at the discounted price of \$484.

The specially discounted price for the **Disneyland Resort Deluxe Pass**, which includes 315-day Park hopping at the two Disneyland Resort Theme Parks, is \$429.

Finally, the **Disney Premiere Passport**, which affords unlimited Park hopping at Disneyland and Walt Disney World Theme Parks with free parking, no blockout dates and more, is available during this time for \$849.

Already have an Annual Pass that expires soon? Simply purchase your new pass by April 30, 2014, and activate when your current pass expires, anytime between now and Jan. 31, 2015.

Visit DVCMember.com to learn more about this offer and to access a wide variety of Member perks, including discounts on shopping, dining, recreation and more.

Merchandise Magic

By popular demand, Members may now shop for a wide range of Disney Vacation Club Merchandise from home through the new **Disney Vacation Club Member online marketplace**. Look for an assortment of Disney Vacation Club apparel and accessories, along with periodic releases of special items created exclusively for Members. Visit DisneyStore.com/DVCMemberMarketplace.

WATCH DVCMember.com FOR UPDATES, INCLUDING EMERGING OFFERINGS IN CALIFORNIA, HAWAI’I AND EVEN AT SEA, AS THE WEBSITE IS YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR MEMBERSHIP MAGIC BREAKING NEWS.

Building the world of Pandora

Creative concepts emerge for Disney's Animal Kingdom expansion

Walt Disney World Resort: Walt Disney Imagineers, in collaboration with Academy Award-winning filmmaker James Cameron and Lightstorm Entertainment, remain hard at work on a new *AVATAR*-inspired land scheduled to open in 2017 as part of the largest expansion in the history of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs recently revealed breathtaking artist renderings (page 8) and a detailed scale model (below) of the planned development. Designed to immerse Guests in the world of Pandora made famous in the record-breaking 2009 motion picture *AVATAR*, the new land of floating mountains, bioluminescent rainforests and soaring Banshees promises to produce an experience unlike any other ever created.

"Our combined team has taken huge steps forward in 'Imagineering' Pandora as a real place for our Guests to see, hear and touch," Tom said. "The energy and passion shared by our Imagineers and the Lightstorm team for this monumental task continues to be remarkable."

In video messages to Disney Cast Members worldwide and Disney fans at the D23 Expo in Japan, Cameron and Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde shared some thoughts about the ambitious project.

"In my wildest imagination growing up, I don't think I could've ever envisioned a day when something I created would live inside a Disney Theme Park," Cameron said. "This project has been a perfect collaboration from the start. We

share resources, digital assets and the talents of some of the world's most talented creative designers from both our companies ... From the moment we released [the film] *AVATAR*, there was this amazing visceral response from people around the world that they wanted to go to Pandora. Now, thanks to Disney, that's going to be possible."

Joe spoke to the project's incredible scope and the exciting challenge of bringing Pandora to life.

"A world of this much imagination is pretty much flat-out impossible to build, unless you think up and innovate new ways to do it," Joe said. "So the project is filled with new technology, new art, new style, new materials; it's a tremendous tour de force of the innovative capacity of Walt Disney Imagineering. We are far from finished. We're working very, very hard every day all around the world to bring *AVATAR* to life."

From left, filmmaker James Cameron, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs, and Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde survey a scale model of the planned *AVATAR*-inspired land for Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.





one on two

with Marvel masterminds

The heroic Marvel universe and immersive worlds of Disney Parks recently came together in page-turning fashion, engaging fans with the first Marvel comic book series created in partnership with Walt Disney Imagineering. Launched in January under the new “Disney Kingdoms” banner, the books tell original stories that expand on beloved lands, attractions and characters of Disney Parks and Resorts. As this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine mails, the second of five monthly issues of the debut “Disney Kingdoms” adventure has arrived in stores (Feb. 5), continuing a “Seekers of the Weird” saga that began with the series’ Jan. 15 launch.

The story finds the teenage kids of kidnapped parents thrust into a thrilling race through the Museum of the Weird, a place known to astute Disney fans as a never-built Disneyland attraction concept. Dreamed up by the legendary Imagineer Rolly Crump, the Museum of the Weird was conceived as a spooky walk-through attraction connected to the Haunted Mansion and was to contain a collection of mystical curiosities unearthed from all corners of the globe. While Rolly’s innovative ideas were left on the drawing board after Walt Disney passed away in 1966, Marvel storytellers are now finding inspiration in those designs, with the blessing and help of Rolly himself.

Disney Files Magazine Editor Ryan March caught up with two Marvel masterminds – David Gabriel, Senior Vice President of Marvel Publishing; and Bill Rosemann, Editor of the new “Disney Kingdoms: Seekers of the Weird” series – to learn more.

Ryan: How did this idea come about?

David: A little more than two years ago, Joe Quesada, our then editor-in-chief, was at a ballgame with some of the Imagineers, and they started tossing around this idea for a comic series based on Disney attractions. Not much was done with the idea in the years that followed – we had a little thing called *The Avengers* that occupied a bit of time – but around February 2013, the idea was dropped into my lap. I’m a huge Disney fan, and I thought this would be an amazing project. I immediately reached out to the Imagineers, who were as excited as I was, and it took off from there.

Ryan: With so many Disney settings to choose from, where did you begin?

David: We literally said, “You [Imagineering] come up with 5 or 6 ideas in terms of attractions and we [Marvel] will come up with 5 or 6.” There were three attractions that appeared on both

lists, including Rolly Crump’s Museum of the Weird concept. The team then looked to Bill, one of our best editors and – like me – a big Disney lover, to form a publishing plan and assemble our creators.

Ryan: Bill, I’m curious to hear how people reacted when you recruited them to work on a Marvel series set in a Disney world.

Bill: Comic book creators love every series they work on, but there are some they love most of all. This is one of those series. It’s been a real passion project for everyone involved, and we specifically picked talent who would bring that true love of Disney to the project and be able to communicate that respect and excitement to fans.

The team includes veteran creators like Karl Moline, an innovative artist with years of experience crafting supernatural worlds, and Brandon Seifert, a wonderful writer whose imagination and world-building skills

are phenomenal. Both Karl and Brandon are huge Disney fans. Karl in particular is a lifelong Haunted Mansion fan, so he was obviously excited about the Museum of the Weird concept.

While I, too, have always been a big Haunted Mansion fan, I had never heard about the Museum of the Weird. It's a fascinating concept that many fans don't know existed, and those who do know about it never thought they'd get to experience it. To now bring that world to life after all these years is both an honor and truly exciting.

Ryan: How much source material was available to you and your team?

Bill: We had a wealth of material, from designs to audio and video interviews with Rolly. We asked the Imagineers for everything they had, and they opened the vaults. We've also had the honor of working with Rolly himself. Having his creative insights and his blessing of the work has been extremely important to us. We want to do right by him and the world he envisioned.

Ryan: I'd imagine that remaining true to both Disney and Marvel is a unique challenge.

Bill: Fortunately, Disney and Marvel both excel at creating rich, believable worlds, heroic lead characters and compelling supporting casts. So our creative process, as always, started with questions. Where is the Museum of the Weird? What is it? Who collects the items and takes care of them? Who protects the place, and who would want to exploit it? Who are the kids who end up in the museum, and why are they there? Once you start asking and answering these questions, you start to build a story that's both very Disney and very Marvel.

Ryan: What do you hope the "Disney Kingdoms" series ultimately comes to represent?

