

Disney FILES MAGAZINE

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Disney Vacation Club®

WELCOME HOME



Ask Disney fans if they have a favorite Walt Disney quote about Mickey Mouse, and you're likely to hear something you've seen on coffee mugs, posters, paperweights and, thanks to tattoo artists playing fast and loose with international copyright law, even human skin. It reads, "I only hope that we never lose sight of one thing – that it was all started by a mouse."

I like that quote. It's snappy. Inspiring, even. But it's not my favorite. I prefer one that, while tougher to fit on a mug (or shoulder), more colorfully conveys just what Mickey meant to Walt and Roy Disney, and what he continues to mean to all of us who love Disney.

Walt said, "Mickey Mouse is, to me, a symbol of independence. He was a means to an end. He popped out of my mind onto a drawing pad 20 years ago on a train ride from Manhattan to Hollywood at a time when business fortunes of my brother Roy and myself were at lowest ebb, and disaster seemed right around the corner. Born of necessity, the little fellow literally freed us of immediate worry. He provided the means for expanding our organization to its present dimensions and for extending the medium of cartoon animation towards new entertainment levels."

Alright, so it's basically a long-winded version of the whole "it was all started by a mouse" thing. But it speaks to a "butterfly effect" that's long fascinated me – the idea that something as small as a butterfly flapping its wings, or a man sketching a mouse on a train, can have a profound effect in unexpected ways.

Imagine if that mouse *hadn't* popped out of Walt's head and onto that pad. Would the Disney brothers' business have survived? If not, you wouldn't be reading this, as Disney Vacation Club wouldn't exist.

For me, that's a shuddering thought. Not only is Disney Vacation Club where I make a living; it's where I met my wife, with whom I now have a daughter. My family wouldn't be my family if not for two brothers I never met and a little guy named Mickey. The best parts of my life were started by a mouse. (Now *that's* a tattoo!)

So as you read a variety of features in the pages ahead celebrating 90 years of our favorite mouse, imagine for a moment what it would be like to live in a world without Mickey. And then smile because you don't have to.

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



VOL. 27 NO. 3

Disney Files Magazine

Disney Vacation Club

P.O. Box 10350

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Please recycle this publication (or cherish it forever)

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#DVCMEMBER

Like Mickey, Members never have to grow up



By Terri Schultz, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Disney Vacation Club, Adventures by Disney and Golden Oak

If you're lucky enough to be Mickey Mouse, you don't change much in 90 years. Sure, Uncle Walt's alter-ego transitioned from black and white to color, waffles between pie eyes and pupils and sometimes favors shorts two sizes too big. But somehow, he's as youthful today as he was when he first steered that steamboat in synchronized sound.

While we non-animated types may lack the age-defying magic of the Mouse, those fortunate enough to be Disney Vacation Club Members can identify with that carefree feeling of eternal youth.

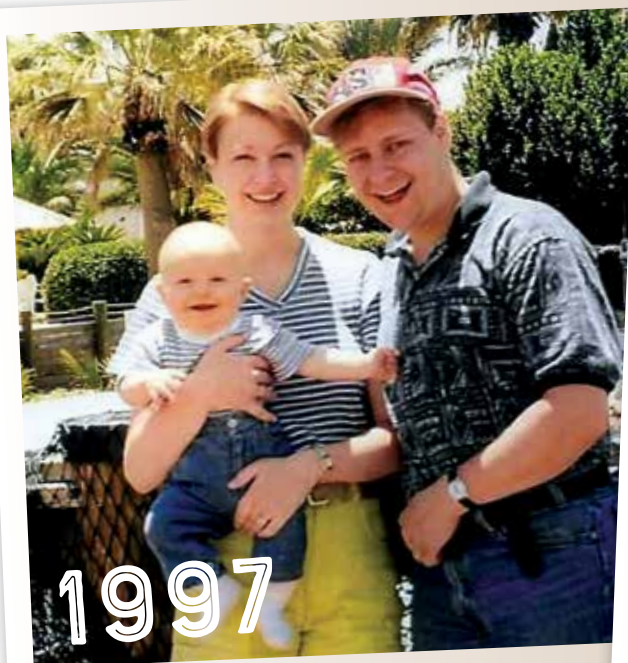
Among the great delights of my new role is the increased exposure I have to the Member letters and photos that arrive at our offices daily. From a child's first meeting with Mickey to a grandparent's first plummet down Splash Mountain, the moments and milestones shared through Member mail are playful reminders that staying magical year after year means never *really* growing up.

My favorite Member photos are those that

come in time-hopping pairs, illustrating a Member family's growth and traditions by capturing familiar poses in familiar places...with a few (or many) memory-making years in between. These images represent the real "magic" of Membership.

Replacing the growth chart on your pantry door with a lighthouse at Disney's Old Key West Resort reduces the aging process to something purely physical. When I see the 1997 photo below of baby Colin (whose Illinois parents have been Members since 1996) next to a similar photo with his family from earlier this year, I see a young man who may have graduated college but hasn't been forced to graduate from his childhood.

That, to me, is what Disney Vacation Club is all about. It's why you trust us with your vacation traditions, it's why we feel so fortunate to do what we do for a living, and it's why being asked to lead this magical community has made me feel like a kid again. The truth is, I've never felt more "Mickey."



Lifelong Member Colin (left in both photos) grows older without growing up.

MOVE OVER, MONA LISA

An inside look at
"The Mickey Portraits"

By Tim O'Day





Disney Legend John Hench (left) shares his Mickey Mouse 70th birthday portrait with Tim O'Day (right).

Having worked in, around and with various Disney business segments over the past four decades (yes, there was a "Ford" parked in the White House when I started at age 13), I've enjoyed many career highlights. One of them has a direct connection to this year's celebration of Mickey's birthday and involves famed Disney Imagineer John Hench.

Of all the officially designated Disney Legends, there remain none quite like John Hench. Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1908, John was an alum of the Art Students League in New York City, the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco, plus Otis and Chouinard Art Institutes in Los Angeles, before joining Walt Disney Productions (as The Walt Disney Company was initially known) in 1939.

Drawn to animation: John's considerable artistic skills were put to use in animation layout, background, effects, story editing and more on such animated and live-action films as *Fantasia*, *Dumbo*, *So Dear to My Heart*, *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, *The Living Desert* and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (which garnered an Academy Award for Best Visual Effects). John would eventually become the company's longest-tenured

employee, amassing more than 65 years of service by the time he passed away in 2004 at age 95 (while still on staff full-time).

WEDing days: In 1954, John joined a new Disney venture called WED Enterprises (now Walt Disney Imagineering), which was tasked with designing and creating Disneyland Park. As one of the founding "Imagineers," John initially worked as a project designer on the very first incarnation of Tomorrowland, then on various other Disneyland attractions, followed by oversight of the Disney-produced opening and closing ceremonies of the VIII Olympic Winter Games at Squaw Valley in 1960 and creative contributions to Walt Disney's four hit attractions at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair.

By the early 1960s, John had become a key figure at "WED" and an integral part of the initial planning team for the creation of Walt Disney World Resort. His extensive knowledge of show/attraction concepts, architecture, costuming and graphic design helped to mold and shape the initial phases of the Florida resort, quickly followed by work on what was originally known as EPCOT Center.

John's creative contributions extended far beyond the "Sunshine State" to Tokyo Disneyland,

Walt Disney presents the portrait painted by Disney Legend John Hench in celebration of 25 years of Mickey Mouse.



Tokyo DisneySea, Disneyland Paris, Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park and Disney California Adventure. Along the way, John became Disney's ultimate color expert and resident philosopher on the art of visual storytelling.

Meeting the Legend: I first met John Hench in the mid-1980s during one of his many visits to Disneyland Park (and I later worked with him at Walt Disney Imagineering in the early 1990s). From a distance, John was an imposing figure, with his trim mustache, dapper attire (he could rock an ascot like no other) and a sophisticated demeanor that complemented his tremendous intellect (he was a voracious reader of magazines and books – definitely a lifelong student of many topics). However, always at play was a dry sense of humor, a certain roguishness and a willingness to pass on what he knew.

It was during one of these visits that I learned John Hench was the artist behind a portrait of Mickey Mouse that I recalled seeing on the cover of the April 1968 issue of *American Heritage* magazine. That portrait, originally created by John in 1953 to commemorate Mickey's 25th birthday, came about in a rather unspectacular way.

Painting the Mouse: As John stated in a 1998 interview, "Walt one morning said, 'Mickey's going to be 25 years old, and he's never had his official portrait painted, so, how about it? It's time we did that!'"

