

PLAYHOUSE DISNEY LIVE

When you visit the Hollywood Pictures Backlot at Yester California Adventure, your family might want to see famous television celebrities. If it's 2003 and your children are between two and six years old, Bear, Olie, and Stanley are just about the biggest celebrities imaginable. So head over to Playhouse Disney – Live on Stage!



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Playhouse Disney - Live on Stage sign



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

"Imagine and Learn" sign at *Playhouse Disney - Live on Stage*

At the Hollywood Pictures Backlot, Hollywood Boulevard is a street of façades echoing the Golden Age of Hollywood. The signs here make no effort to capture that era—but children aged two-to-six don't care.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Billboard atop the building



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Streamline Moderne home of *Playhouse Disney - Live on Stage!*



Outside queue

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005



Video monitors along the queue line

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

If you don't know who these characters are, watch the monitors in the queue to be introduced to them. Or rely on a press release as a cheat sheet:

"Playhouse Disney" features Disney-quality entertainment that delights and encourages kids to learn through fun, imaginative and creative play:

"Rolie Polie Olie" — This Emmy award-winning series chronicles the touching and sometimes hilarious world of Olie, a six-year-old robot boy who lives with his family in a magical, all-robot world.

"Stanley" — The newest original series on the "Playhouse Disney" block, Stanley takes guests into the life of a very curious little boy with a passion for facts, who searches the animal world for clues about how things work.

Jim Henson's "Bear in the Big Blue House" — Bear, the seven-foot-tall, warm, friendly and understanding host invites the audience into his Big Blue House every day to play, learn, sing and dance with his friends in this Emmy- and Parents Choice Award-winning television series.

The line is moving. It's time to go inside.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Theater and the Big Blue House

There are no theater seats. Grab a spot on the carpeted floor. It holds 550 people. If sitting on the floor among hundreds of young children and their parents is not your idea of a good time, there are a few benches against the back wall. Once the show starts, many in the audience will be on their feet anyway.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Bear and Jamie

It's not just a fun-filled musical revue; it's also an interactive experience. Bear, Olie, Stanley and a bunch of their Playhouse Disney friends invite children to sing and dance with them in their new stage show. Where else can you do the "Bear Cha Cha Cha" in public?



Bear and puppet friends

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003



Rotie Polie Olie

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Jamie, the show's human host—who could be a man or woman depending on which performance you attend—reads from a giant storybook, with chapters featuring characters from various Playhouse Disney shows, each teaching the importance of friendship.

Pooh, Eeyore, and Piglet are in the show too.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Luna and Bear

After more than 20 minutes, the show ends with Luna, the giant moon, leading a group sing-along of "The Goodbye Song."



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Stanley

When the show is over, head next door. Perhaps Stanley or one of the other characters will be signing autographs outside the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired bathrooms.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

At night

It's late. The shows are over for today. Look up into the nighttime sky. You might see Luna up there.

Playhouse Disney – Live on Stage! premiered at Disney's California Adventure (now Disney California Adventure) on April 11, 2003, using the space that had been the short-lived ABC Soap Opera Bistro from February 2001 to November 2002.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Transformation from ABC Soap Opera Bistro

Modeled after the successful Playhouse Disney – Live on Stage! at Disney-MGM Studios (now Disney's Hollywood Studios) Park in Florida, the California edition simultaneously addressed two of the new park's early problems: too many restaurants and too little to do for families with young children.

The revue initially highlighted three popular series from the Disney Channel's Playhouse Disney pre-schooler programming block: Jim Henson's *Bear in the Big Blue House* (1997–2006), and *Rolie Polie Olie* (1998–2007), and *Stanley* (2001–2008).

As the Disney Channel updated its pre-school-age programming, new editions of the show featured newer programs, such as *JoJo's Circus* and *My Friends Tigger and Pooh*.

The final performance of *Playhouse Disney – Live on Stage!* at Disney California Adventure was Sunday, January 23, 2010. At that time, the show featured characters from *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse*, *Handy Manny*, and *Little Einsteins*.

But it would soon be back under a new name.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Now Disney Junior - Live on Stage!

The Disney Channel's Playhouse Disney block was rebranded as Disney Junior on February 14, 2011. On March 24, 2011, the show at Disney California Adventure officially reopened from a refurbishment as *Disney Junior – Live on Stage!*, joined by characters from the then-new hit TV show, *Jake and the Never Land Pirates*

Even guests who were not interested in the show benefited from the change: The new exterior signs were more appropriate to the period of the boulevard than the garish *Playhouse Disney – Live on Stage!* and “Imagine and Learn” signs.

The 2014 version of *Disney Junior – Live on Stage!* features *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse*, *Sofia the First*, *Doc McStuffins*, and *Jake and the Never Land Pirates*.

Just as there are always new pre-schoolers, there are always new TV shows for them from Disney.

HOLLYWOOD & DINE



It may look like a soundstage, but it's a counter-service restaurant.

Hungry? Welcome to Hollywood & Dine! Here's your opportunity to dine in a Hollywood soundstage building that takes you back to some of the legendary eateries from the Golden Age of Hollywood.



You're not just at a food court; you're in the movies at the Hollywood & Dine.

Well, this is a food court, but it isn't an ordinary food court. You'll choose your meal from four distinctly different counters, each based on a historic Hollywood eatery—places at which Hollywood stars liked to unwind when they weren't in front of a movie camera.



Don the Beachcomber serves Chinese food at the Hollywood & Dine.

From left to right, the first of the four counters is Don the Beachcomber. Create your own Pacific Rim Combo for \$8.99 by choosing two items from the menu board: caramelized chicken, orange peel chicken, kung pao chicken, Schezwan beef, beef and broccoli, and vegetarian egg roll. Not that hungry? Just order a single vegetarian egg roll for \$4.29.

The real Don the Beachcomber restaurant is credited with launching the Polynesian (or “tiki”) lounge fad that swept the U.S. mainland in the 1940s and 1950s, although rival Trader Vic’s also gets some of the credit. Former bootlegger Donn Beach (1907-1989), who was born Ernest Raymond Beaumont Gantt, opened a bar called Don’s Beachcomber on Hollywood in 1934. Then, in 1937, he opened his first Don the Beachcomber restaurant across the street from the bar. The Cantonese food was considered exotic at the time, but the restaurant’s real fame came from the tropical rum drinks that Don the Beachcomber introduced, such as the Zombie, Beachcomber’s Gold, Missionary’s Downfall, and Navy Grog. Don the Beachcomber and Trader Vic’s both claimed to have invented the Mai Tai, the most famous tropical drink of all.

Alas, there are no tropical rum drinks at the Hollywood & Dine version.

Your next choice is the Wilshire Bowl, specializing in burgers and chicken sandwiches. Try the cheddar & bacon burger for \$6.79, complete with fries. For a chicken sandwich, take your pick of crispy or grilled; either way, it’s \$6.49 including fries.

The design of the Wilshire Bowl is based on the Wilshire Bowl nightclub—not a bowling alley, despite the name—which opened in the 1930s at 5655 Wilshire Boulevard on Los Angeles’s Miracle Mile. Jack Benny often mentioned the Wilshire Bowl during his popular radio show. In 1943, boxing champion and actor Max “Slapsie Maxie” Rosenbloom (1904-1976) turned the striking art deco building into Slapsy Maxie’s, one of the top nightclubs in the city.



The Wilshire Bowl at the Hollywood & Dine is the place to get burgers.



Villa Capri at Hollywood & Dine resembles the Hollywood original.

How about a gourmet pizza? Perhaps with a salad? Choose from four-cheese, pepperoni, vegetable, or BBQ chicken pizza. The prices range from \$5.19 to \$5.69 for an individual pizza. Add a side caesar salad for \$3.29. Or make a meal of a grilled chicken Caesar salad for \$8.29 or an antipasto salad \$7.99.

The actual Villa Capri restaurant opened in 1957 at 6735 Yucca Street in Hollywood, just around the corner from the first Don the Beachcomber. Co-owned by Frank Sinatra, the restaurant featured Italian specialties. After a quarter century of catering to celebrities, Villa Capri closed in 1982. The building that housed the Villa Capri was torn down in August 2005, despite efforts by preservations.



The people behind the counter are sandwich makers, not pharmacists.

There's one more counter. Schwab's Pharmacy serves soups, traditional deli sandwiches, and side salads. Start with chicken noodle soup or corn bisque for \$3.99. Choose one of the traditional sandwiches: roast beef, tuna salad, California club, ham & turkey, or pastrami. Sandwiches are \$7.49 or \$8.99. Add a side for \$1.79 potato salad, cole slaw, cucumber salad, or pasta salad for \$1.79.

The real Schwab's at 8024 Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood is most famous for the legend that Lana Turner was discovered sipping a Coke at Schwab's and quickly signed to a movie contract. It doesn't matter that Hollywood High School teenager Lana Turner was actually discovered at Hollywood's Top Hat Cafe. Schwab's remains the drug store of legend. However, movie moguls and movie stars really did sit at the counter of the conveniently located Schwab's Drug Store for coffee, light meals, and ice cream. Schwab's closed in 1983 and the building was torn down in 1988.

Take your food to a cash register.

You can sit at an ordinary table if you wish, but there are better choices.



Its time to pay.



There's never a problem finding a table at Hollywood & Dine.



To keep the atmosphere going, sit in a Zebra Room booth.

Look for the tables and booths that capture the look of famed restaurants and nightclubs such as Ciro's, the Victor Hugo Restaurant, the Zebra Room, and Don the Beachcomber.



The Victor Hugo Restaurant decor offers opulence fit for French royalty.



There's also plenty of seating outside.

If it's a nice day, you may want to take your tray outside. Take a look at Hollywood of the Future mural against the wall.



Fantasia 2460 is playing at the Skyplex.

The mural seems out-of-place on the wall of Hollywood & Dine, but there must be a good reason for it, right?



A studio runner appears to have abandoned his utility bicycle.

The movie studio theme doesn't end outside the Hollywood & Dine, although the theme of legendary restaurants is only inside.



Random movie props are lined up outside.

When Disney's California Adventure opened to the public on February 8, 2001, the Hollywood & Dine food court was ready to serve the masses.

The masses never showed up.

Disney's California Adventure had too many places to eat and too few guests. Hollywood & Dine was stuck in a dead corner of the park beyond the poorly received Superstar Limo attraction. The \$8.49 tuna salad sandwiches and \$4.29 vegetarian egg rolls didn't do anything to generate "you gotta go there" word-of-mouth.

The theme didn't try to take guests back to the Golden Age of Hollywood. Instead, the theme was supposed to be a contemporary movie studio that happened to be making a movie about the Golden Age of Hollywood. But the "sets" didn't look like real movie sets that would be believable in a real movie. So Hollywood & Dine wasn't convincing on either level.

Within the park's first year, guests found Hollywood & Dine locked—a victim of some of earliest cost cuts at Disney's California Adventure. At some point, the temporary closing became permanent. The sign remained in the front of the building into 2005.

In late 2005, when the Hollywood Studios Backlot was fixed up for the opening of Monsters, Inc.: Mike & Sulley to the Rescue!, Disney's California Adventure finally made Hollywood & Dine look like a studio building in the background, instead of a shuttered restaurant.

Would you still like to have dinner at Hollywood & Dine? You can—and you can invite hundreds of your friends, co-workers, or customers. The former public food court is now available for private functions. According to the Disneyland Meetings website, "Your custom event may include our theme dining location, Hollywood & Dine."