Bill: Authenticity. When I grew up watching "The Wonderful World of Disney," I knew each episode was 100 percent authentic, coming directly from the source. My dream for this project is that, when Disney Vacation Club Members or other fans see the "Disney

Kingdoms" banner, they know they're getting authentic adventures that have the official Imagineer blessing, all brought to life by people who understand and adore these worlds as much as they do.



Disney
KINGDOMS

SEEKERS OF THE WEIRD

Tip: The "Seekers of the Weird" books are the first of numerous adventures planned for the "Disney Kingdoms" series, with the next saga scheduled to debut this summer. Fans may purchase the books at select Walt Disney Parks and Resorts merchandise shops*, download digital versions through the Marvel Comics app for Apple and Android, or request them through their local comic shop. To find a store near you, visit comicshoplocator.com.

*At the Walt Disney World Resort, the "Disney Kingdoms" books are available at the Pirates of the Caribbean merchandise shop at the Magic Kingdom Park, Imageworks and Disney Traders at Epcot, Beverly Sunset at Disney's Hollywood Studios, Island Mercantile at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, Bayview Gifts at Disney's Contemporary Resort and Once Upon a Toy in the Downtown Disney area. At the Disneyland Resort, the books are available at Off the Page at Disney California Adventure Park.

The San Francisco Getaway is one of two Member trips available this summer and fall, as Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney are returning to New York City for previously announced 4-day, 3-night Member adventures. A tour past Manhattan's most iconic buildings, an interactive Broadway experience and VIP backstage access to ABC's "Good Morning America" are just a few of the trip's planned highlights. Learn more at DVCMember.com.

'Welcome Home' to 'The City by the Bay'

San Francisco Getaway created with Members in mind

"I Left My Heart in San Francisco." Famously sung by the great Tony Bennett, these immortal words echo in the mind of anyone who's ever watched the Golden Gate Bridge fade in their rearview mirror. Few cities in America – or the world for that matter – enjoy a deeper emotional bond with residents and visitors alike.

Disney Vacation Club Members and their Guests will soon begin (or renew) their own love affair with "The City by the Bay" through special Member trips expertly guided this summer and fall by our friends at Adventures by Disney. Created with Members in mind, the 4-day, 3-night itinerary offers eight scheduled departure dates: May 29, June 19, July 10, July 24, July 31, Aug. 14, Sept. 4 and Oct. 23. Here are just a few of the trip's planned highlights.

Day 1 begins with a private breakfast at the iconic hotel that will welcome Members "home" throughout the trip – the Grand Hyatt San Francisco. The morning meal includes healthy servings of eye candy, thanks to the panoramic views of the city and bay from the hotel's 36th floor. Members will then explore the city by bicycle, trolley and even Amphibious Duck-boat vehicles, which will take families through the city and into the bay for a cruise around McCovey Cove (landing spot for the San Francisco Giants' most impressive homeruns). Other dining

experiences of the day include lunch at the city's illustrious Yank Sing Deem Sum Chinese restaurant and a dinner at Waterbar, perched beneath the Bay Bridge along the Embarcadero.

Day 2 takes Members north to Napa Valley, where Members will explore the prestigious Silverado Winery, established by the late Diane Disney Miller (Walt Disney's daughter) and husband Ron Miller (former Disney CEO). Adults will enjoy a private, hands-on session examining the fine art of wine blending, while kids infuse olive oils and turn corks into crafts. Following a private lunch at the vineyard, Members will experience the majestic Redwoods Forest (home to the tallest life forms on the planet) during a short hike at the Muir Woods National Monument before returning to the city.

Day 3 continues the dramatic sightseeing as Members travel by motor coach across the Golden Gate Bridge and then sail by ferry boat to Angel Island, where a scenic train tour affords stunning views across the bay. Equally dramatic is the view from the Presidio of San Francisco, where the adventure will conclude with dinner at the celebrated Presidio Social Club, followed by an after-hours Walt Disney Family Museum tour and dessert reception.

Visit DVCMember.com for more trip and booking details.





Time well spent

Roger and Linda Peck of Illinois, Members since 1999

The magic of Membership has taken Roger and Linda Peck to some extraordinary places through the years, from the tropics of Costa Rica to the snowy terrain of Glacier National Park. While each vacation was memorable, it was a safari through South Africa with Adventures by Disney that ranks as the couple's best trip ever.

Having long dreamed of visiting Africa, the couple did so under difficult circumstances in August 2010, two years after Linda was diagnosed with cancer.

"Her health was still good, and we enjoyed every aspect of the tour," Roger wrote to *Disney Files Magazine*. "It turns out [late August] is a great time to view the animals for two reasons. That time of the year in the Southern Hemisphere is the change from winter to spring, so the weather is mild and the animals are more active. Second, because the trees and bushes haven't leafed out yet, the animals are much easier to spot."

The couple's trip began with historical and cultural tours of Cape Town, continued along the

Garden Route to the Cape of Good Hope, and concluded with animal sanctuaries, a vineyard and even an encounter with penguins.

"The highlight of the trip was our stay at the Kapama Private Reserve with safaris in both early morning and late afternoon," Roger recalled. "We saw four of the "big five" [animals], missing only the leopard. Seeing these animals close up and in their own habitat was all we hoped it could be."

Sadly, Linda later lost her battle with cancer, passing away just two weeks shy of that dream vacation's first anniversary.

"As it turned out, it was the only time left to us," Roger said of the trip. "I will forever be grateful we took our 'best trip ever' when we did."

The *Disney Files* staff thanks Roger for sharing this precious memory (and his incredible photos!) and for reminding us once again that the best trips ever are less about *where* and more about *with whom*.



Tell us about your best trip ever by mailing a letter to Disney Files Magazine's "Best Trip Ever," Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Tell us where you traveled with your Membership, what made the trip so memorable and what advice you have for other Members visiting that destination. Include photos if you have them (saving copies for yourself as we can't return ours), and remember to enclose a completed and signed release form, available for download at dvcmember.com/releaseform. Please also tell us your preferred contact information (phone number or email address) and the year your family became Disney Vacation Club Members.

MY DISNEY HOME

Where Members Live

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 www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

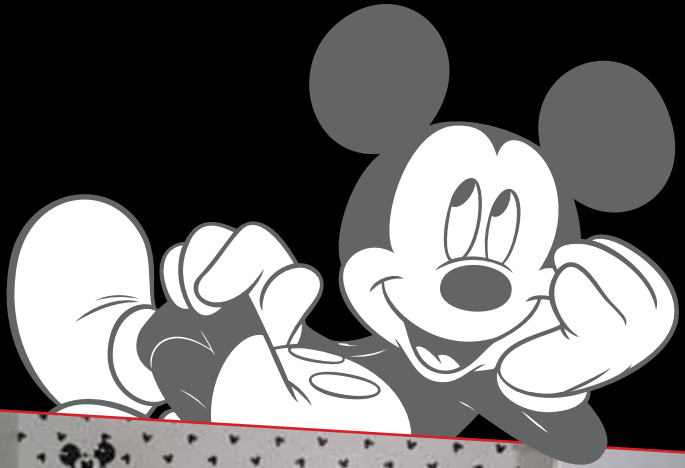
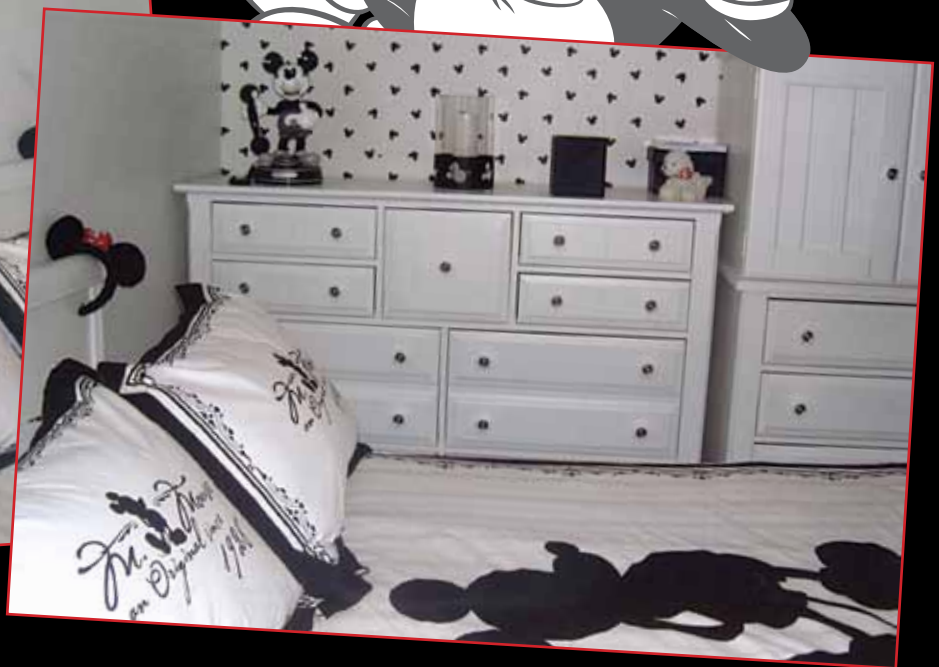
Disney Files Magazine proudly presents photos and stories from Members who have made Disney part of their home decorating. This edition's submission comes from Shirley Cooper of New Jersey, Member since 2009.