Out of a competition with other Disney artists, Walt selected John's oil painting, depicting Mickey in his classic attire (red shorts, yellow shoes, white gloves) with a background featuring John's own bookcase (sharp eyes will notice a "Mousecar" award on the shelf). With that single image, John assumed the role of Mickey's official portraitist. According to John, the original portrait hung in Walt Disney's office suite until his passing in 1966.

To mark Mickey's 50th birthday in 1978, John's portrait placed Mickey right in the middle of the planning stages of EPCOT Center, with one caveat.



Pictured from top are Mickey's 50th and 60th birthday portraits by Disney Legend John Hench.



"I sneaked in the long trousers because I thought, gee, he ought to be able to wear long pants by now."

For Mickey's 60th birthday, John showcased Mickey at home in his den with a large globe, prominently displaying France on the map, with a flag indicating the future home of Disneyland Paris. The framed photos behind Mickey highlight his film career, while a pair of glasses on the lamp table might be a nod to Mickey's ever-increasing age.

It was for Mickey's 70th birthday that I worked directly with John, handling the marketing and publicity surrounding the newest portrait. John's composition of the portrait was telling.

"I kept [the portrait] rather simple, no wallpaper, no background, only Walt," said John at the time. "I thought, 'That says a lot.'"

More so than any other Mickey portrait, I believe John's painting for Mickey's 70th (page 4) is infused with the most touching backstory.

"I seated Mickey on a high stool to suggest his eternal youthfulness and dressed him in an orange sweater like Walt's favorite old work sweater," John said in his 2003 book *Designing Disney*.

John told me the image of Walt Disney in the background was based on a famous photo portrait of Walt taken in 1966. In the original photo, Walt is showcased holding a pad and pencil. In John's rendition, Walt is seen from his elbows upward because, according to John, Walt was self-conscious of his hands in the foreground which he thought looked out of proportion, so John fixed that problem with the 70th portrait. The painting also suggests a little gray at Mickey's temples (or perhaps simply a play of light).

When Disney Legend Roy E. Disney saw the painting, he chuckled that he absent-mindedly started wearing his glasses the same way long before the age of 70!

From 1998 through 2003, John continued to paint commemorative portraits of Mickey to acknowledge significant birthdays and company milestones. Upon completion of the 70th portrait, John wistfully reflected, "I'd like to say to Mickey himself, happy birthday! I've really learned to love you a lot."

John was one of a kind. I loved spending time with him in his office at Walt Disney Imagineering (which was incidentally just a few doors away from mine in the early 1990s). Many people were in awe of John and seemed intimidated by him. We, however, got along great, and I always considered it a personal triumph when I amused him with a quick quip.

John's impact endures, not just with the indelible contributions he made to Disney animation and Imagineering, but through his marvelous collection of Mickey Mouse imagery.

Continuing the tradition: Now, a new generation has officially picked up the portrait baton. Veteran Disney animator Mark Henn, noted for animating such beloved Disney characters as Ariel, Belle, Jasmine, Simba, Pocahontas and Tiana, steps into John Henn's considerable shoes by creating the latest birthday portrait (above left), just in time for Mickey's milestone 90th birthday.

Tim O'Day is a Disney author and historian, and a longtime friend to Disney Vacation Club. Look for periodic contributions from Tim in future editions of *Disney Files Magazine*.



TALKING MICKEY

By Jim Korkis



As Mickey Mouse celebrates another milestone anniversary, I thought it would be fun to share some of my favorite Mickey quotes from celebrities, legends and leaders, along with some trivial tidbits you may not know about this "little personality assigned to the purposes of laughter."

Disney Legend, animator and Imagineer Ward Kimball said: "Four years after he first appeared, Mickey was a household word, whether the house was in China, Moscow or Beverly Hills. Whether people were watching in Hong Kong, Paris or Cairo, they didn't need to follow any dialogue. They could simply laugh at what was happening on the screen. You can't imagine how popular he was everywhere and with everyone."

Disney Legend, artist and Imagineer Alice Davis: "When (my husband and fellow Disney Legend) Marc and I went to New Guinea in 1978, we were taken by a guide to a remote village in the rainforest that had had almost no contact with the outside world and had never seen (foreigners) like us. As we stood there, this little child came running out of the forest wearing nothing except a Mickey Mouse t-shirt. Somehow, Mickey had made it there before anyone else."

Disney Legend and actress Julie Andrews: "I am always filled with joy at how readily Mickey is embraced. We need more like him in this world."

Disney Legend and actor Dick Van Dyke: "Mickey was my first introduction to humor and comedy. Mickey's character was always visually funny to me. He was the good guy."

Magician David Copperfield: "Mickey is magical. He looks great from every angle. He's proof that an idea can be so pure, so specific, yet universal, that it can transcend every barrier and last forever."

Writer Irving Wallace: "Though the men who make Mickey always refer to him as the Mouse, it is their policy never to treat him as one. To them, he is a very real person."

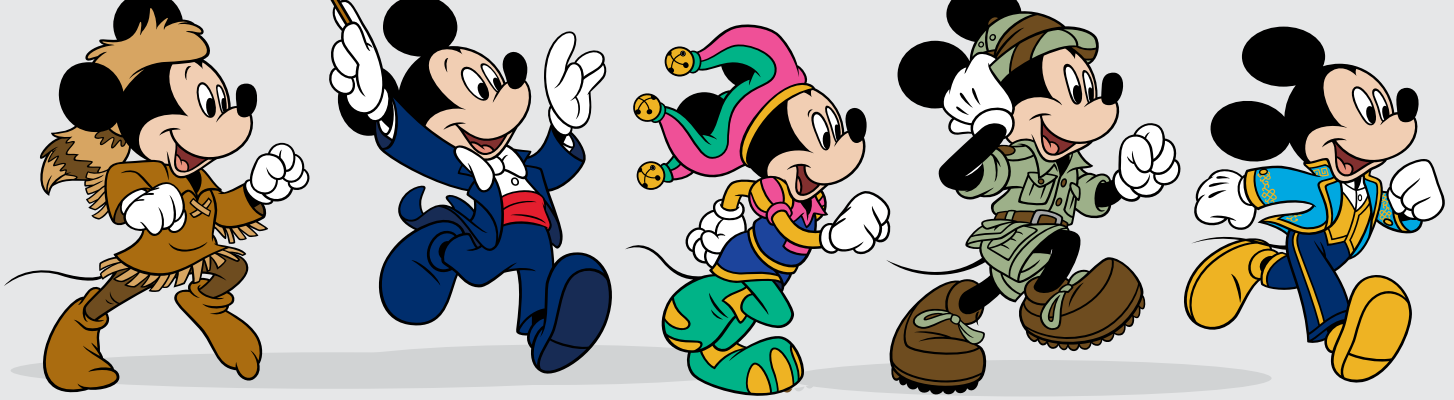
Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter: "Mickey Mouse has been beloved by three generations of Carters. Bringing smiles to the faces of children of all nationalities, he is an ambassador of goodwill and a peacemaker who speaks the universal language of friendship."

Former U.S. President Gerald Ford: "In the summer of 1964, I took our two oldest sons to visit Disneyland. We met Mickey Mouse. We were struck by his great, childlike presence and how he embodied so much of Walt's wise, playful spirit."



CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF MICKEY

Tune in for "Mickey's 90th Spectacular." Taking place at the famed Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles and airing Nov. 4 from 8-10 p.m. Eastern on ABC, the star-studded special from 15-time Emmy winner Don Mischer will feature musical performances, moving tributes and rare short films never before seen by the public.



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin: "Mickey transcends being just a character. He's a symbol of the magnitude of the entire Disney dynasty."

Talk show host Larry King: "When Mickey Mouse waves at you in a parade or on the screen, you almost *have* to smile. When Mickey is around, somehow things seem a little brighter."

Filmmaker George Lucas: "The appeal of Mickey will continue forever, because if he hasn't reached a saturation point by now, he never will."

Playwright Arthur Miller: "Mickey is 'Everyman.' He is honest, decent, a good sportsman. He is little David who slays Goliath."

Disney Legend Wayne Allwine, among the few actors to follow Walt Disney as the voice of Mickey: "Jimmy (MacDonald) said to me (when I succeeded him in the Mickey voice role), 'Just remember, kid, you're only filling in for the boss.'"

Disney Legend Roy E. Disney: "Mickey really is Walt in a lot of ways. Mickey has all those nice impulses that Walt had, the kind of gut-level nice guy he was."

Disney Legend and animator Ollie Johnston: "Mickey reflected Walt's boyhood personality and did a lot of things Walt had wanted to do himself – rescuing princesses, beating up bullies, putting on variety shows."