Hollywood & Dine, as it looked in 2001 and 2002.



The former Hollywood & Dine in 2006, after "placemaking."

TWILIGHT ZONE TOWER OF TOWER

COMING IN 2004!



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002
Celebrating the first birthday of the new park, February 8, 2002

It's February 8, 2002 at Disney's California Adventure theme park. The park had its grand opening exactly one year ago.

It's not a secret that the new park has not met its business expectations. The national economy has been weak. The 9/11 terrorist attacks occurred when the park had been open seven months, putting the brakes on leisure travel. But the real problem is the park itself. Guests continue to pour into Disneyland Park in far greater numbers than into its baby brother across the Esplanade.

Executives have made quick fixes, such as bringing the beloved Main Street Electrical Parade to the underachieving park as Disney's Electrical Parade. What this park needs now is more attractions—including at least one of "E" ticket caliber.



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002
Cynthia Harriss making announcements on February 8, 2002

There's a First Birthday press event today—with news of expansion plans.

Cynthia Harriss, President of the Disneyland Resort, is announcing two major additions to the new park. The first will be "A Bug's Land" featuring "Flik's Fun Fair," opening fall 2002 for "the young and the young-at-heart." The other will be a proven crowd-pleaser from Florida.

A Disney press release today includes these details:

Also coming to Disney's California Adventure, in the Hollywood Pictures Backlot area, is "The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror," a California version of the chilling and thrilling supernatural adventure which has proven wildly popular at Disney-MGM Studios at Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

Inspired by Rod Serling's *The Twilight Zone*, the attraction is set within the spooky halls of the desolate Hollywood Tower Hotel. Guests are invited to retrace the steps of five previous visitors who disappeared "one dark and stormy night." An elevator ride up into the Hollywood Tower is filled with strange apparitions and unsettling sounds, climaxing in a precipitous drop of... could it be 13 stories?

"The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror" will open in 2004 in Hollywood Pictures Backlot at Disney's California Adventure.

For those who have been paying attention, it's old news.



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

Tower of Terror artwork at the press event, February 8, 2002



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001

Timon lot on October 5, 2001



Timon lot on December 22, 2001

Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001



Site on January 18, 2002 (looking south from the Hyperion Theatre)

Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

After all, the northern tip of the Timon parking has been blocked off since September 2001. What had been asphalt is now bare dirt. Site preparation is underway.

The Orange County Register even wrote about it on September 21, 2001:

Disney has started construction on a Tower of Terror ride at its new California Adventure theme park. The ride is like the popular Twilight Zone Tower of Terror ride at Disney World in Florida, built in 1994. However, because of the terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Center towers last week, the Anaheim version of the ride will be called something different. According to Disney watchers, construction is under way.

But that was back in September 2001. With the official announcement today, we know it will be The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror after all.

This should be a popular attraction for many decades to come. The rest of this article consists of selected photos from various angles showing how the attraction became a reality.



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

Steel framework on September 1, 2002



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

More extensive framework on October 16, 2002



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

On the second birthday of Disney's California Adventure, February 8, 2003



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

Working on the skin, March 29, 2003

Yesterland

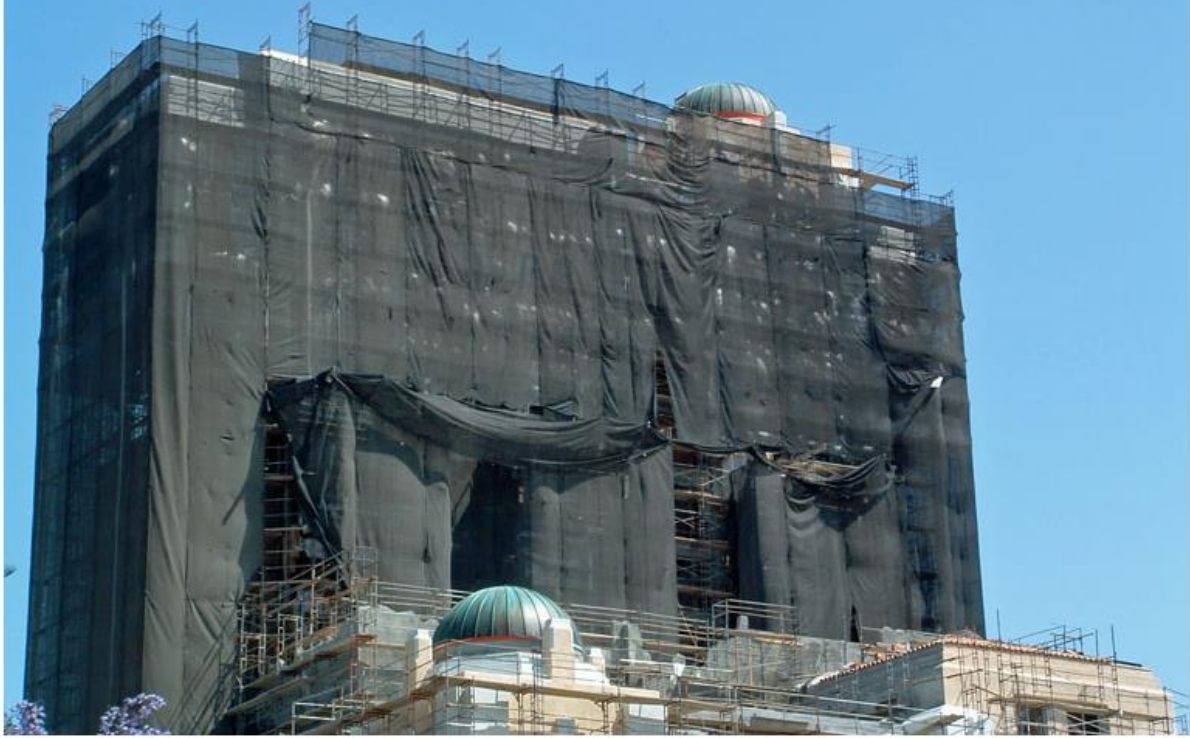


Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

Architectural details beginning to appear, June 14, 2003

Yesterland



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

A wall of mission deco architecture revealed, June 26, 2003

Yesterland



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

Lots of scaffolding on the other side, June 26, 2003

Yesterland



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

Top exterior almost finished, July 18, 2003



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

Still getting finishing touches on the exterior, August 16, 2003



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

Paint that tells a story, November 14, 2003



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2003

Working on the grounds, November 15, 2003



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

Still behind a construction wall, December 13, 2003



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

The backstory presented on the construction wall, December 13, 2003



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2004

Less than two weeks before opening, April 23, 2004



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, May 9, 2004

Cutout bellman at the park information desk, opening week, 2004



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2004

Tower, looking magnificent, May 9, 2004



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2004

Opening week guests, May 9, 2004



The Tower at night.





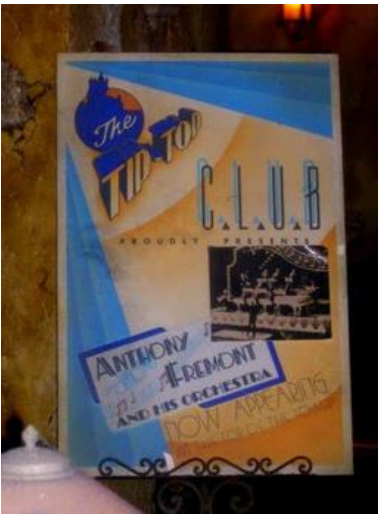
In the lobby.





In the library before the pre-ride show, in which the room goes dark and Rod Serling appears on the television to tell what happened to the guests on that fateful night long ago.





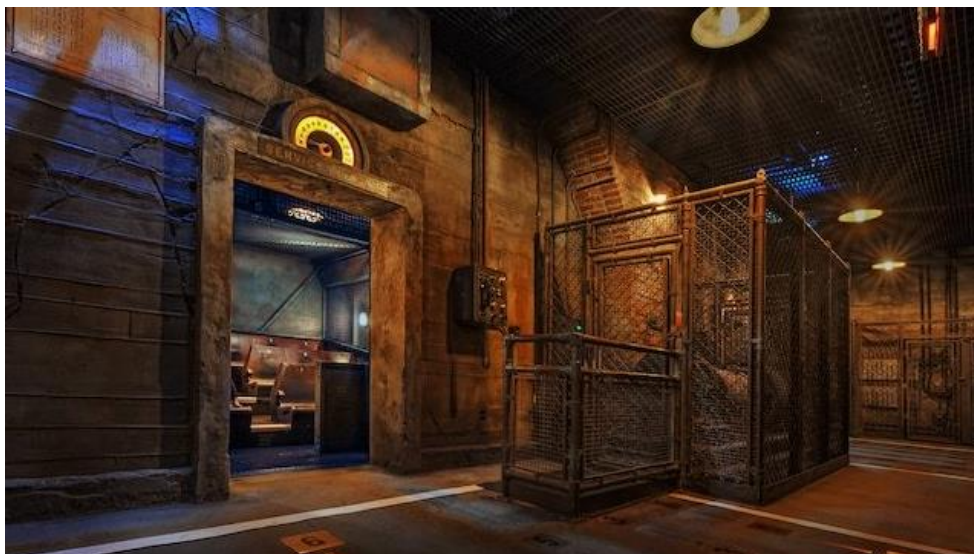
Tributes to “The Twilight Zone” can be found throughout the attraction. From the previous page:

Lobby and Exit: Gold thimble (“The After Hours”); Broken Stopwatch (“A Kind of a Stopwatch”); Red toy telephone (“Long Distance Call”); Anthony Fremont (“It’s a Good Life”); Door 22 (“Twenty Two”); Electric razor (not shown) and typewriter (“A Thing About Machines”); Willoughby Travel sign (“A Stop at Willoughby”); Box camera (not shown) (“A Most Unusual Camera”).

Library: Broken glasses (“Time Enough at Last”); Letters to Rod Serling and Victoria West (not shown) (“A World of His Own”); Trumpet (“A Passage for Trumpet”); Miniature spaceman (“The Invaders”); Mystic seer (“Nick of Time”); “To Serve Man” book (“To Serve Man”).

Boiler Room and Elevator: Chalk line drawing on wall and little girls’ voice calling out for help from workbench radio and within walls (not shown) (“Little Girl Lost”); Popular Mechanics magazine on workbench with robot on cover (not shown) (“I Sing the Body Electric”); Elevator inspection certificate (10259 is date “The Twilight Zone” first aired, October 02, 1959, and signature of “Cadwallader” is reference to the name of the devil in “The Escape Clause”)

In the boiler room, waiting to get on the elevator:



The ride begins.



Smile for the cameras and get ready for the 200 foot drop!



Of course, there's more to The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror than its construction. There's also the experience of going on the ride and shopping at the gift shop. But on January 03, 2017, Disney closed the attraction, and transformed the ride into Guardians of the Galaxy — Mission: BREAKOUT!

EUREKA!



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

The Greek word Eureka means "I have found it." Eureka has been on the state seal of California since 1849. And Eureka has been the official state motto of California since 1963.

Eureka! - The California Adventure Parade brings the diverse ethnicity and cultures of California to you at Yester California Adventure.

Find a spot along the "performance corridor" (parade route). There's no need to get there early. Even on summer days, there aren't too many guests trying to see the parade.