The world isn't a carousel of color in the design style of Shirley Cooper, whose black-and-white bedroom is a sleek and classy tribute to Hollywood's leading mouse.

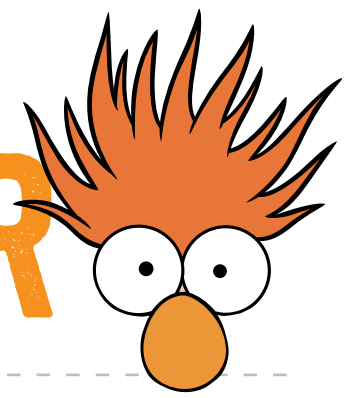
"My husband and I usually spend our

anniversary at Walt Disney World," Shirley explained. "For our 25th anniversary, we went to Walt Disney World and also decided to remodel our bedroom. We love the way it turned out. When we told others we were decorating our bedroom in a Mickey Mouse theme, they thought it was silly and childish, but everyone loves it."

As for the *Disney Files* staff's take on the couple's style, there's no gray area. We love it too.



Spoonful of BEAKER



Excited about the new Disney film *Muppets Most Wanted* (opening in U.S. theaters March 21), the *Disney Files* staff asked our friends at Spoonful if they had a good idea for a Muppet-inspired treat. They had plenty, and here's the one we "most wanted" to share. Visit Spoonful.com for more fun ideas to inspire your family to make...every day!

MAKES: 24-30 cake pops

STUFF (most of which is available in your local baking-supply store)

1. 1 standard box of your favorite cake mix
2. 1 can (16 oz.) of ready-made frosting
3. Wax paper
4. Baking sheets
5. Peach candy coating
6. White candy coating
7. Orange candy coating
8. Chocolate candy drops (such as Hershey's Kisses)
9. Orange jelly beans
10. Small round candy with white shell (such as white Sixlets)
11. Black edible-ink pen
12. Red edible-ink pen
13. Toothpicks
14. Paper lollipop sticks
15. Styrofoam block

STEPS:

1. Bake your cake as directed on the box, allow it to cool completely and then crumble it into a large bowl.
2. With a large spoon, thoroughly mix the cake crumbs with $\frac{3}{4}$ of your can of frosting. (You can discard - or eat - the rest.)
3. Roll the frosting-cake mixture into cake balls about an inch in diameter and place on wax-paper-covered baking sheets.
4. Freeze cake balls for about 15 minutes to firm up, and then transfer to the refrigerator.
5. When you're ready to sculpt, shape the cake balls into cylinders, and return them to the fridge.
6. Melt equal parts peach and white candy coating in a heat-proof plastic bowl (microwaving in 30-second intervals on a low setting, stirring in between and repeating until melted and smooth) so that the coating is at least 3-4 inches deep for easy dipping.
7. Remove a few cake cylinders from the fridge at a time to work with.
8. For each cake pop, dip the tip of a lollipop stick into the melted candy coating and insert the dipped end of the stick into the end of a cake cylinder. Dip and remove your cake pop into the candy coating in one motion without stirring, making sure that the entire cylinder is covered. (If your coating's too thick, try adding a little vegetable oil.)
9. Before the coating sets, attach one orange jelly bean as Beaker's nose and two white candies as the eyes.
10. As you complete these steps for each pop, place it upright in the Styrofoam block to dry.
11. Melt the orange candy coating, dip the flat portion of a chocolate candy drop into that melted coating and place it atop Beaker's head. Allow to dry.
12. Once dry, dip the uncoated top portion of the chocolate candy drop into the orange coating to cover fully. As the coating in the bowl cools and thickens, apply more coating with a toothpick and texturize to resemble Beaker's wild hair.
13. Use edible-ink black pen to draw his pupils and the edible-ink red pen to draw his mouth. Let dry completely, then enjoy!

TIP: Visit Spoonful.com/recipes/beaker-cake-pop to see photos of individual steps.



picture this

Inspired by recently announced plans for nighttime Kilimanjaro Safaris at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (see page 23), *Disney Files Magazine* chose a stunning sunset behind a baobab tree in South Africa (one of many exotic destinations available through Member Getaways) for this installment of "Picture This." See if you can spot the seven things we've altered in this spectacular shot.



original



altered

ANSWERS: (1) the giraffe on the left has grown a tail and (2) has adopted a Vincent van Gogh look by losing an ear, (3) the giraffe on the right appears to have lost his legs and (4) grown a longer neck, (5) a new vine has extended below the left side of the tree, (6) Rafiki is hoisting baby Simba near the top of the tree and (7) Mufasa appears in the clouds.

DISNEY DISH



Watermelon Salad

With peak season for both watermelons and swimsuits on the not-too-distant horizon, the *Disney Files* staff has chosen lighter fare for this installment of “Disney Dish.” This refreshing recipe for watermelon salad was developed by Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival chefs in 2013 as part of Disney’s Magic of Healthy Living Initiative.

Serves: 6

Ingredients:

Balsamic vinaigrette

¼ cup white balsamic vinegar
3 tablespoons finely diced shallots
2 tablespoons roasted garlic
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 cup extra virgin olive oil
Coarse salt and fresh-ground black pepper to taste

Pickled onions

½ cup frozen raspberries
1 ½ cups water
¼ cup sugar
2 tablespoons grenadine syrup
1 tablespoon salt
¼ pound red onions, sliced into
¼-inch-thick rings

Watermelon salad

4 cups cubed seedless watermelon
3 cups baby arugula
Coarse salt and fresh-ground black pepper to taste
¼ cup balsamic glaze*
½ cup crumbled feta cheese

***Tip:** Look for balsamic glaze in your grocer’s oil aisle. To make your own, simply heat 2 cups of balsamic vinegar in a saucepan over medium-high heat for about 40 minutes or until reduced to about ¼ cup.

Steps:

Balsamic vinaigrette

1. Blend the vinegar, shallots, garlic, honey and lemon juice in blender until well combined.
2. With blender running, slowly drizzle in olive oil. Blend until thickened. Salt and pepper to taste.