Imagineer John Hench: "The attraction to Mickey is instinctual. Kids who scream bloody murder when their parents put them on Santa's lap will run up to Mickey and wrap their arms around his legs. In 1957, Dr. Tom Dooley of MEDICO put Mickey's face on the side of his hospital ship anchored off a southeastern Asian coast. It succeeded in luring children aboard for free examinations and treatment even though hardly any of them had ever seen a picture of Mickey before. They just sensed it was safe and friendly."

Walt Disney: "This is tough, trying to explain Mickey. It's been done by experts, and the best any of us have been able to come up with is the fact that Mickey is so simple and uncomplicated, so easy to understand, that you can't help liking him. He is never mean or ugly. He never lies nor cheats nor steals. He is a clean, happy, little fellow who loves life and folks. I owe it all to Mickey, and I'm plenty grateful ... He still speaks for me, and I still speak for him."

DID YOU KNOW? When Emperor Hirohito of Japan passed away in 1989, he was buried at his request with his favorite Mickey Mouse watch.

Look for Jim Korkis' *The Book of Mouse: A Celebration of Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse and Walt's Words: Quotations of Walt Disney with Sources!* wherever books are sold.

#Mickey90

Check out "Mickey: The True Original Exhibition." Running Tuesdays through Sundays from Nov. 8, 2018-Feb. 10, 2019 at 60 10th Avenue in New York City, this 16,000-square-foot, pop-up exhibit will celebrate Mickey through original work from renowned and emerging contemporary artists. Learn more at Disney.com/MickeyTrueOriginal.

Attend the "World's Biggest Mouse Party." Look for limited-time Mickey Mouse entertainment and experiences at Tokyo Disney Resort, Disneyland Paris, Hong Kong Disneyland Resort and Shanghai Disney Resort beginning this fall, and at Disneyland Resort, Walt Disney World Resort and aboard Disney Cruise Line ships in 2019!

one on one



WITH CLARK SPENCER



Building on the game-hopping adventures of 2012's Academy Award-nominated *Wreck-It Ralph*, this fall's *Ralph Breaks the Internet* leaves Litwak's video arcade behind and ventures into the uncharted, expansive and thrilling world of the Internet. It's there that video game bad guy Ralph (voice of John C. Reilly) and fellow misfit Vanellope von Schweetz (voice of Sarah Silverman) must risk it all in search of a replacement part to save Vanellope's video game, *Sugar Rush*.

The film is directed by Rich Moore (*Wreck-It Ralph*, *Zootopia*) and Phil Johnston (co-writer, *Wreck-It Ralph*, *Zootopia*), and produced by Clark Spencer (*Bolt*, *Wreck-It Ralph*, *Zootopia*).

Disney Files Magazine Editor Ryan March caught up with the Academy Award-winning producer during a recent visit to Walt Disney Animation Studios in Burbank, Calif., where the two discussed everything from finding the heart of the Internet in Los Angeles to finding comedic inspiration in the auction houses of Illinois.

Look for part two of this conversation in the winter edition of *Disney Files Magazine*.

Ryan: I've always loved living vicariously through the very legendary research trips the filmmakers at this studio take, whether you're going to Africa to research a film like *Zootopia* or to the Polynesian islands for a film like *Moana* ... Where does one go to research what the world of the Internet looks like?

Clark: Somehow we are not picking the right location for these characters to go if you want the big, exotic trip. You pretty much go to an electronics store, and you buy a Wi-Fi router, and you take it apart ... It's a little less exotic ... but it really was informative. In fact, one of the places we went to is a building here in Los Angeles, a whopping 10 miles away from our Studio, called One Wilshire Blvd. On the outside, it's a pretty nondescript, probably

20-story building. But what is amazing on the inside is that it's where all the connections for all of the [online] communications in all of North America come ... It's just boxes and routers and wires ... That informed, in a big way, how we approached the world of the Internet in our film.

Ryan: So you're making a film called *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, and you went to a place where you could actually break the Internet.

Clark: (Laughing) You could technically break the Internet at this building. That is true. High security, but yes, you could.

Ryan: How do you approach the challenge of producing a film that is very much "of the moment" but also needs to sit on the shelf with the timeless classics for which this studio is so famous?

Clark: You know, it's a really great question ... and we've talked a lot about that, trying to make sure that we bring in references that feel "of the Internet" but are not so specific that, in 20 years, somebody wouldn't understand what that is. Take, for



example, the “ice bucket challenge.” There was a whole conversation about, “Should we actually see an ‘ice bucket challenge’ in the movie?” We felt that ... if we go with something that specific, in 20 years, people might not remember what that means. So we’ve tried to stay more general, [asking,] “What is the Internet itself in terms of how we as humans interact with it?”

Ryan: There’s a lot of comedy in this film. I’ve had the pleasure of seeing a few sequences, and I’m not saying this just because I’m sitting in front of you, but some of the funniest stuff I’ve ever seen in animation is in this film. Tell me about some of your favorite comedic sequences.

Clark: There’s one that takes place in the world of eBay ... To bring eBay to life, we thought, “What is the real-world equivalent? Well, it’s kind of like an auction house” ... We got a gentleman from Southern Illinois named Brian Curless, who’s a world-champion auctioneer. That’s actually a thing ... He’d never been further west than Colorado ... He came out here and recorded for the movie, and it was incredible ...

There’s another scene that’s in the world of [popular website] Oh My Disney ... and we go into a room with all of the [Disney] Princesses. When the idea was originally pitched, we thought, “Could we actually do this? At what point are we pushing the envelope too much for Disney storytelling?” And what was amazing was to see everybody embrace it ... Everyone looked at the [storyboarded] sequence and said, “It’s brilliant. Just go for it. Enjoy it. Have fun. Do it in a way that’s respectful and reverential to the Princesses themselves but also has some fun with the Internet versions of the characters ... That’s this nice, thin line we’ve been trying to carry with that sequence, and it’s definitely one of my favorites.

Ryan: One of the hallmarks of Disney animation is balancing all of that humor with heart. Where does the heart in this film come from?

Clark: It comes from the fact that, ultimately, we’re telling a story about two best friends who grew up in a small town – in this case the arcade – and who go to the big city (the Internet) ... One falls in love with it ... and the other only wants to go back to that small town with their best friend. In this film,

Dreaming Big

Aiming to break the Internet with inspiration, Disney is helping young women from across the globe create digital shorts telling the inspiring stories of female role models. Walt Disney Animation Studios Chief Creative Officer Jennifer Lee is among the influential interview subjects being paired with 21 talented young women from across the globe, whose “Dream Big, Princess” series of digital shorts will debut on social media platforms from Oct. 10-Nov. 20. For every “like” or “share” of a video or photo with the hashtag #DreamBigPrincess on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter during the campaign, Disney will donate a dollar to Girl Up, an initiative of the UN Foundation supporting girls’ leadership and empowerment. Disney has pledged to donate a minimum of \$500,000 and as much as \$1 million through the project. Scan this box with your smartphone’s QR code reader to enjoy a video in which Academy Award-winner Jennifer Lee shares her passion for this global initiative.



we’re really pushing their friendship ... [Vanelllope] has to choose between her best friend and this new world that opens up endless possibilities for her. I think that’s something that happens all the time. It’s a very universal idea for people who grow up in a small town and who see something bigger out there. They have to make a choice. Am I actually going to leave my family and friends and go explore something new and different? So it becomes very emotional as these two characters talk about the fact that they might not be together forever.

**Ralph Breaks the Internet
opens in U.S. theaters
on Nov. 21.**



Look for a series of short-format videos based on this conversation through *Disney Files On Demand*, an evolving array of Disney Vacation Club-produced video programs available for viewing anytime at disneyvacationclub.com/disneyfiles.



New Key West

Multiyear refurbishment project reaches the halfway point

Disney's Old Key West Resort: While the Disney Vacation Club Resort that started it all may draw inspiration from "Old" Key West, an ongoing renovation of its villas (the multiyear refurbishment project is crossing its halfway point as this edition of *Disney Files Magazine* hits the press) has the place feeling downright new.

Members checking into updated villas see an immediate change right below their feet, where laminate flooring has replaced the former pink tiles. From there, the sweeping changes bring new life to every living space within the multi-room villas.

Highlights of updated kitchens range from new stainless appliances to a new island housing a 55-inch TV and USB ports on the living room side, and open shelving on the kitchen side. Living room updates include everything from new wall colors and artwork to a new sofa bed and reupholstered chairs. (Like

hidden Mickeys? You'll love the living room's new area rug.)

Similar updates continue in the master bedroom, from reupholstered seating to new carpet, mattresses, window coverings and more. The master bedroom's armoire has undergone a dramatic transformation, becoming a lower-profile dresser topped with a new TV and more of those handy USB ports.