5 photos by Allen Huffman, 2001 / 1 photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Six faces of Eureka, presiding over the distinct units of the parade

Eureka is also the name of the deity who presides over the parade. Her appearance changes to match each unit of the parade:

- Center of the sun icon at the start of the parade
- Aztec-inspired bird-headdressed essence of Hispanic California
- Angel of the “City of Angels” (Los Angeles)
- Sun-worshiping beach beauty of the beach scene
- Chinese Opera goddess of Chinatown
- Golden goddess of the Golden State for the finale

Watch the huge cast of dancers, puppeteers, athletes, drummers, and eccentrics in their spectacular costumes. The performers work hard, and they do a terrific job. Okay, the drummers on the Watts Towers don't have spectacular costumes, but they do a spectacular job swinging off the towers and drumming.

There's even a parade performer dressed as a fortune cookie and another dressed as a Chinese take-out container. Watch for them.



Title float of Eureka!

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002



The sun—a recurring theme

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Celebrating California's Hispanic culture



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

When the swallows return to Capistrano



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Mesoamerican heritage



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Is it a bird?



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

No. It's the bird-headressed essence of Hispanic California.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Yikes!



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

Los Angeles unit of *Eureka!*



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

A drummer hanging from the Watts Towers



Yesterland.com

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Homage to the Hollywood Bowl



Yesterland

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

Start of the California beach unit



Yesterland

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Put on your dancing flippers



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Sunbathing Eureka



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Stunts within a loop encrusted with surfboards and beach balls



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

Golden Gate Bridge taking a walk



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Chinese opera goddess



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Chinese percussion and fireworks



Photos by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Chinese carryout on parade



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

The final Eureka, reaching out to you



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

Portraits of Californians

Where's Mickey? Where's Cinderella? Where's Pooh? Where's Buzz?

It isn't that kind of Disney parade. This parade is built on artistic and cultural traditions from all over California—but not on the traditions of a certain Burbank movie studio. Besides, you've probably seen Mickey, Cinderella, Pooh, and Buzz many times in other shows and parades.

Eureka! - The California Adventure Parade opened in February 2001, along with Disney's California Adventure. After an off-season hiatus, the parade returned in summer 2002—but that was the end of Eureka!

Why did Eureka! fail? Was it the lack of Disney characters? The Tapestry of Nations at Epcot's Walt Disney World Millennium Celebration had been a huge hit a couple of years earlier, and it had no Disney characters either. The difference was that Tapestry of Nations came across as a unified work of art, while Eureka! came across as disjointed.

Somehow, the whole was less than the sum of its parts. It wasn't clear if the parade was trying to be artistic, authentic, satirical, majestic, or silly. At times, it was each of these. It's a shame, because a lot of clever and original design work went into the Eureka! parade. For example, the walking Golden Gate Bridge was brilliant.

Eureka! also suffered from the low overall guest attendance at Disney's California Adventure. Park management knew that changes had to be made. It's easier to replace a flawed parade that doesn't draw big crowds than to redesign poorly conceived "lands" or to add several much-needed "E" Ticket attractions.

In summer of 2003, California Adventure guests were treated to (or subjected to) the X Games Xperience, an extreme sports demonstration. That also only lasted one summer.

In 2003 and 2004, there were no daytime parades at Disney's California Adventure. At least there was a nighttime parade. In July 2001, the former Main Street Electrical Parade came to the park as Disney's Electrical Parade.

A daytime parade—Block Party Bash—finally returned to Disney's California Adventure on May 5, 2005, as part of Disneyland's 50th anniversary celebration, "The Happiest Homecoming on Earth." Block Party Bash featured Pixar characters and performers who interacted with the audience. Another Pixar parade, Pixar Play Parade, opened March 14, 2008.

These days, all Disney parades are processions of Disney and/or Pixar characters. That's a shame. Many excellent Disney rides and attractions over the years were not based on existing Disney characters. Parades and shows don't have to be either. Sure, Disney park guests expect to see characters, but not to the exclusion of everything else. Disney park guests expect excellent, creative family entertainment. Let's hope that Eureka! didn't cause Disney management to lose all faith in parades that aren't based on familiar characters.

BLOCK PARTY BASH

It's 2005 at Yester California Adventure. The "Happiest Homecoming On Earth," celebrating the 50th anniversary of the park across the esplanade, isn't limited to the older park. A press release describes how "madcap and irreverent" Block Party Bash at the younger park is "designed to instantaneously put guests right in the middle of an unbelievable impromptu party."

That's right. It's a party—and also a parade:

The music and excitement are cranked to the max for this high-energy street extravaganza as Disney presents the Pixar Film Pals, who invite you to dance and play as they party their way through Disney's California Adventure! The wildest block party in Disney history will entertain guests with a non-stop musical parade that doubles as a fun-filled interactive street spectacular!

Enjoy it!



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Led by the famous Green Army Men from *Toy Story*



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

"I can't hear you!"



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Green Army Men from *Toy Story*



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Thirsty?



Yesterland

Photo by Karen Weiss, 2006

The unifying feature of this block party: giant toy blocks



Yesterland

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Woody, Jessie, Talking Mr. Mike, and Tinker Toys

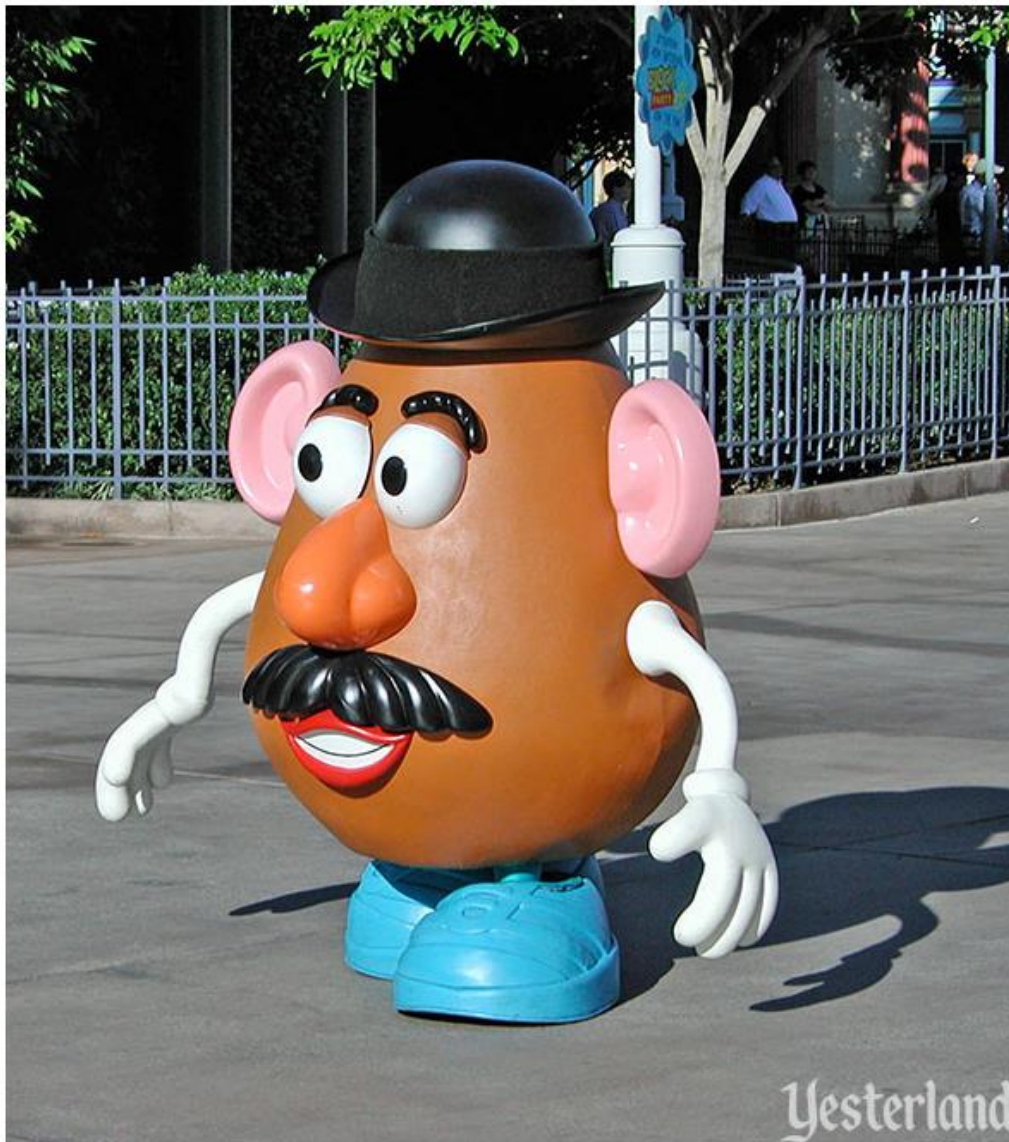


Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Mr. Potato Head



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Electric scooters



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Doors and scream canisters from *Monsters, Inc.*



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

James P. "Sulley" Sullivan



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Mary Gibbs, better known as Boo



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

George Sanderson



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

George Sanderson with a child's sock on his back



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Dim, the rhinoceros beetle



Photo by Karen Weiss, 2006

Heimlich from *A Bug's Life*



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Mr. and Mrs. Incredible telescoping out of *Monsters, Inc.* block towers



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Encouraging guests to join the party

At first, it seems like a traditional parade. But then it stops at three performance locations. Be sure to stand at Sunshine Plaza, “a bug’s land,” or Golden Dreams. Those are the locations where Block Party Bash really becomes a party.

Depending on where you’re standing, you’ll play with the “Toys,” scream with the “Monsters,” or dance with the “Bugs.” The performance stops last 11 minutes and involve 60 dancers, 16 acrobats, 12 pairs of jumping stilts, and 30 electric scooters.



Photo by Karen Weiss, 2006

One of the trampoline units, invented specifically for *Block Party Bash*



Photo by Karen Weiss, 2006

Another of the one-of-a-kind trampoline units

The press release sums up Block Party Bash like this:

As a totally immersive experience, the contagious fun of the entire spectacle will spread throughout the audience. Guests won't be able to resist the show's energetic performers, lovable characters, familiar pop tunes, and never-ending surprises!

Maybe future Pixar movies will allow an even more impressive Pixar parade.

Block Party Bash premiered at Disney's California Adventure (now Disney California Adventure) on May 5, 2005. It was the new park's second major parade.

The park's first parade, Eureka! - The California Adventure Parade had a short run in 2001 and summer 2002. The new park disappointed many guests with how few Disney and Pixar characters it had—and Eureka! had none. The next daytime parade would not make that mistake.

There were no daytime parades at California Adventure in 2003 and 2004, but Disney's Electrical Parade ran at night.

Block Party Bash was loaded with Pixar characters—although the Pixar filmography was still quite short at the time:

1. Toy Story (1995)
2. A Bug's Life (1998)
3. Toy Story 2 (1999)
4. Monsters, Inc. (2001)
5. Finding Nemo (2003)
6. The Incredibles (2004)

The ocean inhabitants of Finding Nemo did not lend themselves to the dance party focus of the parade. Toy Story and Toy Story 2 had largely the same characters. So Block Party Bash featured just four sets of Disney-Pixar characters.

Block Party Bash closed January 6, 2008. It moved to Disney's Hollywood Studios, where it ran from March 14, 2008, to January 1, 2011.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2008

A Bug's Life unit of *Block Party Bash* at Disney's Hollywood Studios



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2008

Block Party Bash trampolines at Disney's Hollywood Studios

Disney's California Adventure guests did not have to wait long for another daytime parade. Pixar Play Parade—completely different, but also based on Disney-Pixar movies—opened March 14, 2008.