Pickled onions

1. Thaw raspberries before pureeing in food processor (or use fresh raspberries and skip the thawing part). Pour puree through a fine-mesh sieve and discard seeds.
2. Combine puree, water, sugar, grenadine and salt in medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Simmer 5 minutes, stirring to dissolve salt and sugar.
3. Add onions to the pan, stir to coat, then remove from heat. Set aside for 20 minutes.

Watermelon salad

1. Divide watermelon among plates. Toss arugula with your vinaigrette in medium bowl, and salt and pepper to taste.
2. Top each portion of watermelon with arugula, then top each serving with 2-3 pickled onion rings and sprinkle with feta. If desired, drizzle with balsamic glaze.*

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 and newsworthy in our magical community

Disney Vacation Club Resorts: Readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine recently ranked six resorts in the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood – Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge, Disney’s Beach Club Resort, Disney’s BoardWalk Inn & Villas, Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, Disney’s Vero Beach Resort and Disney’s Wilderness Lodge – as being among the top 20 “World’s Best Hotels for Families.” Rooms and facilities, location, service, restaurants/food and value were among the criteria considered. Also recognized in the top 20 was Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, which opened Disney Vacation Club villas after the poll was conducted.

Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai‘i: Enticed by the dramatic photo of the new Ka Maka Landing pool we shared in the winter edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, Members eager for more have asked to see the view from the new Ulu Café. Ask (for something reasonably delivered in a magazine) and you shall receive.



Disney’s Beach Club Resort: Eating a mountain of frozen goodness from a kitchen sink has never been easier, as the popular Beaches & Cream ice cream parlor and café now takes reservations. Call (407) WDW-DINE (939-3463). And for more elegant fare, check the reader board at Martha’s Vineyard Lounge to see if its monthly food-and-wine tasting is scheduled during your stay.



Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa: While Easter-inspired activities abound at many Disney Vacation Club Resorts, one of the neighborhood’s “Grandest” Easter traditions unfolds each spring at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa. It’s there, in the resort’s palatial lobby, that larger-than-life chocolate eggs serve as blank canvases for talented Bakery Cast Members who turn the confections into painstakingly detailed salutes to Disney films, attractions and more. Stop by during the Easter season to see the spectacle for yourself, and be sure to inquire at your resort’s front desk to learn what Easter activities may be available near you.

Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort: Crews have begun a sweeping refurbishment project that will bring new furniture, flooring, appliances, lighting, paint, bedding and more to the accommodations at Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort. Work is scheduled for completion this summer. Several villa buildings also will receive new roofs in 2014.

Disney’s Vero Beach Resort: Two bountiful holiday buffets are in the works for Disney’s Vero Beach Resort: an April 20 Easter Buffet and a May 11 Mother’s Day Buffet. Service hours will be 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and reservations are available now by phone at (772) 234-2180.



Member experience: Members recently enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime afternoon with Disney Legend Marty Sklar. The longtime creative leader of Walt Disney Imagineering and the only Cast Member to have been part of every Disney Theme Park opening on earth joined *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March on stage for a Disney Vacation Club-exclusive experience in the Premiere Theatre at Disney's Hollywood Studios. Marty shared colorful stories of his remarkable Disney career before personally meeting Members and signing copies of his newly published memoirs. Look for those memoirs, titled *Dream it! Do it! My Half-Century Creating Disney's Magic Kingdoms*, wherever books are sold. Also watch for the next installment of Marty's popular "Disney Heritage" column in the summer edition of *Disney Files* Magazine, scheduled to begin mailing in May.

Senses - A Disney Spa: Everything's coming up roses at Senses - A Disney Spa at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa and Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, where seasonal offerings available in March and April cast the perennial flower in a starring role. Options include a 50-minute Sweet Red Rose Facial, an 80-minute Sweet Red Rose Body Scrub and Wrap, and an 80-minute Red Rose Pedicure. Be sure to inquire about seasonal offerings available during your vacation, and always remember to present your valid Disney Vacation Club Member ID with a photo ID to receive a 15 percent discount (available off spa treatments of 50 minutes or more, and off retail items). Learn more about the spas' offerings online at Disneyworld.com/spas before calling (407) WDW-SPAS (939-7727) to book your appointment.

Condo Meeting: The 2014 Disney Vacation Club Condominium Association Meeting is scheduled to take place on Dec. 11, 2014 at the Walt Disney World Resort. Watch DVCMember.com for updates and more details.

Pool hopping: Whenever you're using your Membership to stay at a Disney Vacation Club Resort at the Walt Disney World Resort or at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, you and any Guests staying with you are permitted to pool hop to other eligible pools if they're not at capacity. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping isn't available Feb. 16-23, April 12-24, May 23-26, June 28-July 7, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Nov. 24-29, and Dec. 20, 2014-Jan. 4, 2015. Pool hopping is never available at Bay Cove Pool at Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort, the pools at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Stormalong Bay at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, the pool at Disney's Beach Club Villas, the pools at Disney's Art of Animation Resort or at the Disneyland Resort in California. Further block-out dates may be added based on capacity issues. Look for details online at DVCMember.com. Please remember that pools are available only to registered Members and Guests staying at that resort (along with those staying with them in their room), as well as Members utilizing their pool-hopping perk. Pool usage isn't available to Guests who are staying at other resorts or to those who live locally.

Know before you go: Feature pools and other popular pools at Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resort hotels, Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort, Disney's Vero Beach Resort, and Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i, have lifeguards present during all operating hours. Leisure pools, where available, do not have lifeguards present.



'Drawn' together

Animators, Imagineers creating next-generation Audio Animatronics characters

Walt Disney World Resort: Innovating is as big a part of working for Disney as wearing nametags and calling our CEO by his first name. (Hi, Bob!)

The company's culture of dreaming without limits began with Walt Disney himself, whose big ideas often had to wait for technology to catch up. That constant focus on "what's next" continues today, and the next-generation Audio Animatronics figures now in development for the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train attraction (opening soon at the Magic Kingdom Park) are shining examples.

"At Walt Disney Imagineering, it's not just about living up to the Disney standard; it's about setting a new standard," said Walt Disney Imagineer Ethan Reed, the project's Animation Creative Director. "At one point early on, we had some basic Audio-Animatronics figures that we had sketched up, but during a review with Bruce Vaughn, our Chief Creative Executive at Imagineering, he challenged us to see what we could come up with to make these figures unique. We knew we wanted them to have the charm and appeal of the classic characters from the 1937 film, but we needed them brought to life with 21st century technology and imagination."

Emboldened by that challenge, the team dreamed up a groundbreaking new design that would blend hand-drawn, computer and Audio-Animatronics animation, and then partnered with Walt Disney Animation Studios to help materialize their vision.

"This is a complete integration of animation media into a dimensional figure, and it's like

nothing you've seen," said Walt Disney Animation Studios Special Projects Producer/Creative Director – and three-time Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise presenter – Dave Bossert. "I'm fortunate to be part of a really cool team of people from a variety of disciplines here at Walt Disney Animation Studios, and working on projects like these with equally talented Imagineers whose disciplines are just as diverse creates a perfect storm of creativity. All of these disciplines, from animation and lighting to sculpting and engineering, come together in these new figures in a way that appears stunningly seamless. When you look at the Dwarfs in the attraction, you won't know what you're looking at. They're just alive, and it's jaw-dropping."

For Dave, a veteran filmmaker whose resumé includes such Disney classics as *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*, working on projects that live beyond the screen brings a special sense of satisfaction.