And you may not recognize the master bathroom, where everything but the refinished tub is brand new.

Updated Deluxe Studios, meanwhile, include new carpet, TVs, window coverings, artwork, platform beds (with convenient storage beneath the bed), kitchenette flooring and appliances, and brand-new bathrooms.

Plans call for refurbishment work to conclude in mid-2019.





Very Important Dates

While **disneyvacationclub.com** is your most comprehensive source for information about the veritable wonderland of Member gatherings, celebrations and other special events* on our community calendar (browse events, sort by destination and more on the site's Event Calendar, located under the Plan Vacations tab), *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to highlight a few of these very important dates. Check the aforementioned Event Calendar for details, updates, pricing, registration information and more.

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

Walt Disney World

- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Party, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Nov. 22: Disney Vacation Club Thanksgiving Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Dec. 13 Condominium Association Meeting: Watch disneyvacationclub.com for time and location details for the annual condominium association meeting for all condominium associations, now scheduled to take place on Dec. 13 at Walt Disney World Resort. Also note that, as part of its commitment to conservation, Disney Vacation Club offers Members the option of receiving email communications from their condominium association(s) instead of traditional mail. Simply update your contact preferences online at disneyvacationclub.com (look for the Condo Association News section within the My DVC Membership tab).
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Dec. 30: Disney Vacation Club New Year's Eve Eve Party, Disney's Contemporary Resort

Disneyland Resort

- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Party, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa
- Nov. 15: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney California Adventure Park (booking begins for all Members Oct. 4)
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa



Stay up to date at disneyvacationclub.com

Check the Event Calendar online at disneyvacationclub.com before your next vacation for details about a wide range of ongoing Member events at both Disneyland Resort and Walt Disney World Resort. Note that dates and details are subject to change.

MEMBERSHIP EXTRAS *part of*



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

Decorate your cake (and eat it too)

Cake Decorating Workshop joins the menu at Reunion Station

Walt Disney World Resort: Add cake-decorating to the list of sweet skills *Disney Files* staffers are adding to their resumes, thanks to a recent visit to Reunion Station at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.

One of several paid workshops available for booking by any eligible Member* (meaning you don't have to add Reunion Station lounge access to your vacation to book its workshops), the new Cake Decorating Workshop leads budding bakers through the process of decorating an edible, gluten-free masterpiece.

Offered a beverage upon arrival (while we were "working" and therefore opted for non-alcoholic beverages, others enjoyed sparkling wine) and seated with a treasure trove of trusty tools, we soon learned that Walt Disney's groundbreaking 1937 masterpiece *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* would inspire the color palette of our cake (design themes change throughout the year and are revealed at the workshop).

To help us resist the temptation of prematurely eating our work, Cast Members served sample slices of cake (glibly described by our instructor as being "like wedding cake but with flavor") for us to enjoy while we learned about the pastry chefs' backgrounds, the tools on our tables and the work of art we were about to create.

From there, we each received our own two-tier, fondant-covered cake (to keep the focus on decorating, no actual baking is required) and followed along as our instructor led us through the decorating process, inviting us to either mimic his design or make it our own. We customized fondant flowers, brushed our cakes with actual gold (we learned that gold at or above 22 carats is edible) and even molded accent apples. (Our Editor opted to leave off the apple, insisting that representing Snow White with the fruit through which she was poisoned is neither kind nor appetizing.)

And in the end, we walked away with our surprisingly attractive cakes boxed and bagged for our future enjoyment. (Tip: Getting your cake to air-conditioning or, even better, into your villa's fridge as quickly as possible is highly recommended, as fondant doesn't love Florida.)

Reunion Station offers a variety of workshops that explore everything from animation and phone photography to the art of savoring the kind of adult beverages the *Disney Files* staff had to politely decline while decorating cakes on the clock. While the Cake Decorating Workshop is priced at \$65 a person (inclusive of tax and gratuity), other workshops are priced as low as \$40 a person. Call Member Services to learn more about, and book, Reunion Station workshops available during your vacation.

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1





More perks in paradise

Expanded slate of Membership Magic offerings arrive on O'ahu

Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i: From discounts on experiences available to all Aulani guests to a special experience created with Members in mind, new waves of Membership Magic are washing onto the shores of O'ahu. Here's a look at some of the newest perks in paradise.*

Waterfront dining: Enjoy two perks at 'AMA'AMA, an oceanfront setting for Hawaiian cuisine. During lunch, enjoy a 10 percent Member discount (excluding alcohol, tax and gratuity), and for dinner, receive a special gift after your meal.

Interactive art experiences: Save 10 percent off select interactive art experiences, including the "'Ohana Painting Party," the "Canvas and Cocktails" experience and the "Kapala Ki'i T-Shirt Stamping" experience. To book the "'Ohana Painting Party" or "Canvas and Cocktails" experiences, call (808) 674-6200. The "Kapala Ki'i T-Shirt Stamping" experience is available for booking in person beginning at 8 a.m. on the day of the experience in the resort's Pau Hana Room.

Character meet and greet: Complimentary, hour-long character meet-and-greets for Members typically take place in the resort's Luana Lounge (next to the Pau Hana Room). No reservation required.

Take on the day: For many families, Aulani mornings begin with a visit to Kāwele Korner Elua (alongside the resort's Ka Maka Pool), the distribution location for pool-access wristbands, towels and lifejackets. Kāwele Korner Elua opens daily at 8 a.m., and during its first hour of operation, Members may visit a dedicated window for expedited service. Simply present your valid Membership Card (physical or digital) with your valid Key to Aulani room card.

Check the activity schedule in the *Daily 'Iwa* publication (available at convenient locations throughout the resort) to see what fun is in store during your vacation, and keep an eye out for additional Membership Magic experiences in the works for this island paradise.

*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 Tim Putich of California, Member since 1993.



Disney Files Magazine continues its salute to 90 years of Mickey Mouse by dedicating the fall edition's "My Disney Home" feature to a living space celebrating every decade of Mickey magic. A Mickey collector since 1970, Tim has turned multiple rooms of his Chino Hills home into a tribute to the Mouse and the art form that made him famous. Included among Tim's countless collectibles are theater seats from the Walt Disney Studios lot in Burbank, a vintage animator's desk and a Mickey Mouse notepad sheet signed by Walt Disney himself. Oh, and that Mickey head on the tile floor isn't a rug, but inlaid granite. It's a collection rivaling that of many museums, and it was all started by a mouse.



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. (Note: Including your email address with your submission allows us to follow up with any questions we may have about your creation.)

PICTURE THIS

Lovers of liquid space are increasingly vacationing in Portugal, where ocean water covers nearly 95 percent of the country. While you contemplate that surprising statistic, see if you can spot the seven things we've altered in this colorful photo of the Mediterranean hotspot. Visit disneyvacationclub.com to learn more about the thousands of World Collection exchange options at your fingertips, and remember that, **as part of Membership Magic, the \$95 transaction fee has been waived for World Collection exchange reservations made in 2018.***

*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities may require a fee (waived during promotional period) 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

(1) A tree has vanished from the upper-left of the image, (2) a puddle above the boat on the beach has grown larger, (3) a Mickey head has replaced the star at the bow of the beached boat, (4) a second bumper has joined that boat on the beach, (5) that boat has lost one of the anchor lines extending to the sea, (6) one of the two boats on the water has disappeared and (7) a tree has grown above the skyline in the upper-right of the image.

Downtown Disney District, Disneyland Resort:

Portland, Ore.-based ice cream company Salt & Straw, known for imaginative, small-batch ice creams made from organic, sustainable ingredients, is scheduled to open later this year in the Downtown Disney District at Disneyland Resort. Part of a Downtown Disney transformation project unfolding throughout 2018, the new location will build on its founders' passion for cultivating partnerships with local farmers and artisans.



Disney California Adventure Park: While thrilling attractions may steal the lamplight at the newly reimagined Pixar Pier, to the *Disney Files* staff, it's all about the food. At the Lamplight Lounge, discover everything from a carne asada roll with roasted Fresno chili salsa to potato skins with brown butter-caper yogurt, smoked paprika aioli and Manchego cheese. At kiosks along the pier, meanwhile, enjoy soft serve ice cream (including a non-dairy lemon option) at Adorable Snowman Frosted Treats; Jack-Jack Cookie Num Nums (warm chocolate-chip cookies) near the aforementioned Incredicoaster (where you'll also find the gluten-friendly IncrediCookie); fried chicken, smoked turkey legs and corn on the cob at the Poultry Palace;

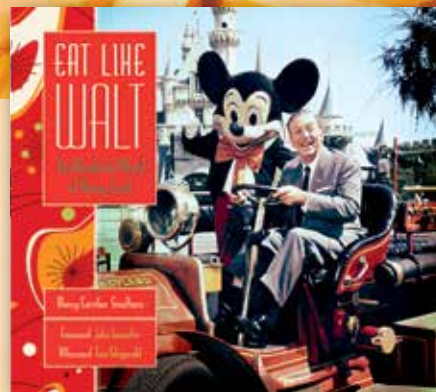
sweet Spanish treats at Señor Buzz Churros; spicy (and mild) hot dogs at Angry Dogs; and colorful confections at Bing Bong's Sweet Stuff.