DISNEY'S ELECTRICAL PARADE



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

It's nighttime. You're not at Yesterland. You're at Yester California Adventure.

The lights in the park dim. A woman's voice fills the air...

"In 1972, the creative spirit of California combined with the magic of Disney to bring to life a parade unlike any other. Since then, it has spanned three decades and three continents. We invite you now to enjoy the return of this glittering classic that has brightened the hearts of millions."

The "creative spirit of California" gets top billing over "the magic of Disney." This is the park whose mission is to celebrate the great state of California.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

After all, this is California Adventure

Guests have enjoyed this parade at the original Disneyland Park, Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World, Tokyo Disneyland, and Disneyland Paris—always on Main Street, U.S.A.

There's no Main Street, U.S.A. here at California Adventure. At this park, the parade uses the "Performance Corridor." But Performance Corridor Electrical Parade would be a silly name.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Familiar float, different name

Next, a familiar electronic voice delivers a slightly unfamiliar message...

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, Disney proudly presents our spectacular festival pageant of nighttime magic and imagination in thousands of sparkling lights and electrosynthomagnetic musical sounds: Disney's Electrical Parade."

Yes, this is Disney's Electrical Parade—not the Main Street Electrical Parade.

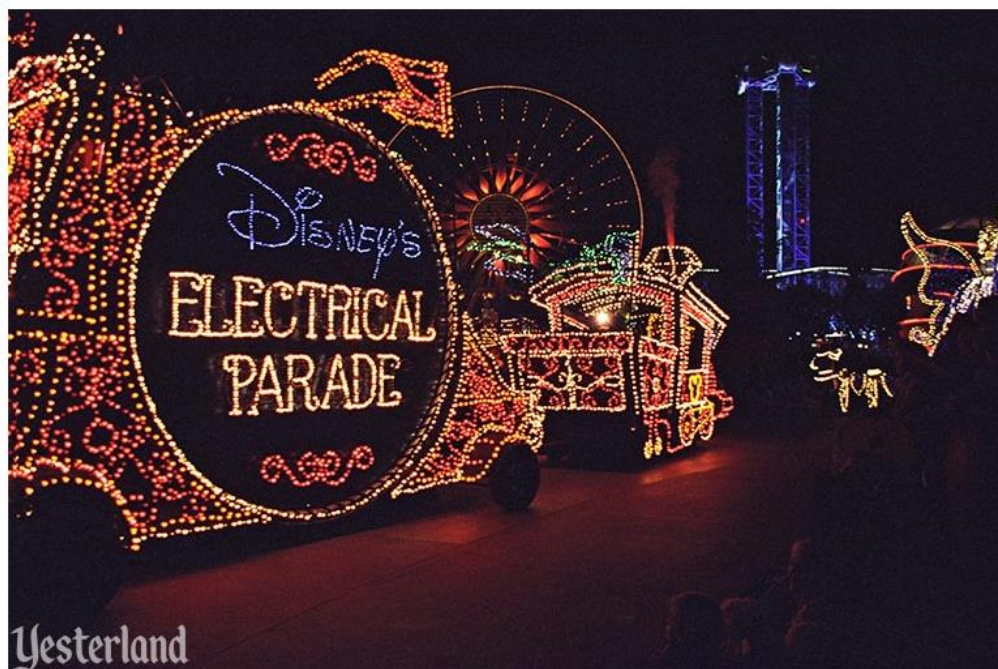


Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Sun Wheel and Malibomer in the background

After a run at Disneyland Park that lasted from 1972 to 1996, with just a few years off for other parades, the Electrical Parade is probably familiar to you and most of the guests around you. As expected, parade units with more than 500,000 colorful lights showcase scenes and characters from Disney movies.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

The title character from *Alice in Wonderland*



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001

Hookah-smoking Caterpillar at the Sun Icon of Sunshine Plaza

The main musical theme is the incredibly catchy "Baroque Hoedown" by Jean-Jacques Perrey and Gershon Kingsley. Other tunes are woven in to go with the various parts of the parade, all in the same "electrosynthomagnetic" style.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Spinning snail from *Alice in Wonderland*



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Cinderella's Ball

The 23-foot-tall Clock Tower over Cinderella's Ball is particularly impressive. Ballroom dancers covered in tiny glowing bulbs dance below a canopy of lights.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Circus Unit

As part of the parade's Circus Unit, King Leonidas of Naboombu plays the calliope. Why such an obscure character? Because "Bedknobs and Broomsticks" (1971) was a recent Disney feature when the parade premiered in 1972.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Captain Hook from *Peter Pan*



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Elliott, the dragon from *Pete's Dragon*



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

"To Honor America"

The parade's grand finale, "To Honor America," features a 108-foot-long red, white, and blue flag and a proud American Eagle.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

American Eagle



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Golden Gate Bridge in the background

Whether it's called Disney's Electrical Parade or the Main Street Electrical Parade, it's a memorable parade that can be enjoyed again and again.

Just don't call it the Electric Light Parade. Many people do, but that's never been its name.

Back in 1996, Paul Pressler had been president of Disneyland. That year, his "Farewell to the Main Street Electrical Parade" marketing campaign invited park guests to see the parade one last time, "before it glows away forever." Disneyland Park set attendance records—with financial results to match. It was one of the factors that propelled him into the chairmanship of the entire Disney Parks & Resorts business segment in 2000. His lieutenant, Cynthia Harriss, became the new head of Disneyland.

Disney's California Adventure opened in February 2001. When expected attendance levels failed to materialize, Pressler and Harriss had to take quick action. It's not surprising that their first big initiative involved the Main Street Electrical Parade.

If killing the parade could work such wonders, how about bringing it back from the dead?

In April 2001, a Disney press release announced that the "dazzling and colorful" parade would return to Anaheim on July 4. Only this time it would be called Disney's Electrical Parade and its nightly performances would be at Disney's California Adventure, not Disneyland Park. The press release quoted Harriss:

"Over the past few years, we have received endless requests to return Disney's Electrical Parade back to California," explains Cynthia Harriss, president of the Disneyland Resort. "In celebration of the first summer of Disney's California Adventure, we are thrilled to announce the return of Disney's Electrical Parade—an all-time favorite of our guests and a California original."

"Disney's Electrical Parade has for years served as a global ambassador for Disney theme park family entertainment. It is time to bring the pageant home," Harriss says.

Between the time that it closed at Disneyland and opened at California Adventure, guests could enjoy the parade at Magic Kingdom Park and Disneyland Paris. The Walt Disney Company owned two copies of the parade from the time when there were concurrent runs in California and Florida. One night in June 1997, the parade performed in New York City as The Hercules Electrical Parade to promote the premier of that Disney movie.

Disney's Electrical Parade had its first public performance at California Adventure on July 2, 2001.

If the parade was meant to provide an instant fix to the park's attendance problems, it failed. But the parade succeeded in delighting guests. Those with Park Hopper tickets and two-park annual passes could spend the day at Disneyland Park and then hop over to the new park in the evening for the parade.

In 2006, Disney's Electrical Parade gained a sponsor, the Sylvania lighting division of Siemens. The parade continued at California Adventure, even after construction walls lined much of its route toward the end of its run. The parade even received a significant upgrade in 2009, with eco-friendly LED lighting, a new Tinker Bell float, the return of long-missing floats, and updated sound technology.

Lasting not quite nine years at California Adventure, Disney's Electrical Parade ended its run April 18, 2010. With the crowds that the new World of Color lagoon show would bring to the parade route beginning June 11, 2010, the nighttime spectacular parade would have led to a spectacular nightmare each evening if it had stayed.

Disney's Electrical Parade has not returned to Disney California Adventure. But the Main Street Electrical Parade—the parade whose final "glow away forever" season at Disneyland Park was 1996—returned to that park in 2017.

MULAN'S CHINESE NEW YEAR



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

Colorful cavalcade

It's more than a meet-and-greet. It's less than a parade. Perhaps you should think of it as a combination of a "mini-parade," street performance, and autograph session.

It's "Mulan's Chinese New Year Greetings."

It all happens in the Golden State district of Yester California Adventure. A cast of eight performers emerges from a gate near the Mission Tortilla Factory at Golden State's Pacific Wharf area.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

It's Mulan and Mushu!

Accompanied by a recording of the "Honor to Us All" theme from Mulan, the procession makes its way across the bridge to the Golden State's San Francisco area.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

More traditional than Mushu

Mushu isn't the only Chinese dragon here. There's a second one. Four performers manipulate a traditional Chinese parade dragon.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

Bringing the dragon to life



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

Impressive dragon mask



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

Destination

The procession's destination is the park's version of San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts, which serves as the entrance to Golden Dreams. The performers "park" the dragon next to the Palace of Fine Arts. In the shade cast by the mighty rotunda, the procession turns into an interactive session with guests.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2004

Parked dragon



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2004

Learning ribbon skills



Drumming

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2004



Who wants to pose with Mulan and Mushu?

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004



Autograph time

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

A third dragon

If just two Chinese dragons aren't enough for you, head over to Pacific Wharf. There's another dragon near the original Lucky Fortune Cookery.

"Mulan's Chinese New Year Greetings" premiered in early April 2004 at Disney's California Adventure.

April? Isn't Chinese New Year (also referred to as Lunar New Year) in January or February?

Yes. In 2004, Chinese New Year's Day was on January 22. It was the year of the monkey—year 4702 on the Chinese lunar calendar.

Disney's cavalcade wasn't really a celebration of the Chinese New Year. It was part of an effort to add more Disney characters to the three-year park as the summer season approached.

The cavalcade in 2004 was based on the 1998 Disney feature *Mulan* from Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida. In January 2004, The Walt Disney Company announced that it was shuttering the Florida animation studio. Disney's Florida animators received their final paychecks on March 19, 2004—coincidentally just a few weeks before the launch of "Mulan's Chinese New Year Greetings."

The small procession in 2004 should not be confused with the *Mulan* Parade at Disneyland Park in 1998 and 1999.

The parks of the Disneyland Resort now have a Happy Lunar New Year Celebration each year. In 2012, it was at Disneyland Park. In 2013, it was at Disney California Adventure from February 8 to 11, ostensibly as part of "Limited Time Magic." *Mulan* is part of the celebration, and so are Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese musicians and dancers.

RIZZO'S PROP & PAWN SHOP



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

The big cheese in this part of Yester California Adventure is a rat with a jacket, not a mouse with red pants. He's Rizzo the Rat—or just Rizzo for short.

Rizzo is a Muppet character. His impersonation of Mickey Mouse during the pre-show for Jim Henson's Muppet*Vision 3D is memorable. After you watch the movie, Rizzo has more in store for you—literally a store—Rizzo's Prop & Pawn Shop.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

Sitting in a sea of concrete



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Facing Hollywood Boulevard

The first thing you'll notice is that the shop sits next to utility poles. The poles aren't functional. They're decor. This part of the park's Hollywood Studios Backlot has a gritty, industrial look. It's supposed to remind you of a working movie studio.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Rizzo's modifications to the painted Prop Shop sign

It appears that Rizzo has turned the studio's Prop Shop into a commercial enterprise—undoubtedly without the permission of the studio. The shop has a haphazard arrangement of boxes, bins, barrels, and drawers serving as merchandise counters.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

Muppet "merch"



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Muppet plush

Rizzo invites you to shop for Muppet-themed clothes, toys, and souvenirs. Here's your chance to buy plush toys of Kermit the Frog, Fozzie Bear, Miss Piggy, Gonzo the Great, Bean Bunny, and even Scooter the errand boy.