"As proud as I am of the more than 30 films I've been fortunate to work on through the years, there was just something amazing about going to Disney California Adventure this past holiday season and watching 6,000 people enjoy the 'World of Color – Winter Dreams' show," Dave said, referencing another recent Disney Parks experience supported by the Walt Disney Animation Studios Special Projects team. "To now think about the millions of Guests who will see the Dwarfs come to life in unbelievable fashion at the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train for generations to come is truly humbling."



Storytelling in motion

Inside the new Disney Festival of Fantasy Parade

Walt Disney World Resort: Created on a scale never before seen at the Magic Kingdom Park, the new Disney Festival of Fantasy Parade will build on a storied tradition of envelope-pushing processions when it debuts this spring.

To learn more, *Disney Files* Magazine sat down with Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Creative Entertainment Senior Show Director Randy Wojcik, whose previous credits include Disney's Flights of Fantasy Parade at Hong Kong Disneyland Park.

"The Disney Festival of Fantasy Parade is really a celebration of Fantasyland," Randy said. "It's going to raise the bar in so many beautiful ways."

Randy explained that the parade's seven "units" will be comprised of nine enormous new floats (which Randy likened to Broadway set pieces), led by a "Princess Garden" float that stretches more than 50 feet in length. While that earns Disney's leading ladies the distinction of being among the *longest* floats in the parade, a familiar mouse at the finish has the *tallest*, with Mickey's airship topping out at a towering 32 feet.

Characters from more than a dozen animated films (from *Sleeping Beauty*, *Beauty and the Beast* and other classics of Disney's first and second golden ages to such contemporary favorites as *Tangled* and Disney•Pixar's *Brave*) will perform on or around the vibrant floats (including the steampunk-inspired Maleficent float seen below), many of which utilize animation, swings, pendulums and other kinetic features.

The 28-foot-tall, 35-foot-long *Peter Pan* float, for example, is visually "anchored" by a moving set piece that allows Peter and Wendy to soar atop a Jolly Roger ship that rocks back and forth over a shimmering rainbow, as Captain Hook swings on an anchor below. Fronted by a giant Skull Rock and backed by Tinker Bell on an

oversized sunflower, the eye-popping float is one that Randy believes will "blow people's socks off." (While we assume that's a figure of speech, the float's shooting cannons lead us to question our assumption.)

Like all Disney parades, the spectacular floats set the scene for a talented Cast of live performers, including a troupe with the *Peter Pan* unit who will create what Randy described as "our version of Lost Boys meets *Newsies*."

Performers will move to the beat of a new soundtrack written for an immersive new sound system and synchronized by state-of-the-art GPS technology, and they'll do so in costumes designed to be as impressive as the floats. Ten different costume houses from eight cities in two countries combined to create the wondrous wardrobes, and lest you think Princesses get all of the designers' attention, even the ruffians on the route will be fit for the runway. A "thug" in the *Tangled* unit, for instance, will rock a vest adorned with 75 individually stitched vinyl diamonds, while Lost Boys in the *Peter Pan* unit will sport custom-knitted socks.

"It's been an honor to work on this project with an incredibly talented team," Randy said. "We all look forward to being out there on opening day and seeing the Guests' faces react to the grandeur of this parade. That's the ultimate payoff."

Peek behind
the scenes:





Park(ing space) Hopping

Walt Disney World Resort: Discerning Guests have “kicked the tires” of the newest dining options at Downtown Disney West Side, and the reviews are as sparkling as the restaurants’ windshields.

“The response has been tremendous,” Chef James Kleinschmidt said of diners’ reaction to the four food trucks now tempting taste buds between House of Blues and Cirque du Soleil. “In addition to getting great feedback about the food, it’s been fun to see so many people posing for photos with the trucks.”

Artistically prepared for their close-ups, the trucks sport unique paint jobs that give a visual tip of the cap (or hubcap) to the four Walt Disney World Theme Parks, while their eclectic menus ensure that the experience is the tastiest of “World” tours.

The bright-red Fantasy Fare truck, for example, which appears to have rolled right out of Storybook Circus, serves “Delightful Dishes from Disney’s Magic Kingdoms Around the World.” From the hand-dipped corn dogs of the Disneyland Resort in California, to the Croque Monsieur found at both Disneyland Paris and in the Be Our Guest Restaurant at the Magic Kingdom Park in Florida, to the glass noodle salad with chicken and pickled vegetables from Hong Kong Disneyland Park, the food is uniquely positioned to in-“spire.”

At the vintage-suitcase-themed World Showcase of Flavors truck, Guests find “The Best of the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival,” from lobster rolls to grass-fed beef sliders.

“What’s really great about this truck is that

we’re able to offer meal-sized portions of the dishes served as small tastes at the festival,” Chef James added.

Stainless steel with teal, tan and orange accents give the “Superstar Catering” truck a 1930s, Art Deco flair, setting a glamorous tone for a menu presented as a “Favorite of the Stars of Disney’s Hollywood Studios.” Hearty meatballs steal the spotlight, with options ranging from turkey sausage and golden raisin meatballs on polenta to a lamb meatball flatbread with tzatziki to a generously portioned spinach and feta beef meatball sandwich that Chef James admits one must “smush down a bit to fit in their mouth.”

Perhaps the most visually dazzling is the Namaste Café truck, with a meticulously detailed paint job that would look right at home along the exotic roadways of Anandapur. Offering “Tasty Explorations from Disney’s Animal Kingdom,” the menu serves such favorites as butter chicken, slow-cooked beef short ribs and tandoori spiced shrimp, all served with basmati rice, naan bread and pickled vegetables.

While the trucks have established an initial operating schedule of Wednesdays through Sundays beginning at 5 p.m., their hours – like their menus and parking spaces – can adjust as needed.

“Across America and around the world, food trucks are allowing chefs to take chances, explore new flavors and quickly adjust to the tastes – and locations – of the people they serve,” said Area Food and Beverage Manager Matt Fisher. “We’re excited to be part of that movement.”

Finding FROZEN

New Adventures by Disney itinerary explores inspiring Norway

Adventures by Disney: As seasoned travelers, Disney Vacation Club Members tend to enjoy Disney-animated films through a unique lens.

Not content with simply empathizing with heroes as they explain (or sing) their dreams, giggling at the antics of comedic sidekicks and enjoying the Schadenfreude of villains getting their comeuppance, many Members leave the theater dreaming of actually visiting the places they saw on screen. Whether seeking “adventure in the great wide somewhere” of France, investigating what lies “just around the river bend” in Virginia or challenging the notion that there’s “more to do than can ever be done” in Africa, Members find vacation inspiration in Disney animation.