Disney Springs, Walt Disney World Resort:

Described by the *New York Times* as an "unexpected culinary destination" as it listed the "must-see" places to travel in 2018, Disney Springs continues to expand its diverse menu of dining options. Among the new restaurants scheduled to join the Disney Springs dining slate by the end of this year is **Jaleo by Chef José Andrés**, a pioneer of Spanish tapas (small plates) in the United States and one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People." The multilevel, table-service restaurant will feature an extensive menu of tapas, in addition to such larger-portion entrees as paellas cooked over a wood fire and wood-grilled meats, including ibérico pork. Spanish-style sandwiches, meanwhile, will be available at the restaurant's grab-and-go storefront. Also scheduled to arrive later this year is the new **Wolfgang Puck Bar & Grill**, capturing the essence of the laid-back Californian dining experience in a setting inspired by traditional farmhouses. The menu will highlight the best of Wolfgang Puck's signature dishes with Mediterranean influences. These new additions will expand a culinary landscape that recently welcomed the quick-service **Chicken Guy!** (serving celebrity chef Guy Fieri's fresh chicken tenders, skewers, bowls and sandwiches with an epic array of sauce options) to a space adjacent to the Planet Hollywood Observatory and welcomed the **4R Cantina Barbacoa Food Truck** (serving taco cones, burrito bowls and other Mexico City-inspired dishes prepared using traditional barbacoa techniques) to the Marketplace. While the 4R food truck's Central Florida-based parent company closes its popular brick-and-mortar barbecue restaurants on Sundays, the truck operates seven days a week, donating its net proceeds from Sunday sales to The 4R Foundation, which in 2017 helped more than 950 local schools, churches and charitable organizations.



Macaroni Mickey Mousse



Disney Files Magazine continues its yearlong salute to Disney Editions' deliciously insightful new book *Eat Like Walt: The Wonderful World of Disney Food* by Marcy Carriker Smothers by sharing a "Macaroni Mickey Mousse" recipe ideally suited for "The World's Biggest Mouse Party." (Editor's note: that second "s" in "Mousse" isn't a typo. While the term "mousse" typically describes a dessert, it's also a term for a molded casserole, such as this mac-and-cheese recipe.) Inspired in part by late nights in Kansas City that found a young Walt Disney feeding bits of cheese from his midnight sandwich to the mice that scurried through his workspace, this humble dish became a staple at Walt's Hollywood home. Marcy notes in her book that, as "macaroni" was a generic term for "dried noodles" in Walt's day, it's unclear as to what type of "macaroni" Walt's cook used. Feel free to use elbow macaroni, short tubular pasta or spaghetti broken into 2-inch pieces (the latter of which is believed to have been Walt's approach). Keep an eye out for another recipe from Marcy's book in the winter edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, and look for *Eat Like Walt: The Wonderful World of Disney Food* wherever books are sold.

SERVES: 6

Ingredients:

1 cup dried pasta	1 tablespoon chopped onion
1 ½ cups milk	1 ½ cups grated cheese (cheddar or your favorite alternative)
1 cup breadcrumbs	1 teaspoon salt
¼ cup butter, melted	1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon minced pimiento (cherry pepper)	1 dash paprika
1 tablespoon chopped parsley	3 eggs, beaten

Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Boil the pasta in salted water for about 10 minutes.
3. Drain cooked pasta, cover with cold water and drain again. Set aside.
4. Scald the milk in the pasta pot over medium-low heat, stirring frequently. The milk is scalded once small bubbles begin to form around the edges of the pan but before the milk boils. Remove from heat.
5. Place bread crumbs in a large bowl and pour the scalded milk over the crumbs. Mix well.
6. Add the melted butter, pimiento, parsley, onion, grated cheese, salt, pepper and paprika to your breadcrumb-and-milk mix before folding in the beaten eggs.
7. Grease a loaf pan (shallow casserole pans make for a drier result). Pour cooked pasta into the loaf pan and cover with your cheese mixture.
8. Bake for 50 minutes or until firm.
9. Allow to cool before turning the loaf onto a platter and serving.

More tasty tidbits: Marcy shares in her book that Walt sometimes substituted the parsley for two teaspoons of finely chopped celery and added two strips of finely chopped, cooked bacon. The author also notes that, while this recipe doesn't appear to yield enough pasta for six people, the generous cheese sauce makes for hearty, filling servings.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

new or noteworthy in our magical community



Mickey's Tales of Adventure: Members and Guests dining at Storytellers Café at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa now join Mickey Mouse and some of his closest pals for Mickey's Tales of Adventure. Dressed for a day in the great outdoors, Mickey and friends welcome adventurers to a farmer's market-inspired buffet featuring made-to-order omelets, Mickey waffles, fresh-baked goods, seasonal fruit and more. Mickey's Tales of Adventure is available Monday through Thursday from 7-11:30 a.m. and Friday through Sunday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Hungry for more? Take a short stroll to Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel for Donald Duck's Seaside Breakfast at Disney's PCH Grill, where Donald, Daisy and Stitch host a buffet featuring build-your-own parfaits, signature flatbreads, egg white frittatas, smoothies and more. For these and other Disneyland dining reservations, call Member Services or visit Disneyland.com.

Run the Derby Dash: The weekly Derby Dash Run at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa builds on the resort's theme of health, history and horses

with a 1.44-mile run for participants of all fitness levels. Fruit and drinking water are provided to the derby's dashers, who also enjoy the use of towels and receive a commemorative completion medal. Call the resort's Community Hall at (407) 827-4589 for pricing and schedule details.

Digital key: All Disney Vacation Club Resorts at Walt Disney World Resort are scheduled to have added digital-key access by the time this magazine mails. Designed to make it easier than ever to enter your resort room, this new feature of the My Disney Experience app turns your mobile device into a key. For the ideal arrival experience, complete the app's online check-in process in advance. On arrival day, opt in and activate the digital key feature within the app. You'll receive notification when your room is ready, at which time you may bypass the front desk, tap the app's "Unlock Door" button and hold your device against the door lock. (If you need to pick up MagicBands at the front desk, you may do so whenever convenient.) The digital key also unlocks the resort entrance gate and other common areas requiring a key (which could include pool gates, fitness centers, elevators, lounges, etc.), offering a convenient alternative whenever you don't have your MagicBand handy.

'HI' style: Magical makeovers meet Hawai'i style at Painted Sky: HI Style Studio, a re-imagined retreat at Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i. Named in reference to the rainbows that frequently paint the Hawaiian sky, and designed for boys and girls ages 3-12, the 1,500 square-foot studio (formerly a teen spa) within the resort's Wai'anae Tower (a tower adorned with a 15-story bas relief image of the legendary demigod Maui) transforms visitors with everything from hairstyling and makeup (including temporary Polynesian tattoo options for boys) to clothing and accessories. Moana, whose wayfinding adventures in the

2016 Walt Disney Animation Studios film of the same name have inspired a variety of Painted Sky offerings, makes scheduled appearances just outside the studio. Learn more about available packages online at DisneyAulani.com before calling (808) 674-6300 for reservations.



Holding court: Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort has diversified its sports-and-recreation offerings by converting one of its two tennis courts to a full basketball court. No need to pack your racket, tennis balls or basketball, as Members may rent equipment free of charge from the resort's Community Hall.



Pardon our pixie dust: While the Uzima Springs Pool area near Jambo House at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge is closed for refurbishment this fall (the area is scheduled to reopen in December), the Samawati Springs Pool area remains open at the nearby Kidani Village. Meanwhile, Simba's Activity Center, located on the first floor of Jambo House, offers a variety of activities for all ages, from video games to arts and crafts, from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. daily during the Uzima Springs Pool area's downtime. (Please note that guests ages 11 or younger must be accompanied by an adult at Simba's Activity Center.)