Let's walk around the store. Each side of the shop has its own personality.



Yesterland

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Ground themed as a concrete parking lot, with *Superstar Limo* nearby



Yesterland

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

An intentional mess



Yesterland

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Moving around some more



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Lots of corrugated metal



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

A glimpse at the fourth (rear) side



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Mostly hidden behind studio props

The fourth side of the building is plain, but it's hidden behind a bunch of junk.

Oh, wait. That's not junk. Those are movie props—part of the movie backlot theme.

Rizzo's Prop & Pawn Shop was one of the original features of Disney's California Adventure when the park opened in February 2001. Located a short distance from Muppet*Vision 3D, the intentionally grungy freestanding store served as the gift shop for that attraction.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Same shop. New paint. New sign. New merchandise.

In late 2005, the Hollywood Studios Backlot received a “placemaking” makeover to make it more inviting to guests. Rizzo's Prop & Pawn Shop became the Studio Store. The store and the “soundstages” around it were repainted in the standard colors of Disney-MGM Studios at Walt Disney World and Walt Disney Studios Park at Disneyland Resort Paris. New landscaping interrupted and softened the expanse of concrete. The look was still industrial, but no longer junk-strewn industrial.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Still with boxes, bins, barrels, and drawers as merchandise counters



Sully plush from *Monsters, Inc.*

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006



Monsters, Inc. and Muppets on the same store fixture

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

Nearby, in the former Superstar Limo space, *Monsters, Inc. Mike & Sulley to the Rescue!* had its grand opening on January 23, 2006, with a soft opening the prior month. The Studio Store became a combination Muppets, *Monsters Inc.*, and Disney character shop—and a candy store too.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Wandering Oaken's Trading Post

In Disney's *Frozen* (2013), Wandering Oaken's Trading Post is a snow-covered wooden cabin deep in the forest outside Arendelle. During the Disneyland Resort's *Frozen Fun* promotion in 2015, the Studio Store temporarily played the part of that store, complete with a new sign, wood-look siding, Norwegian trim, "snow" on the roof, and plenty of *Frozen* merchandise.

When *Frozen Fun* ended, the store reverted to the Studio Store.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2017

No longer Wandering Oaken's, but still with a wooden look



Photo by Chris Bales, 2017

Summer of Heroes Studio Store

During the Disneyland Resort's Summer of Heroes promotion in 2017, the Studio Store temporarily took on Summer of Heroes branding and sold Marvel merchandise. When the promotion ended, the Studio Store returned.

The Backlot section of Hollywood Land, where the Studio Store is located, is arguably the most problematic part of Disney California Adventure. It wasn't convincing as a movie studio when it opened, and almost two decades of tinkering—without a comprehensive “re-Imagineering” vision—has left it a hodgepodge.

In hindsight, Rizzo's Prop & Pawn Shop was rather clever, and it shared a theme with Muppet*Vision 3D. But Rizzo the Rat and Muppet*Vision 3D are long gone from the park. The theater has been Mickey's PhilharMagic since April 26, 2019, after years of showing sneak peek previews of new Disney movies.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2016

Pizzerizzo at Grand Avenue, Disney's Hollywood Studios

Don't worry about Rizzo. He now has a large pizza restaurant at Walt Disney World. He's once again right across from Jim Henson's Muppet*Vision 3D.

DEPT OF UNTAPPED HILARITY



Hollywood Backlot Stage

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Have a seat at Hollywood Backlot Stage. It's an odd, scruffy theater, on the back side of the backlot facades at the Hollywood Pictures Backlot. There's no backstage, so the performers ride to the stage on bicycles.



Performers arrive by bicycle

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

You're about to see a show that includes these topics:

- Grunion hunting with Tom Cruise in Paris wearing a bikini;
- Horseback riding with Maleficent on April Fools Day with Ron Howard;
- Bungee jumping off Mt. Rushmore, with Brad Pitt, Britney Spears, Johnny Depp, and Prince as the presidents on the monument.



The audience

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

If these off-the-wall concepts seem odd for a Disney theme park show, don't blame Disney's show writers. Blame the audience.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

D.U.H.

This is the Department of Untapped Hilarity, or D.U.H. for short. Audience members call out activities, locations, celebrities, and whatever else they are asked for. The four quick-witted entertainers use the resulting phrases for skits and comedic songs. It's never the same show twice, although the show structure is often similar.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

Never the same skit

It's classic improvisational comedy...

Well, not quite classic improvisational comedy... the comedy here is family-friendly. That eliminates a lot of the easy laughs that other improv groups rely on.



Live music

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003



No fancy props on stage

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

If you come back another day for another show, not only will the show be different, the performers might be different too. Although there are usually four performers on stage at each show, there are others in the troupe—which means there can be shows seven days a week.



Hands raised in the audience

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

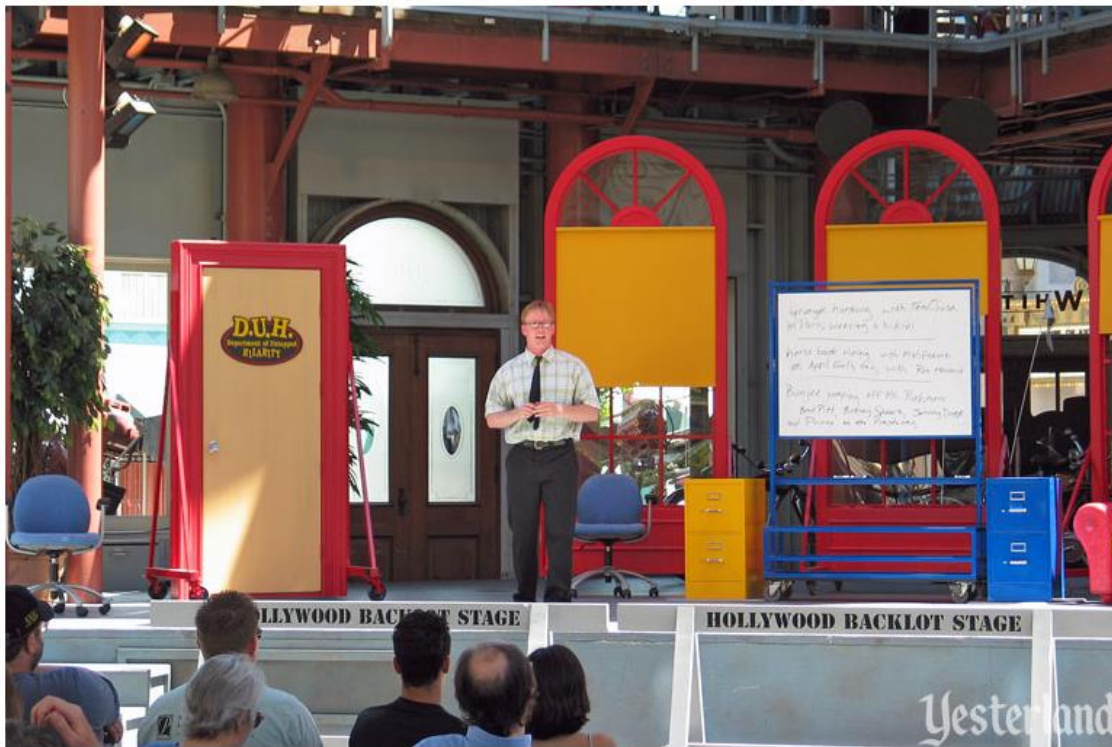


Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

A few props after all



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2004

Acting!

As its name suggests, D.U.H. can be hilarious. When the phrases from the audience trigger top-notch creativity from the performers—and you know they're making it up on the spot—you may find yourself laughing uncontrollably. And when the performers are less than brilliant because they're not on the same wavelength... that can be funny in a different way.

The Hollywood Backlot Stage at the Hollywood Studios Backlot (now called Hollywood Land) section of Disney's California Adventure (now called Disney California Adventure) became home to the improvisational comedy of D.U.H. - Department of Untapped Hilarity around August of 2003. It replaced Goofy's Beach Party Bash.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

Wrong Brothers at Condor Flats

Although the venue was new for the improvisational troupe, the act wasn't. Before moving to the Hollywood Backlot Stage, D.U.H. performances were at Condor Flats near Fly 'n' Buy. And before that, the troupe performed a different show there as "Nelson, Charles and Riley, the Wrong Brothers."



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Drawn to Magic at the Hollywood Backlot Stage

The final D.U.H. performances were on Monday, September 5, 2005—Labor Day 2005. The improvisational show had a run of more than two years at the Hollywood Backlot Stage.

A small musical show featuring three "animators" and a few Disney characters replaced D.U.H.. Drawn to Magic—not to be confused with the elaborate Drawn to Magic dinner animation show in the Animator's Palate dining rooms on Disney Cruise Line—moved to the stage after getting its start as a street show on Disney California Adventure's Hollywood Boulevard. Drawn to Magic ran until October 2010.

MILLIONAIRE - PLAY IT!



Disney-MGM Studios publicity image © 2001 Disney

California Adventure is the theme park that celebrates the Golden State of California.

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire – Play It! is based on a TV quiz show that's taped in New York City, starring New York-born Regis Philbin, and broadcast by the New York-based American Broadcasting Company (ABC). But there is a California connection: ABC is owned by The Walt Disney Company, which has its corporate headquarters in Burbank, California.

See? This attraction celebrates California!



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Conveniently located next door to *Superstar Limo*

Actually, *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* is a worldwide TV phenomenon. After being launched in the United Kingdom in 1998, the production company licensed versions of the show to every continent except Antarctica.

Don't just watch the *Millionaire* show on TV. Here at California Adventure, experience *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Play It!* live, with all the "sights, sounds and drama of the TV show." Better yet, get into the famous "hot seat" and win prizes.

Now, before you get too excited, you need to know that you won't be leaving the park with a check for a million dollars, even if you get every answer right. You don't play for dollars here. You play for points.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Sharing the Hollywood Studios Backlot area with backstage junk



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001

Sound Stage 17 awaits you.

The attraction is in Sound Stage 17, just past Rizzo's Prop & Pawn Shop. The show building isn't much to look at. It's a big box. That means it's highly authentic because real Hollywood sound stages tend to be nothing more than big boxes.



FASTPASS machines

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001



Stand-by wait time: 60 minutes

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001

This is a genuine FASTPASS attraction. It's worth getting a FASTPASS because you can return slightly more than ten minutes before Play It! begins and enter before the stand-by guests.

If there's an hour-long wait for the stand-by line, it doesn't mean that Play It! is so popular that it will take an hour to inch your way to the front of the line. It means that the 25-minute shows are usually one hour apart, and the doors just closed on the current show.

Read and obey the rules at the entrance to the queue. Here's a short version of them:

- 1.No money prizes.
- 2.Cast Members can't play.
- 3.You aren't allowed to photograph or record Play It!...
- 4....but Play It! is allowed to record you.
- 5.There are more rules, if you're into that sort of thing.



Yesterland.com

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

The rules



Yesterland.com

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001

Photos in the queue build anticipation.

The doors open and you enter the Play It! sound stage. It looks just like the set of the TV show, except that this studio seats more than 600 park guests. Pick a seat.