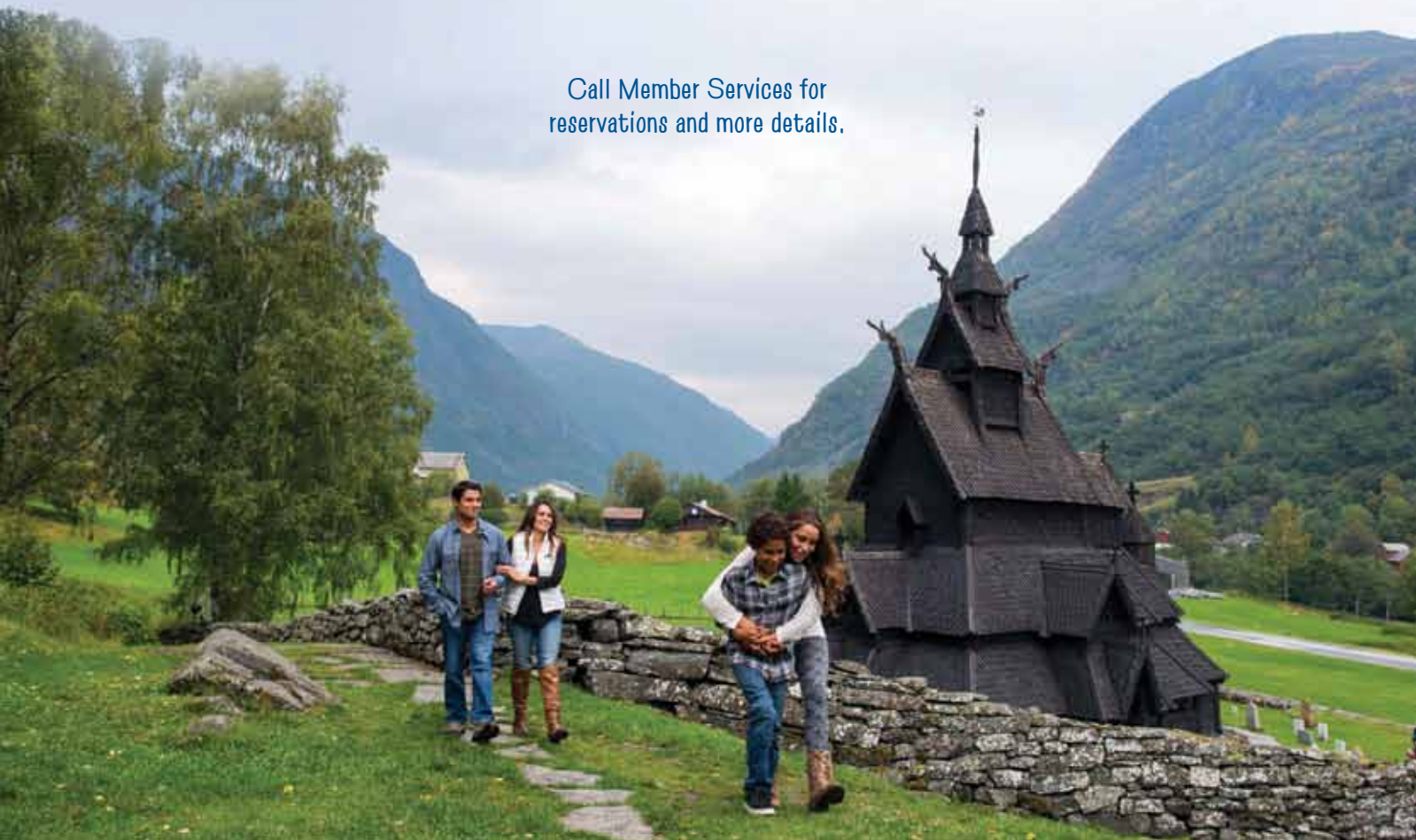
Members and Guests can continue that quest beginning this summer, embarking with Adventures by Disney on expertly guided tours through Norway and experiencing the spectacular places that inspired the setting of Walt Disney Animation Studios’ latest hit, *Frozen*.

The eight-day, seven-night itinerary will follow the footsteps of the *Frozen* filmmakers by seeing the places, meeting the people and experiencing the beauty that inspired the look of the film.

Families will:

- Visit the storybook village of Bergen, inspiration for the film’s kingdom of Arendelle
- Meet local storytellers, fishermen and farmers along the way to learn their stories
- Discover the fjord country by speedboat
- Hike across stunning, mystical terrains
- Explore the capital city of Oslo
- Raft down the Voss River
- Learn Norwegian folk dancing
- Visit the stave churches that inspired the film’s architecture
- Experience the natural beauty of Norway, including stunning waterfalls, gleaming glaciers and gorgeous fjords
- Fish for rainbow trout, visit glaciers and more

Call Member Services for
reservations and more details.





BUZZWORTHY

8 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger

Walt Disney World Resort: In revealing new details for the planned *AVATAR*-themed land at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (see pages 7-8), Disney also confirmed plans for new entertainment experiences at the Park, including a nighttime spectacular through which live music, floating lanterns, water screens and swirling animal imagery will combine on the Discovery River. Additional plans call for new live performers in the Park's Discovery Island area (depicted in the rendering below) and a new nighttime version of the Kilimanjaro Safaris attraction. No debut dates have been announced.



Walt Disney World Resort: The 21st annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, presented by HGTV, will celebrate all things spring from March 5-May 18. This 75-day garden party – included with Epcot admission – will once again transform the Theme Park with elaborate topiary displays; tempt taste buds with sweets and savories at about a dozen food-and-beverage marketplaces around World Showcase Lagoon; engage the senses and imagination with special seminars (including live presentations by HGTV stars), exhibits and play areas (from the popular Tinker Bell's Butterfly House to an all-new *Monsters University*-themed playground); and rock the night with the Flower Power Concert Series. Learn more at EpcotInSpring.com.

Walt Disney World Resort: King Hassan II (1929-99) once said, "Morocco is like a tree whose roots lie in Africa but whose leaves breathe in European air." That's the spirit behind the new Spice Road Table eatery at Epcot, which has added a fresh dining option to the Morocco pavilion. Located along the shores of World Showcase Lagoon, the new location blends architectural influences from Greece, Italy and Spain, reflecting the Mediterranean region of Morocco's location along the spice-trade route between Europe and the Far East. Guests seated in the restaurant's artistically detailed booths or out on the sprawling waterfront verandah dine on "small plates" of Mediterranean-style tapas that combine vibrant, multicultural flavors, with standout dishes including zesty harissa chicken drumettes; a Mediterranean omelet with sausage, potatoes and caramelized onion; mussels with preserved lemons and tomato sauce baked in an earthenware tagine pot; and garlicky jumbo shrimp in a spicy chili pepper sauce. Shops stretching along the front of the building, meanwhile, offer everything from traditional Moroccan crafts to fresh-squeezed juices to henna tattoos.

Walt Disney World Resort: A new merchandise location, the Marketplace Co Op, is scheduled to open in the current location of the Team Mickey shop at Downtown Disney Marketplace this spring. The re-imagined, multi-shop space will feature a variety of new and innovative Disney retail concepts, including women's accessories, electronics, home design accents, salon products and more. Plans call for the space to debut with six retail spaces: Beautifully Disney, Cherry Tree Lane, D-Tech on Demand, The Trophy Room, Centerpiece, and Zoey and Pickles. The Marketplace Co Op is part of the multi-year transformation of the Downtown Disney area into Disney Springs. Watch *Disney Files* Magazine for details as the project unfolds.



Walt Disney World Resort: The now-open Fit2Run, The Runner's Superstore, is scheduled to operate through the spring running season adjacent to Curl (near Splitsville) at Downtown Disney West Side. More than just a shoe store, the location offers video-taped gait-analysis sessions, allows Guests to test footwear for proper fit on an indoor track and more. To learn more, visit Fit2Run.com.

Walt Disney World Resort: A new patio lounge at The Hollywood Brown Derby offers Disney's Hollywood Studios Guests a relaxing place beneath shade umbrellas, where they can sip wine, beer and cocktails and enjoy small bites such as artisanal cheeses, duck confit tacos, Derby sliders and more. The lounge also features a dessert menu with Chocolate Three Ways, a banana-white chocolate toffee tower on a cocoa-almond cookie, bananas Foster and strawberry Champagne cheesecake. Seating is first-come, first-served.