Reunion Station reviews: Reviews are rolling in, and Reunion Station at Disney's Wilderness Lodge is being hailed as a "new Disney gem." Located in a reimagined railroad depot on the shores of Bay Lake, this new retreat for eligible Disney Vacation Club Members* serves as a private lounge with food and beverages by morning and evening, a center for special workshops and activities by day, and a private retreat by night. Among the first to experience – and among the many to praise – Reunion Station were Marty and Chris Jakubek of Ohio, Members since 1999, who said in a letter to *Disney Files Magazine* that the Reunion Station Cast, "made us feel like family from the moment we entered to the moment we had to return home. The inside stories, Disney details and the park history shared was priceless ... As more people discover this new Disney gem, we will be able to tell others we were among the first. It will sound like a tall tale as we share our exclusive experience with our family and friends." Length-of-stay private lounge access, inclusive of food and beverages, is available as an add-on option for entire travel parties of Members staying in any Disney Vacation Club accommodation type at Boulder Ridge Villas or Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge for \$50 a night for adults and \$33 plus tax a night for kids ages 3-9. A variety of paid, specially curated workshops, meanwhile, are available at prices starting at \$40 plus tax per person per class. Call Member Services for details and reservations, and see page 13 for details about Reunion Station's cake-decorating workshop.

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

SEA change

Unprecedented expansion underway at

TOKYO
DisneySEA®



New area inspired by *Frozen*

Artist renderings – proposed

Aerial view of planned expansion



New 475-room resort hotel



New area inspired by *Peter Pan*



New area inspired by *Tangled*



Tokyo Disney Resort: The fantasy worlds of *Frozen*, *Tangled* and *Peter Pan* will come to life like never before at Tokyo DisneySea in 2022.

Marking the largest expansion in Tokyo DisneySea history, the project will add an eighth port of call to a popular park that currently celebrates the myths and legends of the sea at Mediterranean Harbor, American Waterfront, Port Discovery, Lost River Delta, Arabian Coast, Mermaid Lagoon and Mysterious Island. The as-yet-unnamed new port will feature magical springs that lead guests into a world of Disney fantasy with four new attractions.

Guests will discover the kingdom of Arendelle after the events of Walt Disney Animation Studios' smash-hit *Frozen*. The story of Anna and Elsa will unfold through a song-filled boat voyage, while a restaurant welcomes diners inside those reopened castle gates.

Another voyage awaits in the forest home of the *Tangled* tower, where gondolas will lead guests on a romantic journey through Rapunzel's "best day ever" as she journeys with Flynn Rider to the lantern festival for a show-stopping finale. Dining awaits in a nearby restaurant inspired by the Snuggly Duckling, favorite hideout of thugs with a dream.

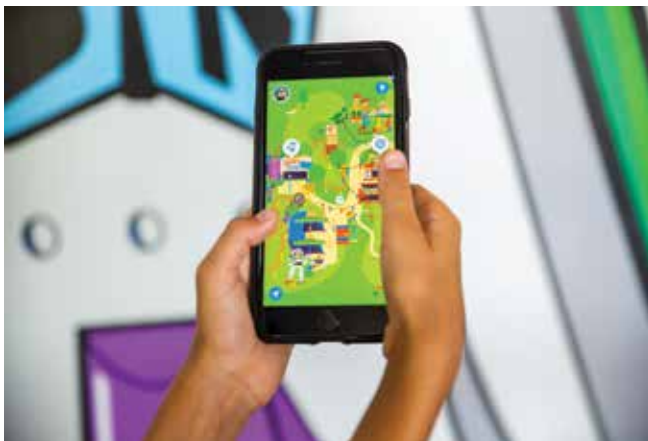
In the world of *Peter Pan*, guests will find Captain Hook's pirate ship, Skull Rock and a marquee attraction that will have them soaring with Peter over the jungles of Never Land to battle Captain Hook and rescue Wendy's brother John. A second attraction will immerse guests in Pixie Hollow, home to Tinker Bell and her fairy friends.

Rising above and around this new port of call will be a new, 475-room resort hotel featuring two restaurants, a merchandise shop and the most luxurious accommodations ever developed at Tokyo Disney Resort.

The Tokyo DisneySea expansion project, coupled with the ongoing developments within nearby Tokyo Disneyland Park (including the previously reported *Beauty and the Beast*-inspired area and *Big Hero 6* attraction), coincide with a 30-year extension of the licensing agreement between The Walt Disney Company and Oriental Land Co., Ltd, moving the agreement's expiration date from 2046 to 2076.

BUZZWORTHY

8 STORIES • 2 PAGES • 1 SPACE RANGER



▲ Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resort:

Download the "Play Disney Parks" app, a new mobile app now available through the App Store and Google Play, to enjoy enhanced layers of storytelling, interactivity and game play during your Disneyland and Walt Disney World vacation. Turning wait times into play times, the app unlocks exclusive games and activities in select attraction queues (to be enjoyed individually or as a group), shares hidden secrets and fun facts, rewards experiences both in the app and in the parks with digital collectibles, uses advanced technology to trigger and control special effects within select in-park environments, and more.

Walt Disney World Resort: The "dead pan" Cadaver Dans Barbershop Quartet in Frontierland and the *Hocus Pocus* Villain Spectacular at Cinderella Castle are among the unique entertainment acts materializing at Magic Kingdom Park for Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party on select nights through Oct. 31. This after-hours, specially ticketed tradition finds guests trick-or-treating through the park and enjoying festively fall entertainment, including the Happy HalloWishes Fireworks spectacular and the Boo-to-You Halloween Parade. (Trip Tip: As part of

Membership Magic, Members attending Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party on any 2018 date may present their party ticket and valid Membership Card at the front gate to enter the park and get a jump start on the fun as early as 2 p.m.*) Looking ahead to winter, Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party will spread holiday cheer at Magic Kingdom Park on select nights from Nov. 8-Dec. 21. Guests will dance at Club Tinsel, enjoy "A Totally Tomorrowland Christmas," see Cinderella Castle transformed into an icy palace during "A Frozen Holiday Wish," take in the Once Upon a Christmastime Parade and more. Both holiday parties feature shorter-than-usual wait times on some of the park's most popular attractions. Visit disneyvacationclub.com (My DVC Membership, Member Benefits & More) for details about Member discounts available on select nights*.

Walt Disney World Resort: The "Disney Junior Dance Party!," a live show already popular at Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim, expands to the Sunshine State this fall as it replaces the recently closed "Disney Junior – Live on Stage!" show at Disney's Hollywood Studios. Designed to get young Disney Junior fans on their feet and engaged in the action, the high-energy show takes inspiration from such hit Disney Junior series as "Mickey and the Roadster Racers," "Doc McStuffins," "The Lion Guard" and "Vampirina."

Walt Disney World Resort: The first Club 33 locations at Walt Disney World Resort are available to Club 33 Members! Each of these uniquely designed areas is reflective of Walt and his adventures. Spotlight Lounge at Disney's Hollywood Studios is a nod to adventures in movie making. At Epcot, Members at Constellation Club feel as though they've stepped aboard a luxury cruise liner. Magic Kingdom Park will be home to

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1

Captain's Quarters, showcasing distinctive sea-faring vessels. Next year, Members will experience Harambe House, inspired by Walt's love of nature and perfectly suited for Disney's Animal Kingdom. Should you wish to express interest in Membership, contact Club33@waltdisneyworld.com



▲ **Walt Disney World Resort:** Lightning McQueen's Racing Academy will put Disney's Hollywood Studios guests in the middle of the world of Disney-Pixar's *Cars* beginning in early 2019. Appropriately located near the high-octane Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, this first-of-its-kind show will find McQueen inspiring the next generation of rookie racers with trusted friends at his side, including Tow Mater, Cruz Ramirez and the gang from Radiator Springs. In the grand theme park tradition, things won't go *entirely* as planned.

Walt Disney World Resort: Among the many Walt Disney World locations celebrating fall and winter holidays in distinctive fashion is Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground, where the Halloween season's "Return to Sleepy Hollow" experience (select nights through Oct. 31) includes a screening of 1949's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* inside the Tri-Circle-D Ranch stables, a new dessert party, sightings of galloping ghosts and an up-close encounter with the Headless Horseman. As fall turns to winter, the good folks at the Fort offer cozy Holiday "Sleigh" Rides, with festively adorned, horse-drawn carriages departing the Crockett's Tavern area for 25-minutes rides through the woods. Call Member Services for reservations.

Walt Disney World Resort: Visiting this year's Epcot International Food & Wine Festival with kids? The festival features fantastic finds for future foodies. (Even that sentence is fun for kids!) Beyond the kid-approved foods at many Global Marketplaces and the return of "Remy's Ratatouille Hide & Squeak" scavenger hunt, this year's festival debuts a variety of new offerings for the younger set. Among the new options included with Epcot admission are a new playground inspired by Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, the Disney Du Jour Dance Party on Friday nights and Saturday nights, a pancake-decorating activity for kids on Sundays at 11 a.m. in the Festival Center's Junior Chef Kitchen and candy-sushi rolling twice daily at Sunshine Seasons in The Land pavilion (inspired by the success of a candy-sushi experience tested previously by Disney Vacation Club Members). To learn more about this year's Epcot International Food & Wine Festival, now underway through Nov. 12, visit TasteEpcot.com.