The seat you really want is the “hot seat.” But you’ll have to earn that by competing with everyone else in the audience during the “fastest finger” round. Using your individual keypad, be the fastest to put a series of answers in the correct order. Now watch for the tally...

You did it!

You won the “fastest finger” round!

Head down to the coveted “hot seat.” It’s just like being on the TV show—except the part about winning points instead of money. The personable host will ask 15 multiple-choice questions, each with four possible answers.

Unlike the TV show, there’s no hemming and hawing here. Play It! has a strict 30-second rule.

“Is that your final answer?”

It had better be, because you don’t want to run out of time.



Yesterland.com

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001

A lifeline that's different than its TV counterpart

If you don't know all the answers, don't worry. Just as the TV version gives "hot seat" contestants three lifelines, so does Play It!

There's "Ask the Audience," where every member of the audience can select the answer and you see the results of this "vote." And there's "Fifty-Fifty," which eliminates two of the four answers—giving you a 50% chance even if you just guess.

But there's no "Phone a Friend" option. Instead, you can "Phone a Complete Stranger," which goes to a phone on the outside of building. You have no idea if it will be picked up by a college professor who reads eight newspapers and ten journals each day or a middle schooler who never pays attention in class.



Yesterland.com

Photo by Guy Selga (Guy from AngryAP.com), 2010

Valuable Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Play It! pins

The questions keep getting harder as you progress through the 15 levels, but you answer every question correctly!

Now let's see what you won:

- For each of the 15 levels, you earned a pin indicating the point level.
- At the 1,000-point level, you earned a 1,000-point baseball cap.
- At the 32,000-point level, you earned a 32,000-point polo shirt.
- At the 1,000,000-point level, you earned an "I'm a Million Point Winner" black leather jacket and a trip to New York City to see a taping of the real Who Wants to Be a Millionaire television show. Or perhaps, instead of the New York trip, you earned a three-night Disney Cruise from Port Canaveral to The Bahamas, including Disney's private island, Castaway Cay.

The million-point prize isn't as good as a million dollars—but it's worth a lot more than what you spent to get into the park.

The U.S. television version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, hosted by Regis Philbin, first appeared on ABC Television on August 16, 1999 for a two-week run. It scored high in the ratings, so it returned for a second two-week run in November 1999. It seemed that viewers couldn't get enough of the quiz show. In 2000, ABC dominated prime time by running the show three, four, and even five nights a week. Up to 28 million viewers would tune in to each show. Disney-owned ABC, which had been the number three network a year earlier, was now way ahead of CBS, NBC, and Fox.

The next step would be to take the successful show to Disney's theme parks. Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Play It! opened in an existing building at Disney-MGM Studios (now Disney's Hollywood Studios) on April 7, 2001.

Meanwhile, across the country, Disney's California Adventure park was floundering. The new park failed to generate the expected attendance when it opened in February 2001. Management made quick changes to the park's entertainment offerings, but the park really needed new, compelling attractions to make the turnstiles click.

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Play It! opened on September 14, 2001 in a newly constructed building in the park's Hollywood Studios Backlot section.



Under construction at California Adventure

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001



Coming soon!

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

A Disneyland Resort press release explained how the attraction was appropriate for its setting:

"We're thrilled to now be able to offer our guests the ability to experience the excitement of one of America's most popular game shows," noted Cynthia Harriss, president of the Disneyland Resort. "This live attraction version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire - Play It!' fits in beautifully with the theme of Hollywood Pictures Backlot, where our guests become the stars. Guests will find out for themselves what it's like to sit in their own hot seat."



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Ready for paint and signs

The timing was not good. The attraction opened just three days after the World Trade Center attacks. On top of that, audiences were losing interest in the television show. For the new season, ABC cut *Millionaire* to two nights a week. A *New York Times* article about the business woes of The Walt Disney Company ("Suddenly, the Magic Is in Short Supply," Sept. 23, 2001) put it this way:

Disney's problems are worsened by the fact that ratings at ABC have tailed off badly as "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" has become more routine. The wild early success of that program may have even distracted ABC from developing new hits, according to analysts.

The final night of the *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* on ABC's regular prime-time schedule was June 27, 2002.



Top photo by Werner Weiss, 2002; bottom photo by Allen Huffman, 2004

Sign in 2002 with Regis Philbin; sign in 2004 with Meredith Vieira and Regis Philbin

A daytime, syndicated version of the show, hosted by Meredith Vieira, launched on September 16, 2002.

Disney's California Adventure wound up with an attraction based on a daytime show, not on a national phenomenon.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Stage 17, former home of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Play It!*, in 2010

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Play It! closed August 20, 2004—a run of not quite three years. The attraction had a longer run at the Studios park in Florida, where it ran more than five years until August 19, 2006.

OLAF'S SNOW FEST



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

Olaf invites you to step into the charming castle courtyard of the Kingdom of Arendelle. It's always nighttime; it's always winter; and it's always cold—although not Frozen winter cold. The icicles are plastic, but the snow is real.

Olaf's Snow Fest is practically its own little theme park land—with entertainment, food, shopping, a play area, a meet-and-greet, and even something you could call a ride!



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

What to expect



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Stage 17, home of Olaf's Snow Fest

After you pass through the portal and under the monorail track, there are three ways to enter Olaf's Snow Fest. Head to the left if you want to play in the snow. Head to the right if you want to visit Olaf. Or, if you just want to watch others play while you enjoy refreshments and entertainment, ask a Cast Member if you can go in through the exit.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Long wait for snow



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

Separate entrance to meet the snowman who likes warm hugs



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Posing for a photo with Olaf



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Heavy snow predicted for the Kingdom of Arendelle

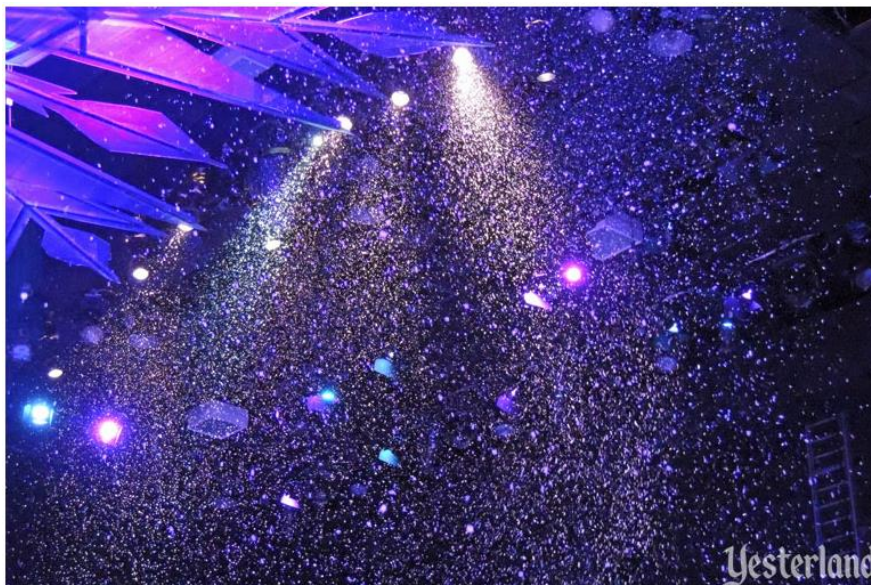


Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Actual frozen water, not soap suds



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Do you want to build a snowman?

If you're visiting from the Midwest or Northeast, snow isn't such a big attraction—especially during winter. But for children from the Los Angeles basin, this might be their first time ever to play in snow.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

Toboggan hill

We promised a ride, right?

Grab a plastic Toboggan at the side of the snow play area and head up a short flight of stairs. At the top of the hill, sit down on your Toboggan and hold on. Wait for the Cast Member to say "Let it go!" Now push off.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Whee!

Well, it's really more of a slide than a ride. It's not the Matterhorn Bobsleds—but there is no track here, and the snow here is real.

Are you ready for some entertainment?

Kikka introduces the world famous palace musicians, The Frolicking Fjords, featuring Henry Fjord, Harrison Fjord, and Rita and Frita, the fiddling Fjords.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Kikka and The Frolicking Fjords on stage



Henry Fjord of the Frolicking Fjords

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

You might expect just to hear megahit songs from the megahit movie, Frozen. But these talented musicians perform songs written specifically for Olaf's Snow Fest, such as "Arendelle, Arendelle." Kikka will even teach the Hug Dance to you, while The Frolicking Fjords sing "I Like Warm Hugs."

The stories and songs of The Tubadors are next. The Frolicking Fjords are a tough act to follow, but The Tubadors arr up to the task.



The Tubadors

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015



Tubador showmanship

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

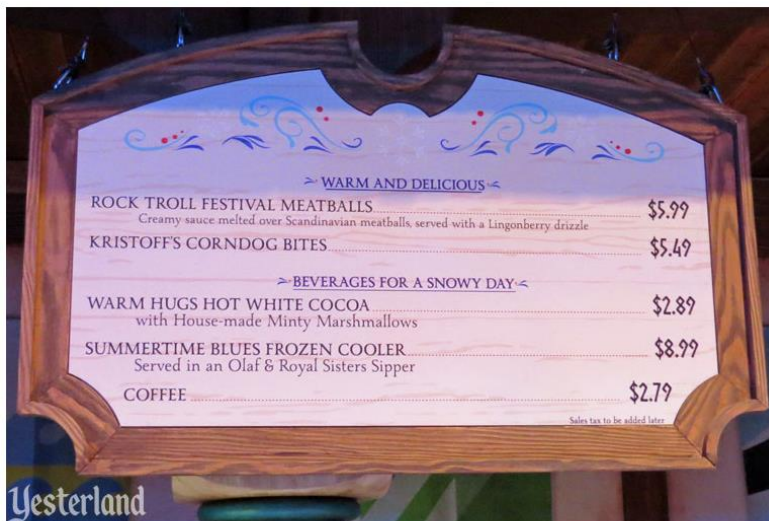
If snow play, a toboggan slide, two acts of live entertainment—and all the waiting in line before those activities—have made you hungry, you have plenty of choices at Olaf's Snow Fest. And the creativity of the foods and treats is on the same high plane as everything else at Olaf's Snow Fest.

You're probably not dressed as warmly as the Cast Members, so you might want to order something to warm you up. Hot chocolate seems like a good idea.



Winter treats and plenty of seats

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015



The menu... but there are more choices in glass cases and on the counter

Photo by Chris Bales, 2015



Cast Members dressed for the cold

Photo by Chris Bales, 2015



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Bite into Olaf's head



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

Complete kit to build your own snowman cookie

And what's the perfect way to end your visit to Olaf's Snow Fest?



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

Merchandise

At the gift shop, of course!

Olaf's Snow Fest ran from January 7, 2015, to April 30, 2015, at Disney California Adventure. It was in the Hollywood Land at Stage 17, which originally had been built for Who Wants to Be a Millionaire – Play It!.

Olaf's Snow Fest was part of the larger "Frozen Fun" promotion. Other parts of the promotion included "Anna & Elsa's Royal Welcome" in the Disney Animation building, For the First Time in Forever: A Frozen Sing-Along Celebration in the former Muppet*Vision 3D theater, and Freeze the Night! A Family Dance Party.

A modified version of Olaf's Snow Fest returned from November 13, 2015, to January 7, 2016. It was good way to provide additional capacity to guests during the Holiday Season.

For a temporary attraction, a remarkable amount of creativity and talent went into Olaf's Snow Fest.