Walt Disney World Resort: Have you sampled the new Coca-Cola flavors from around the world at Club Cool at Epcot? Stop by for complimentary beverage samples from Europe, Japan, Thailand, South Africa, Brazil, Peru and more. And don't worry - Club Cool still serves fan favorite Beverly, the distinctively flavored Italian aperitif.

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort: Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs recently confirmed plans to develop an Iron Man attraction in Tomorrowland at Hong Kong Disneyland Park. "One of the greatest things about Disney is the treasure trove of characters and rich stories we have to draw upon for the immersive experiences we provide our Guests around the world," Tom said. "With Marvel joining the Disney family in 2009, our character and story base grew even further, and the anticipation for how Marvel comes to life in our Parks and Resorts continues to energize our Guests and Cast." Scheduled to open in late 2016, the epic adventure will allow Guests to take flight with Iron Man in a battle against the forces of evil through the skies and streets of Hong Kong. The attraction will be located within a Stark Expo facility, where Iron Man also will meet and greet Guests. The project continues the dramatic expansion of the Asian Theme Park, which since 2011 has added three new lands - Toy Story Land, Grizzly Gulch and Mystic Point.



This year's Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, taking place from March 5-May 18, will give the topiary treatment for the first time to Kermit the Frog (who always looks good in green) and Miss Piggy (who always looks good in everything...just ask her).

Muppets fit to be Ty'd

“Modern Family” star Ty Burrell talks *Muppets Most Wanted*

In *Muppets Most Wanted*, opening in U.S. theaters on March 21, Kermit and the gang are back on the road for a global tour, selling out venues in some of Europe's greatest destinations. Of course, as no Muppet ever travels far from mayhem, trouble soon arises as the fuzzy friends find themselves unwittingly entangled in an international crime caper headed by Constantine, the “World's Number One Criminal” and a dead ringer for Kermit.

Reuniting from the 2011 hit film *The Muppets* for this big-screen return are director James Bobin (who also co-wrote the screenplay with Nicholas Stoller), producers David Hoberman and Todd Lieberman, and Academy Award-winning songwriter Bret McKenzie. Among the film's human stars are Ricky Gervais (“The Office”) as Constantine's dastardly sidekick, Dominic, aka Number Two; Ty Burrell (“Modern Family”) as French Interpol agent Jean Pierre Napoleon and Tina Fey (“30 Rock”) as feisty prison guard Nadya.

“The Muppets were sort of like comfort food for me as a kid,” Burrell told *Disney Files Magazine*. “‘The Muppet Show’ was one of those rare programs that dragged my Dad away from his book, and we actually watched as a family. When I was really young, I don't think I got *all* of the humor, which is really the beauty of the Muppets. Some of it kind of reveals itself to you as you get older.”

That lifelong Muppets fandom, coupled with an admiration of the 2011 film, made for one of the easiest conversations Burrell can recall having with his agent.

“It's one of those situations where you want to say you'll do it for free, but of course, no agent wants to hear that,” Burrell joked. “I just said, ‘Tell them yes. Don't negotiate.’”

While the actor described every on-set experience with a Muppet as “surreal,” he spoke most excitedly of his exaggeratedly French character's extensive screen time with uber-American Sam Eagle.

“James and Nick and Bret are just so smart, and so funny, and they had a blast with that comedic clash of cultures and stereotypes,” he said, noting as an example that Jean Pierre drinks from “the tiniest coffee mug you've ever seen,” while Sam's is “as big as a trash can.”

The film also marks Burrell's return to musicals, a genre in which he hasn't performed since college.

“Luckily for me, this was more about the comedy than the singing, or I'd have been in trouble,” he said, laughing. “My song is essentially a patter song; a spoken song for the most part. I had a ball doing it. I'm a huge fan of Bret McKenzie, and recording with him was an honor. It was a very cool experience.”

Asked if there's a Disney role he'd like to add to a resumé that now includes *Muppets Most Wanted* and ABC's “Modern Family,” and soon will include a voice role in the upcoming Disney•Pixar film *Finding Dory*, Burrell gave an intriguing answer, saying, “I'd love to do anything Fred MacMurray did.”

To learn more about *Muppets Most Wanted*, visit Muppets.disney.com.



Disneynature

The truth about **BEARS**

Filmmakers reveal surprising struggle of polarizing creatures

From Disneynature, whose roster of films includes *Earth*, *Oceans*, *African Cats* and *Chimpanzee*, comes *Bears*, an epic story of a mother bear's struggle to raise and teach her cubs in the rugged Alaskan wilderness.

Narrated by John C. Reilly (*Wreck-It Ralph*) and opening in U.S. theaters on April 18, the film is directed by Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey, the dynamic duo behind *African Cats*.

"I've always been fascinated by bears' polarized reputation," Scholey told *Disney Files Magazine*. "On one hand, they're the teddy bear and are beloved in children's books. On the other, they're the dangerous grizzly, ready to take your head off. Of course, neither reputation is particularly true, so we wanted to show the real bear."

Scholey, who noted that bears' food choices, interests, habits and surprisingly gentle nature make them more humanly relatable than perhaps any animals he's filmed (including primates), described the life of a mother bear as a constant dilemma.

"A mother bear has this terrible dilemma in that there are good places to go and feed, but sadly, all the other bears in town go to those same places, including big males, and big males are dangerous to little cubs," he explained. "So she has to get as much food as she needs to get through hibernation, but she can't always go and feed in those good places. It becomes a really difficult, decision-making life. Does she

risk the cubs to get the food, or does she play it safe and risk not being able to feed her young? Constantly, these poor mother bears have to try to find a balance. That struggle became the heart of our story."

Adding to that struggle – and to the groundbreaking nature of the film – are never-before-captured interactions between bears and wolves, one of which created Scholey's most memorable moment from the shoot.

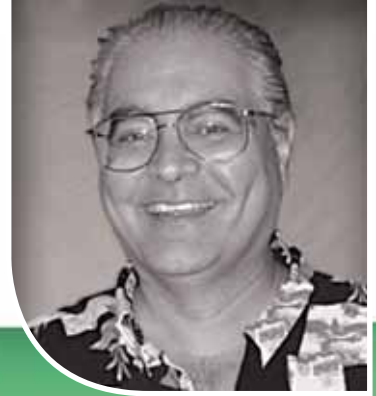
"We were out on the beach one evening, filming a mother bear wandering with her two cubs," he recalled. "One of these wolves turned up and made a beeline for the bears, targeting the cubs. We thought we were about to see something horrible until one of the little cubs turned around, saw the wolf and actually chased it off. The moment turned from terrifying to incredibly funny."

Like all Disneynature films, this one aims to be equal parts entertaining and inspiring.

"My hope is that we've taken an animal that's controversial in North America and shown it in a true light so people will get a real understanding of bears," Scholey said. "We want to give the bears in the film something back. If that 'something' is that people are inspired to respect and protect them, job done."

Disneynature will donate a portion of the film's opening-week ticket sales (April 18-24) to the National Park Foundation through the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund.





Seven Secrets of the Seven Dwarfs

By Jim Korkis

With the opening of the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train approaching (the new Magic Kingdom attraction is scheduled to open soon at the Walt Disney World Resort), I'm pleased to prepare Disney Vacation Club Members to maintain their status as the smartest Guests in the queue. Here, from deep in the mine where a million diamonds shine, are seven secrets of the Seven Dwarfs.

While the classic *Snow White's Adventures* attraction opened with Disneyland Park in 1955 (the attraction became *Snow White's Scary Adventures* in 1983), it wasn't Disney's first *Snow White* attraction.