©Disney/Pixar

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort: Jungle Junction, a new, Pacific Islands-themed outdoor entertainment venue in Adventureland at Hong Kong Disneyland Park, is now home to "Moana: A Homecoming Celebration." Inspired by Walt Disney Animation Studios' Academy Award-nominated *Moana*, the 20-minute atmospheric stage show uses visual storytelling, dancing, puppetry and music to recount the title character's epic adventures with the demigod Maui. Guests become part of the interactive show, playing drums, dramatizing the attack of the Kakamora pirates, moving like ocean waves to guide Moana on her journey and cheering Maui on his quest to help Moana. The show is the first new entertainment offering to debut as part of the park's multi-year expansion, scheduled to continue through 2023. (Trip Tip: When calling Member Services to book your Hong Kong Disneyland vacation, be sure to ask about a limited-time offer* that allows Members to stay three consecutive nights for the price of two** at any of the three Hong Kong Disneyland Resort hotels through March 29, 2019.)

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1

**Terms apply. Visit disneyvacationclub.com for details.



Walt Disney's "Nine Old Men" (from left, Woolie, Milt, Les, Marc, Ward, Eric, Frank, John and Ollie) pose for a publicity shot during the production of *Robin Hood*.



Disney Files Magazine is honored to feature the insightful perspectives of legendary filmmaker Don Hahn (*Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*). A multi-time Member Cruise presenter and longtime friend to Disney Vacation Club, Don recently curated the special exhibition *Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation*, which runs through Jan. 7, 2019 at the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco. In this installment of his recurring *Disney Files* column, Don celebrates the lives and legacies of these nine extraordinary artists.

THE AGELESS LEGACY OF "Nine Old Men"

By Don Hahn

If you paid attention during American-history class, the phrase "Nine Old Men" might ring a bell as the moniker that President Franklin Roosevelt gave to his aging and cantankerous Supreme Court Justices who repeatedly rejected his "New Deal" ideas during the Great Depression.

With tongue placed firmly in cheek, Walt assigned the same name to his lead animators, his "Nine Old Men." The name stuck, and these nine — Les Clark, Marc Davis, Ollie Johnston, Milt Kahl, Ward Kimball, Eric Larson, John Lounsbery, Wolfgang Reitherman and Frank Thomas — became Walt's dream team who, with their colleagues, took Disney Animation to meteoric

heights. You might say they transformed the art of animation in the same way that Van Gogh, Monet and Degas transformed painting. Each has an inspiring personal story too.

Les Clark had just graduated Venice High School when he was working at an ice cream counter that Walt and Roy frequented. Walt liked his drawings and hired him as a trainee in animation. Les was a master Mickey Mouse animator and later a director whose career spanned 40 years with Walt.

Frank and Ollie were Stanford classmates and friends for life, even building houses next to each other in suburban L.A. The two were truly actors



with a pencil, animating on *Bambi*, *Pinocchio*, *Lady and the Tramp* (Frank did the spaghetti-eating scene), *Peter Pan* (Frank did Captain Hook, Ollie animated his sidekick Smee), *The Jungle Book* (Ollie animated Baloo) and more. Their book *Disney Animation: The Illusion of Life* is still the animation bible for budding animators.

Wolfgang "Woolie" Reitherman, was born in Munich, Germany, and came to America as a child. After studying fine art at Chouinard Art Institute, he joined Disney in 1934. His animation — the dinosaur battle in *Fantasia*, Monstro the whale in *Pinocchio*, the clash between Prince Phillip and the dragon in *Sleeping Beauty* — mirrored the way he lived his life: full of vitality and power. He soon emerged as a natural leader, producing and

directing films like *The Aristocats*, *The Jungle Book* and *101 Dalmatians*. After Walt's death in 1966, Woolie was a galvanizing force in animation, balancing fragile egos, and pushing to recruit and train new talent into the studio.

Eric Larson animated Geppetto's feisty cat Figaro in *Pinocchio*, and *Lady and the Tramp*'s canine chanteuse Peg (voiced by Peggy Lee), but perhaps his biggest legacy was that of mentor to a new generation of artists, many of whom are leaders in today's animation industry.

Ward Kimball was a force of nature. "A genius," Walt said. He played trombone in the studio band, which morphed into the chart-topping Dixieland band *The Firehouse Five + 2*. His animation of Jiminy Cricket is iconic. In the 1950s, he worked



Eric Larsen, center, works with animation trainees in the late 1970s. At far left is Chris Buck, who would go on to direct the box office smash *Frozen* with Jennifer Lee.



with rocket scientist Wernher von Braun directing television shows about space travel for the "Disneyland" TV show. And he loved trains, a passion shared with his boss, Walt. In fact, in 1948, he traveled with Walt to the Chicago Railroad Fair. At home, he had an unbelievable collection of model trains, an antique fire engine, and a full size locomotive, the Emma Nevada, on 900 feet of narrow gauge track in his backyard which he dubbed the Grizzly Flats Railroad.

Milt and Marc were good friends and arguably the best draftsmen in the studio. Milt was the most outspoken of the nine, with exacting standards and a temperament that didn't suffer fools. His characters — Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book* and Madame Medusa in *The Rescuers*, for example — are masterworks of animation.

Marc spent years animating dynamic Disney women like Maleficent, Cruella de Vil and Tinker Bell. Then, in the mid '60s, Walt drafted him into Imagineering, where he designed major Disneyland additions like *The Haunted Mansion* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. He traveled extensively and had a special love for Oceanic art, which he collected

with his wife and fellow Disney Legend, Alice.

John Lounsbery was raised in Colorado and trained at Art Center in Pasadena, Calif., before joining Disney in 1935. He quickly became a directing animator, creating characters like Honest John from *Pinocchio*, faithful Timothy the mouse in *Dumbo* and the accordion-playing Tony the chef from *Lady and the Tramp*. One of John's all-time personal favorites was the bold and dashing Ben Ali, the dancing alligator, from the "Dance of the Hours" sequence of *Fantasia*. He loved the old west and went home every night to tend to his horses on his ranch in the west San Fernando Valley.

I was lucky to know most of these guys personally, and what always inspires me, beyond their exquisite animation, is the expansive lives they led. These were brilliant artists who were deeply committed to Walt, but equally committed to their music, trains, painting, fly fishing, travel and any activity that would inspire their curiosity.

I marvel at Les Clark's sensitive oil paintings and Frank Thomas' masterful jazz piano skills. Milt drove exotic cars and designed flies for fishing.



Frank Thomas, left, mentors animator Ron Clements, who would go on to direct, with John Musker, such classics as *The Little Mermaid*, *Hercules* and *Moana*.



From left, Milt, Marc, Frank and Walt study Ollie's drawing in this 1957 publicity photo.



Marc was a prolific painter and filled dozens of travel sketchbooks. John's beloved ranch burned to the ground during the 1970 Malibu fire. Undaunted, he rebuilt it better than ever. Woolie earned a Distinguished Flying Cross as an Air Force pilot in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Inspiring, indeed.

Like any group of artists, it wasn't always paradise. There was jealousy and competitiveness at times, and the work was stressful and long. Yet they wanted the best for their audience and stayed at the studio well beyond 40 years pursuing that goal. As Frank said, "This place was too unique, too wonderful, too different. I wouldn't be happy if

I had missed out on this experience."

They were a once-in-a-generation winning team, and their genius has helped us all live happily ever after.

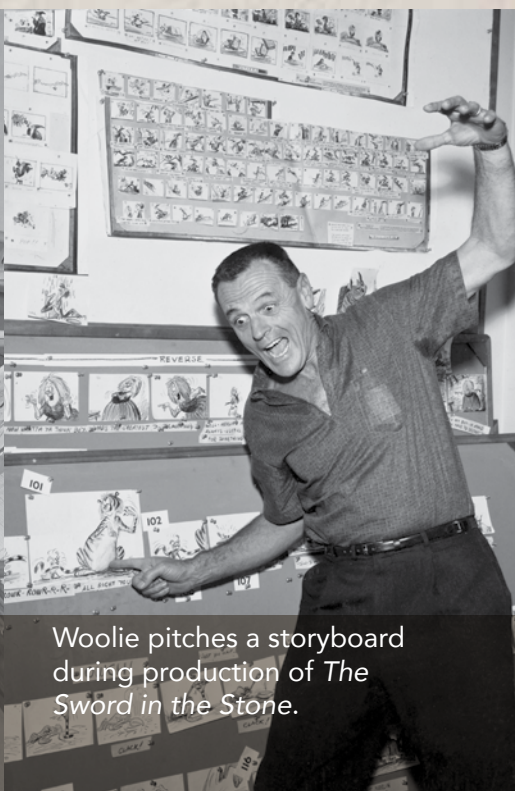


Visit waltdisney.org to learn more about the Don Hahn-curated **Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation** exhibit, on display at the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco through Jan. 7, 2019.