BOUNTIFUL VALLEY FARM



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Welcome to Bountiful Valley Farm, Presented by Caterpillar, a "tribute to the abundance and diversity of agriculture in California."

Other theme parks have attractions with pirates or submarines. But where else can you find an attraction with full-size farm equipment?



Yesterland.com

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Watch nutritious crops grow



Yesterland.com

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Watch juicy Valencia oranges grow



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

Watch colorful flowers grow

Admire the many crops growing here. California is the nation's number one farming state, and this area provides a sample of the many crops that grow in the state's sun-drenched, fertile valleys.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

"Cow"ifornia

Bountiful Valley Farm not only has real plants, it also has fake animals—a Hereford steer and a Holstein dairy cow. A sign explains why the two life-size bovine statues are here:

"Since the first herd of BEEF cattle was 'moo-ved' to California in 1774, production of cattle and calves has become the 4th most valuable farm product in the state.

"With over one million cows producing MILK, California is the nation's number one dairy state."

There's another liquid that's even more important than milk—that's water.



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001

About the California Aqueduct: "Food grows where water flows"

Not only can you learn about irrigation, you can cool off in the Irrigation Station water-play area.

But you didn't come here to see plants, animals, or water systems, did you? You came for the exciting part of Bountiful Valley Farm—the tractors!



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001

Caterpillar display



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

The tractor whose treads were the basis for the name Caterpillar



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001

Caterpillar farm equipment art wall



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001

Antique Caterpillar tractor

You'll learn about tractor history. And you can admire some exciting Caterpillar equipment of 2001. Caterpillar Inc. is headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. But the company traces its roots to California. A sign summarizes how the company was born:

“At the turn of the 20th century, two of America’s most innovative tractor makers—Benjamin Holt and Daniel Best—were both based in northern California.

“Though California is home to some of the nation’s most fertile farmland, traditional tractor wheels of the 1900s often got bogged down in the state’s soft, sandy soil. Holt responded by developing tracks to replace tractor wheels.

“The tracks spread the machine’s considerable weight over a greater area, allowing California farmers to cultivate the wet soil along steep hillsides.

“In 1904, a spectator inadvertently helped name the Holt 75 when he remarked that she crawls along like a caterpillar.

“By 1925, agriculture pioneers Holt and Best merged, thus forming the Caterpillar Tractor Company.”

Now that you’ve learned about the history of Caterpillar, take a look at three current models. Sorry. You can’t go on a tractor ride. But you can admire the equipment in all its bright yellow glory. And, in one case, you can even climb into the cab.



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001
CAT Challenger 55 in the Caterpillar tractor yard



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002
Caterpillar CAT Challenger 95E Tractor

Walk up the stairs behind the Challenger 95E and climb into the cab. Take a look at the sophisticated controls and monitors that farmers use these days. With all the controls, it’s more like a cockpit than a cab.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Caterpillar CAT 262 Skid Steer Loader

Here at Bountiful Valley Farm, you'll learn that Caterpillar farm equipment isn't just for tilling soil. Pretend you're an orange grower. How would you haul orange crates through your grove? With a CAT 226 skid steer loader, fitted with forks to carry crates, of course. Other producers use Caterpillar equipment to haul feed and perform maintenance. Versatile, eh?



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2001

Outdoor Caterpillar Cart for model farm equipment

By now, you might be so excited by Caterpillar equipment that you want to take home a reminder of your visit to Bountiful Valley Farm. You're in luck! The Caterpillar Cart offers a fine selection of model farm equipment and other Caterpillar souvenirs.

Want more? There's an actual shop for you. Visit Santa Rosa Seed and Supply for gardening supplies, flowers, and plants.

And more Caterpillar stuff!

Bountiful Valley Farm was one of the original features of Disney's California Adventure when the park opened in February 2001—one of nine attractions in the park's Golden State district.

ATTRACTIONS

The Bay Area

① Golden Dreams ♿ ♻️ RC

Bountiful Valley Farm

② Bountiful Valley Farm, ♿
presented by Caterpillar.

③ 🐛 It's Tough to be a Bug! ♿ ♻️ RC

Condor Flats

④ 🐛 Soarin' Over California
♿ ♻️ CC
(minimum height 40"/102cm)

Golden Vine Winery

⑤ Golden Vine Winery, ♿ RC
Seasons of the Vine,
presented by Robert Mondavi.

Grizzly Peak Recreation Area

⑥ 🐛 Grizzly River Run ♿ ⚠️ ⚠️
(minimum height 42"/107cm)

⑦ Redwood Creek Challenge Trail
(height and age requirements –
certain challenges only) ♿ ♿

Pacific Wharf

⑧ Mission Tortilla Factory, ♿
hosted by Mission Foods.

⑨ The Boudin Bakery, ♿
hosted by Boudin Bakery.

© Disney Yesterland.com

Scan from Guide to the Magic brochure, July 26 - August 6, 2002 © Disney
Scanned from Guide to the Magic brochure, July 26 - August 6, 2002

As the above scan shows, the name “Bountiful Valley Farm” referred both to a section within the park’s Golden State district and to an attraction within that section.

In addition to the agricultural displays, tractors, water-play area, and gift shop mentioned in this article, the Bountiful Valley Farm section also included It’s Tough to Be a Bug!, a small entertainment stage, and two counter-service restaurants: Bountiful Valley Farmers Market and Sam Andreas Shakes (“delicious to a fault”).



Photo by Tony “WiseBearAZ” Moore, 2002

Candy corn growing under the supervision of Heimlich—a different kind of caterpillar

When “a bug’s land” opened in fall 2002 as a new district at Disney’s California Adventure, Bountiful Valley Farm became a part of that district, instead of being its own district. Bug characters from the 1998 Disney-Pixar movie *A Bug’s Life* moved in to the displays. Santa Rosa Seed and Supply became the P.T. Flea Market.

Caterpillar continued to sponsor Bountiful Valley Farm until late 2006. When Caterpillar left, they took their tractors with them.

In late 2007, Disney announced the \$1.1 billion redo of California Adventure. Plans showed that the site of Bountiful Valley Farm would become the starting point for the desert road into the Cars Land

Bountiful Valley Farm closed forever on September 7, 2010. Construction walls went up. Perhaps there was Caterpillar equipment behind those walls—but only for demolition and site preparation.

For centuries, mankind has been toiling to turn deserts into verdant farms. But at Disney California Adventure, the farm was turned into part of a desert—and most Disney park fans are delighted.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Mater’s Junkyard Jamboree

As part of Cars Land, there are tractors just a few steps from where the old Caterpillar tractors used to be. Mater’s Junkyard Jamboree may not be as educational as the Caterpillar display—but it’s a lot more fun.

BOUNTIFUL VALLEY MURAL



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

An idyllic farm is nestled in rolling hills. A farmhouse is mostly hidden by a cluster of trees. A bounty of crops surrounds an old fashioned red barn. It's harvest time here. Some foliage has already developed fall colors, but much of it is still a rich green. Although it's still warm in the valley, there's fresh snow on the tall mountains in the distance.

And on the sky, giant letters advertise Bountiful Valley Farm.

That's where you are—Bountiful Valley Farm—an actual demonstration farm within a theme park. The artwork is the backdrop for the farm's real orchards and vegetable plots.

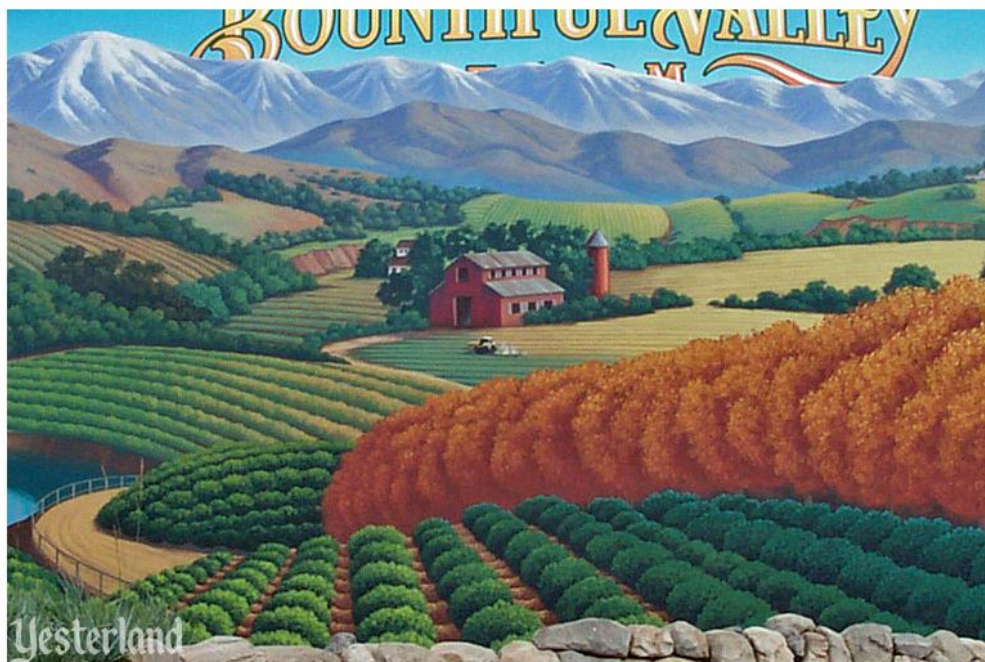


Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Partially hidden sign

It's not just a flat mural. There are two layers. The blue sky and giant letters are on the side of a big building with an arched roof—the Bug's Life Theater. The painted farm scene is in front of it on a tall wall whose top follows the ridge line of the snowy mountains.

Enjoy the art from different vantage points. Because of the layers, things shift around depending on where you are. The sign on the sky can even be partially hidden behind the mountains.

Is that a yellow Caterpillar tractor on the field?



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Presented by Caterpillar

Yes! And the tractor on the mural isn't the only tractor around. That's because this whole district is sponsored by Caterpillar, based in Peoria, Illinois.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Real orchard in front of the painted orchards

You have to admit the art is quite a landmark. It's something that guests aren't likely to forget.

Wander around the farm and watch the plants grow. And if you forget where you are, just look up at the Bug's Life Theater building.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Eggplant and other crops



Edited image based on a photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Use your imagination.

If you just imagine away the Bug's Life Theater while you're in the demonstration farm, you might think the foothills and mountains are real.

Then again, you might not.

The Bountiful Valley Farm sign on the Bug's Life Theater, home of It's Tough to Be a Bug, was one of the original landmarks of Disney's California Adventure when the park opened in February 2001.

But it didn't last long.

On February 8, 2002, the park's first birthday, Cynthia Harriss, President of the Disneyland Resort at that time, announced plans to add the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror in 2004. But there would be a kid-friendly enhancement to the park much sooner. Here's how the press release described the plan:

First up will be "A Bug's Land" featuring "Flik's Fun Fair," an all-new playland within the Golden State area of Disney's California Adventure. Inspired by characters and settings from the Disney-Pixar animated film A Bug's Life, "A Bug's Land" will encompass the existing "It's Tough To Be A Bug" attraction and Bountiful Valley Farm presented by Caterpillar, with the addition of five new attractions in "Flik's Fun Fair," a specially designed environment which will offer the young and the young-at-heart a look at the world from a bug's point of view.