"Snow White Island" (sometimes referred to as "Dwarfland" in publicity materials) opened in 1937 near the famed Carthay Circle Theater in Los Angeles for the animated film's premiere. More than 500,000 people explored the \$10,000, 900-foot-long "island" during the film's four-month run at the theater, making wishes in a well, bravely venturing into a fearful forest, visiting the Dwarfs' cottage (complete with working water wheel) and, of course, entering the fabled mine. Costumed Dwarf performers made periodic appearances, and security personnel guarded the island against pilfering souvenir hunters, one of whom stole a bat from a frightening forest tree. While Disney received thousands of requests to purchase pieces of the attraction after its limited-time run, all requests were refused. The attraction simply disappeared – as if by magic – returning the site to its former glory as a busy road's median.

Dopey wasn't always silent.

Original plans for the now famously silent character called for Dopey to be something of a chatterbox, constantly saying silly things. When

the Dwarfs wondered who might be upstairs in their cottage, for example, Dopey was to say, "Maybe it's Santa Claus!"

The studio had several actors perform the Dopey dialogue, including baby-faced vaudevillian Eddie Collins, who served as the live-action reference model for the character.

As Disney Legend Ham Luske, who animated on the film, recalled, "We tried many different voices. The voice that came closest to what we wanted sounded too much like Doc. Then somebody suggested that maybe he shouldn't talk at all. That proved to be the answer."

Walt Disney himself was reportedly that "someone," explaining to his team that he imagined Dopey to be like an eager puppy waiting for someone to throw a ball, complete with such canine qualities as wagging ears.

The film's soundtrack was as groundbreaking as the film itself.

The original *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* soundtrack debuted as a three-disc set from RCA Victor Records in 1938, becoming the very first feature-film soundtrack album ever released. The record jacket doesn't state that it is the official soundtrack, rather identifying the album as having "the same characters and sound effects as in the film."

Sleepy, Grumpy and Goofy share DNA (sort of).

All three characters feature the voice talent of story man and voice actor Pinto Colvig, who also voiced Pluto's bark. Walt originally considered actor Sterling Holloway as the voice of Sleepy, and dialog was written to match his unique cadence. Unfortunately, Holloway was unavailable when it came time to record. Holloway eventually narrated and voiced a



variety of Disney films, even serving as the voice of Winnie the Pooh. It's worth noting that Goofy and Pluto continue to share Dwarf DNA, as Disney Legend Bill Farmer, the voice of Goofy and Pluto, voices Doc in the upcoming Disney animated TV series "The 7D," an irreverent prequel to *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

The Dwarfs fought malaria.

While the outbreak of World War II and Walt's dislike of sequels ended notions of producing *Snow White Returns* (which would've combined animation that had been cut from the original film with new animation as Snow White returned for her annual visit with her little friends), the Dwarfs did reunite for a short educational film called "The Winged Scourge" in 1943. The film, which demonstrated how to combat the risks of malaria by getting rid of mosquitoes, featured all-new animation, including the work of Disney Legend Frank Thomas on Dopey. Among the Dwarfs' other on-screen appearances through the years were two Canadian War Bonds films (*Seven Wise Dwarfs* in 1941 and *All Together Now* in 1942), a variety of commercials and a don't-blink-or-you-may-miss-it cameo in the 1988 theatrical feature *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

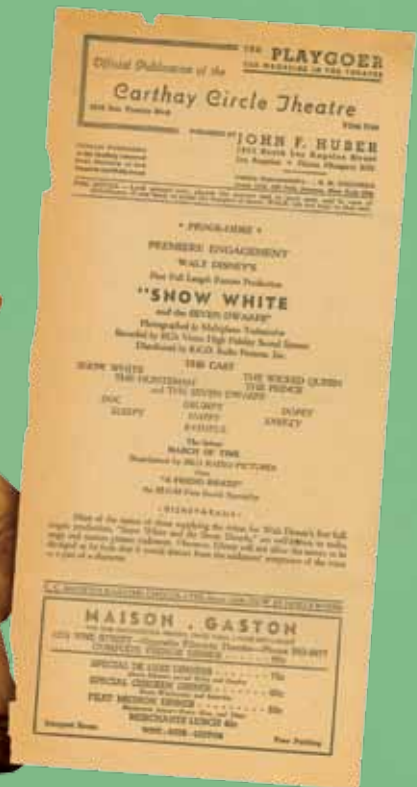
The Dwarfs put on their best face for the original film.

If you think the Dwarfs looked their very best in the original 1937 film, it's because artists paid extraordinary attention to detail. For the characters' nose- and cheek-shadow areas, for example, artists inked the front of each cel before painting on the back and ultimately removing the ink lines...frame by meticulously produced frame. Equal attention was paid to the film's other characters, with artists creating two different lip colors for both Snow White and the Queen (darker on top, lighter on bottom), and hand-applying rouge to Snow White's cheeks.

Even with such time-consuming processes, the film came together with remarkable speed. The first drawings went to the Ink and Paint department on Jan. 4, 1937 and went under the camera nine weeks later. The last cels were painted on Nov. 27, 1937, and final photography took place on Dec. 1, 1937, just 20 days before the film's premiere.

Trusting Dopey with the key to the vault was smarter than you think.

While it's amusing to see Dopey hanging the key to the vault on a nail just outside the very vault it unlocks, this story choice was more than a sight gag. By putting Dopey in charge of security, Walt and his filmmakers immediately – and deliberately – diminished the gems' value to the Dwarfs. The mine instantly became a symbol, not of wealth, but of hard work.



This animator's model of Dopey is part of the treasured collection of artifacts in the Walt Disney Archives. Also in the Walt Disney Archives is this Carthy Circle Theatre program from the premiere of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. A careful review of the program (or "programme" as it's formally labeled) reveals two tidbits that caught the *Disney Files* staff's attention: Walt's reluctance to reveal voice actors' names (believing it would take away from audiences' acceptance of the characters) and the availability of a filet mignon dinner in Hollywood for 60 cents (and free parking!).

PHOTOFINISH

1. "Do you want to build a snowman?" Courtney Holt of Michigan, Member since 2006, does indeed.
2. Even little princesses have to do the laundry, as evidenced by this photo of young Emma, part of the Hartzell family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2009.
3. Not everyone appreciates Goofy stopping by the breakfast table, including little Abigail, part of the Vegso family of New Jersey, Members since 2008.
4. Borrowing a delightfully awful pun from a 1980s Epcot commercial, we can only assume that Rodica Callery of Virginia, Member since 1998, was "Russian" to take this photo.
5. Asked during their Aulani wedding if they read *Disney Files* Magazine from cover to cover, both Shuya and Aiko Yoshiara of Tochigi, Japan, Members since 2011, answered, "I do."
6. Tiina and Henry Villareal of Illinois, Members since 2011, ignore the wonders of Stonehenge, preferring instead to catch up on the latest Disney news.
7. Madison, part of the Chase family of New Jersey, Members since 2002, takes Gaston on home to his native country.
8. Jeff Williams and son Reese of Texas, Members since 2008, get their Disney news "straight" from the source near The Leaning Tower of Pisa during their Adventures by Disney vacation.

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 www.dvcmember.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 turn Member memories into editorial exclamation points with our new series of back-cover images. Selected from the countless Member photos we look forward to receiving whenever our friendly postal carrier arrives at the door, each photo will celebrate a moment that we think is worthy of having the last word.



This edition's "last word" comes from the Fisher family of Maryland, Members since 2006. Pictured from left are twins Ryan and Jack engaged in a *Disney Files* grudge match. Jack's displeasure means (a) he wasn't done reading the fall issue or (b) he shares his brother's belief that magazines are delicious. Dry your tears, little Jack, as you've just had the last word.