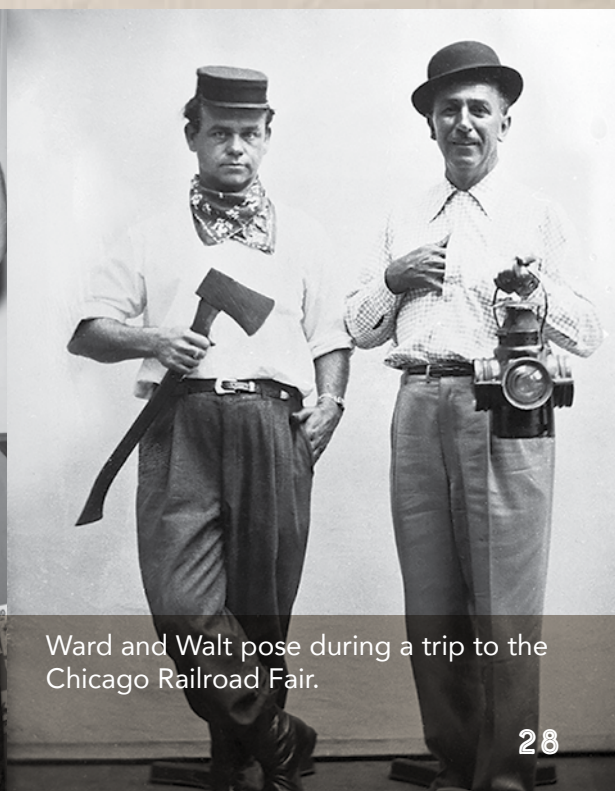
Trip Tip: A limited number of copies of the book *Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation* are available to Disney Vacation Club Members at a 10 percent discount at the Walt Disney Family Museum gift shop through Jan. 7, 2019. Simply present your valid Membership Card and photo ID at checkout. To order the book online (waltdisney.org), enter code DVC10 at checkout while discounted supplies last.



John discusses a scene from *Fantasia* with conductor Maestro Leopold Stokowski.



Woolie pitches a storyboard during production of *The Sword in the Stone*.

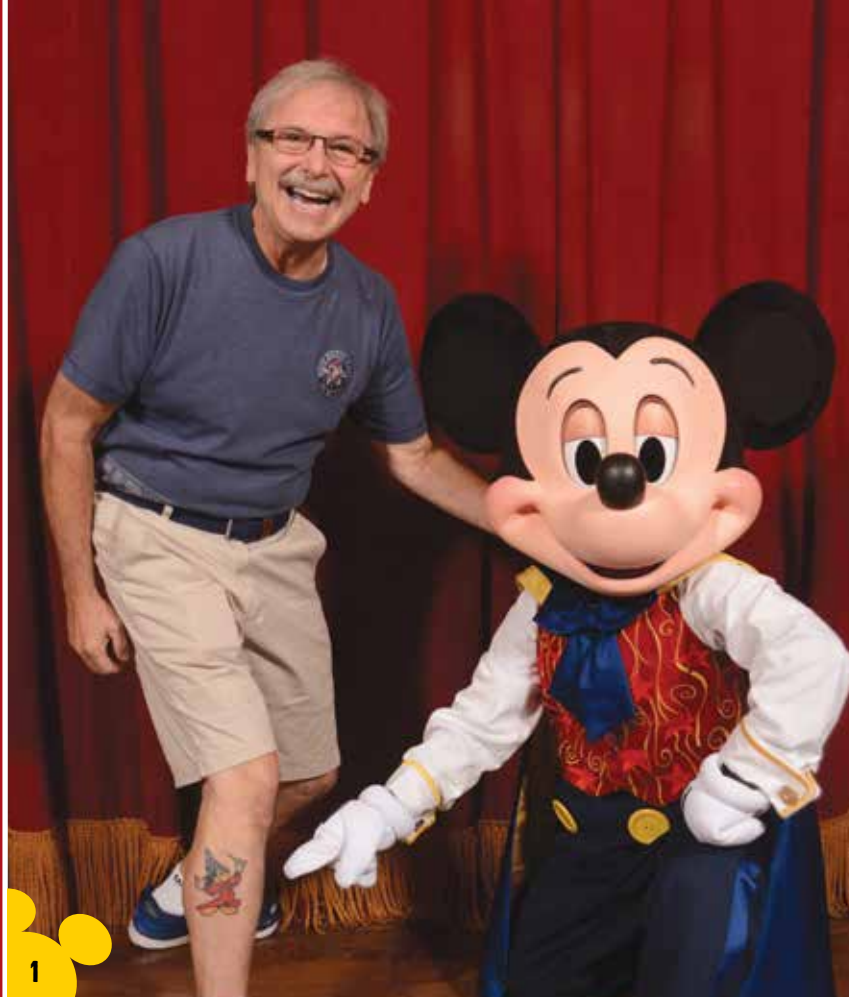


Ward and Walt pose during a trip to the Chicago Railroad Fair.



1. Birthday boy Mickey Mouse finds his likeness on the inked-and-painted leg of New Yorker Terry, Member since 1992.
2. Siblings Tiffany and Tyler of Maine, Members since 1991, read the news on camelback in Tangier, Morocco.
3. Amanda of Florida, Member since 2000, takes a moment during her wedding reception to have her childhood autograph book signed by her favorite mouse.
4. Young Braylon of Tennessee, whose grandparents have been Members since 1994, experiences a (magical?) milestone.
5. One little spark of inspiration is at the heart of Halloween costume creation in New Jersey, where Dreamfinder Jeff, Member since 2007, and adorable young Figment Georgie do some reading before trick-or-treating.
6. Teagan of Illinois, part of a Member family since 2017, puts our spring 2018 cover story to the test at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.
7. Kakamora take a break from tormenting Moana to sail to Canada, suiting up with the Halloween pumpkins of the Gallagher family, Members since 2008.
8. Freed from the torment of the Kakamora, Moana does some light reading with the Ai family of California, Members since 2012.
9. Coach Skip of Florida, Member since 1996, continues his offseason reading well into the start of football season.
10. Avery, whose New York parents have been Members since 2008, is thrilled by the Pixar Play Parade, part of this summer's Pixar Fest at Disneyland Resort.

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.





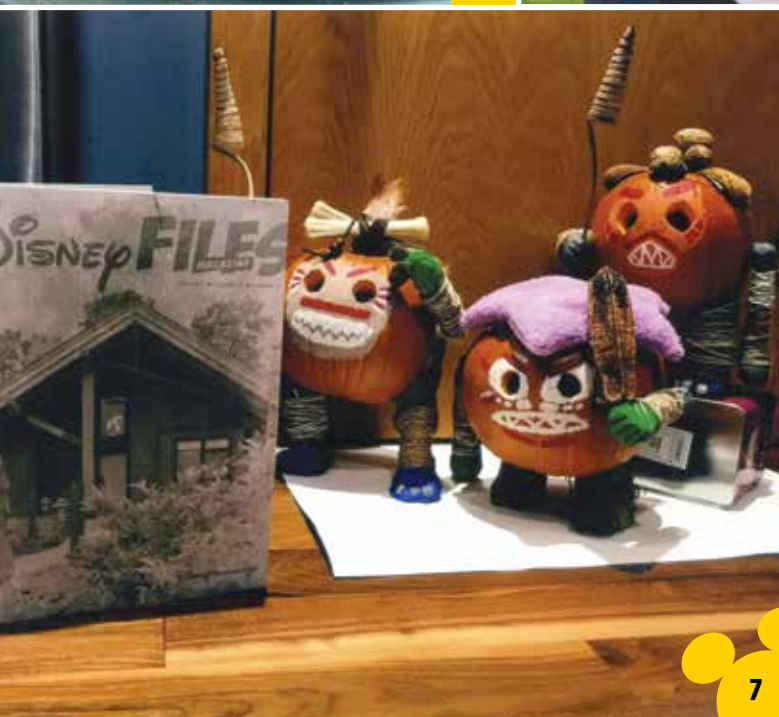
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— Stay —
MAGICAL
year after year



Disney Vacation Club®

"All we ever intended for
[Mickey] or expected of him
was that he should continue
to make people everywhere
chuckle with him and at him."

— Walt Disney