Soon a construction wall went up within Bountiful Valley Farm.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

Construction wall for Flik's Fun Fair



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

Flik's Fun Fair: "Coming this Fall" (2002)

When the walls came down in October 2002, the Bountiful Valley Farm district had become A Bug's Land, while Bountiful Valley Farm remained as an "attraction" within the new district.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2008

A Bug's Land portal



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

A bug's sign for A Bug's Land



Photo by Chris Bales, 2005

Dim the dung beetle

With the new branding came a new sign on the Bug's Life Theater. The idyllic farm, foothills, and mountains remained. But the building now had Dim the blue dung beetle pulling a banner with "Welcome to a bug's land" across the blue sky.

The modified mural lasted into 2012.

Then, behind giant tarps, both layers were repainted to be more appropriate for A Bug's Land—especially after the remainder of Bountiful Valley Farm closed forever in September 2010.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

A Bug's Land in 2013



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

No more farm

New artwork set the stage for the land that gave guests a bug's point of view, with huge blades of grass instead of an idyllic farm. The Bug's Life Theater was painted to fade into the background.

During its final years, the theater often showed "4D sneak peeks" of new Disney releases, including *Cinderella* (2015), *The Good Dinosaur* (2015), *The Jungle Book* (2016), and *Cars 3* (2017)—instead of *It's Tough to Be a Bug*.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

Artwork for the preview of *The Good Dinosaur*



Photo by Chris Bales, 2015

The stars of *The Good Dinosaur*

For *The Good Dinosaur*, temporary artwork featured the stars of the Disney-Pixar feature emerging from the blades of grass. (Don't try to think too much about the matter of scale.)

It's Tough to Be a Bug closed permanently March 19, 2018. The next day, Disney confirmed that a new Marvel-themed land was on its way at Disney California Adventure. *Guardians of the Galaxy - Mission: BREAKOUT!* would no longer be an isolated Marvel attraction.

Flik's Fun Fair closed permanently September 4, 2018, to become part of the Marvel site. What had been A Bug's Land would be A Construction Site for a few years.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2018

September 5, 2018



Photo by Chris Bales, 2018

September 7, 2018

The old theater building is a perfectly good show building, so it's likely to be repurposed. Or it could be demolished anyway. We'll see.

Regardless of the fate of the building, the original Bountiful Valley Farm artwork, with the huge letters painted onto the blue sky, will be just a distant memory. It might already be the most forgotten landmark of Disney California Adventure.

SANTA ROSA FEED & SUPPLY



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

When you visit Yester California Adventure, it's fun to buy souvenirs. How about a gift pack featuring a hand cultivator? Or take home some California wildflower seeds? Perhaps a hardcover of *Zen Gardens* by Erik Borja?



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Santa Rosa Seed & Supply at Bountiful Valley Farm

Santa Rosa Seed & Supply is the main retail store of the Bountiful Valley Farm section within the park's Golden State district—and possibly the finest gardening store in any theme park, anywhere.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

The octagonal store with red doors

The theme here is California agriculture. The octagon-shaped building looks somewhat like a small barn. A rural artist has been at work here, fashioning watering cans into a fountain and arranging an assortment of folk-art bird houses.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2002

Watering can fountain



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Inventive bird houses



Inside the octagon

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

In addition to gardening tools, you can buy mugs, apparel, books, plush from A Bug's Life, specialty foods, and even fresh and dried fruit gift packs.



Well-stocked shelves

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001



Seeds, gardening tools, and gardeners' books

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001



T-shirts, caps, and denim

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001



Old-time country store barrels

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001



Overhead light fixture

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001



Orchid at Santa Rosa Seed & Supply

Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2002

The gardener supplies must be very good. Look at how big an orchid can grow around here.

Santa Rosa Seed & Supply was an opening day store at Disney's California Adventure in 2001. The store had a unique theme, with an assortment of appropriate, carefully chosen goods—not just more of the same things that tend to make their way into too many Disney theme park shops.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2001

Santa Rosa Seed & Supply's first—and last—Holiday season



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

P.T. Flea Market

When Flik's Fun Fair opened in Fall 2002 and Bountiful Valley Farm became "a bug's land", Santa Rosa Seed and Supply became the P.T. Flea Market.



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

Still an octagonal store with red doors



Photo by Tony "WisebearAZ" Moore, 2003

In the tradition of circus posters

With the new name came a new merchandise mix.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2008

Disney pins

Just what the park needed... another place to buy pins. Right?



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Ready to close forever

P.T. Flea Market closed permanently on September 7, 2010 to make way for Cars Land. But the octagonal building would not be demolished.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Seating for Paradise Garden Grill

Even with a budget of more than a billion dollars, the Disney California Adventure redo project looked for opportunities to reuse existing buildings and infrastructure—leaving more resources to be spent where it really mattered.

The structure that was Santa Rosa Seed & Supply and then P.T. Flea Market was moved to a different part of Disney California Adventure, where in 2011 it became an enclosed alternative to the outdoor seating at Paradise Garden Grill.

That means the octagon is not gone. Have a seat there the next time you want to enjoy your Tortitas de Papa—vegan crispy potato cakes with sautéed spinach, ranchero sauce, golden rice, pickled onion salad, tomato, and vegan “cheese”—in the shade.

Just have an alternate plan for where to eat. The octagonal pavilion might be in use for something else.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2017

The place to meet teen princess Elena of Avalor



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2018

The place to meet Pixar Pals, even though Paradise Gardens Park is not part of Pixar Pier

Santa Rosa Seed & Supply; P.T. Flea Market; seating pavilion for the Paradise Garden Grill; and a character meet-and-greet.

What a versatile structure!

HEIMLICH'S CHEW CHEW



Photo by Chris Bales, 2005

You're at Flick's Fun Fair. You—and all the other human guests—are the size of bugs. Clover leaves tower over your head. Heimlich, the voracious caterpillar from a bug's life, has transformed himself into a five-car train.

Heimlich wants to give you a ride.

Look for the frosted cupcake impaled on the tongs of a fork. (Heimlich has eaten some of it.) Then follow the path next to the fork into the tropical jungle.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2017

The setting



Cupcake sign

Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002



Notices

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2017



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2017

Entrance to Heimlich's

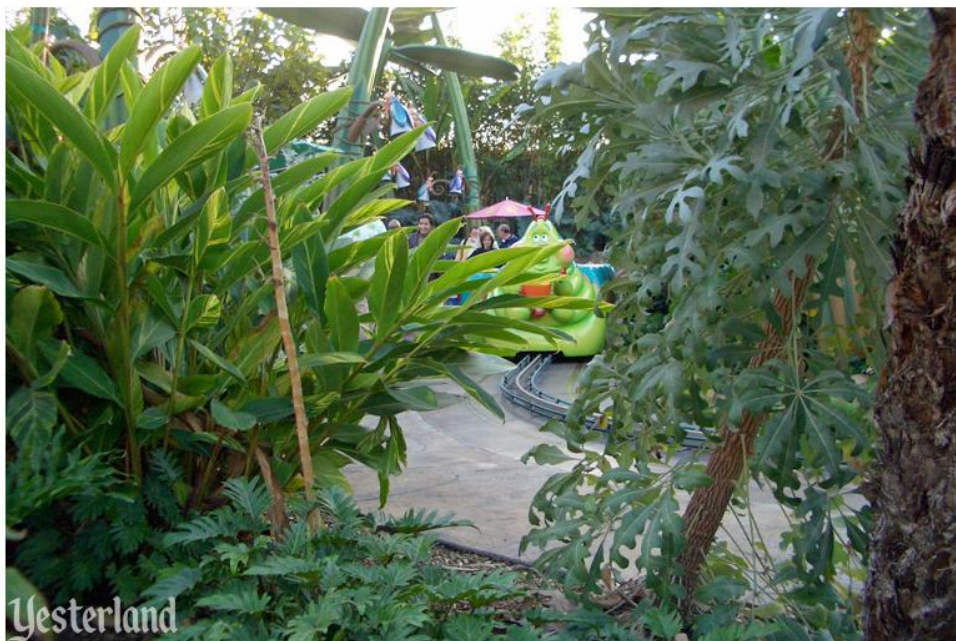


Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

A jungle out there



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

Loading platform, track, and a partially eaten carrot

Take a seat in one of Heimlich's five body sections. Heimlich will narrate your journey in his distinctive German accent. He even delivers the safety spiel:

"Yoo-hoo! Hello, everybody! It's me, Heimlich. I'm a cute little Chew Chew Train, and I vant you to be safe. So pretty please, to stay seated with your hands, arms, vings, all your legs, und all your feet inside ven I take you on my fun little ride. Und mamas und papas, please vatch your children!"

The multilingual caterpillar then delivers the spiel in Spanish—still with a German accent.



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

On the move

Heimlich begins to move around the track.

“Mein schtomach is so empty! Hey, help me to go find something to eat. Come on everybody, here ve go!”

Heimlich shares his thoughts as you travel past partially eaten morsels of food.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Apple



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

Watermelon arch

Although it's clear that Heimlich has come this way before, his words to the last group of guests may have been different. For example, he may have said this while passing through what's left of a watermelon:

"Ooh, watermelon! Come with me into the watermelon and taste the beautiful melon."

Then he might say this to you:

"I think I ate a watermelon seed! I hope I don't grow a big watermelon in my tummy!"

Next time, he might no longer be concerned about the seed:

"Do you smell what I smell? That's watermelon! Mmm. Taste that. Smell that delicious watermelon!"

There are random variations in the narration throughout the ride.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

First car of the five-car train



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

Last car of the five-car train



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2003

Track toward the box of Casey Jr. Cookies

Enjoy the sights—and even the smells, such as the watermelon scent that Heimlich mentions to some guests and the vanilla scent emitted by what’s left of the animal cookies, as you pass through their box.

After just two minutes, your caterpillar train has returned to the loading platform. The ride is over for you—but not for Heimlich, who is ready to go around again with the next batch of guests.

Heimlich is still hungry.

Heimlich’s Chew Chew Train opened at Disney’s California Adventure (now Disney California Adventure) on October 7, 2002. It was part of Flik’s Fun Fair, which opened the same day. The child-friendly collection of four rides and a water play area were all themed around the Disney-Pixar feature *A Bug’s Life* (1998). The three other rides—Flik’s Flyers, Tuck & Roll’s Drive ‘Em Buggies, and Francis’ Ladybug Boogie—were traditional amusement park rides, although creatively decorated.

Heimlich’s Chew Chew Train stood out as a unique attraction. It could be thought of as a bright, open-air counterpart to the Fantasyland dark rides at Disneyland Park. What it lacked in length and detailed show scenes, it made up for with its joyfully designed train, the tropical plants that thrived in Southern California’s climate, and especially Joe Ranft’s delightful performance as the voice of Heimlich.

Flik’s Fun Fair, together with two of park’s opening day attractions—It’s Tough to Be a Bug and Bountiful Valley Farm—formed a new land, “a bug’s land”.

On March 20, 2018, Disney announced plans for new Marvel areas at three Disney resorts globally, including California:

At Disneyland Resort, the new themed land will be anchored by the popular *Guardians of the Galaxy - Mission: BREAKOUT!* at Disney California Adventure park, which has become the highest-rated attraction at Disneyland Resort since its 2017 opening. The *Guardians of the Galaxy* will be joined by *Spider-Man* and the *Avengers* in what will become a completely immersive Super Hero universe. This expanded presence will begin recruiting guests in 2020, furthering the evolution of Disney California Adventure park.

While the details were sparse, it was clear that the Super Heroes would replace the bugs.

After a run of almost 16 years, Heimlich’s Chew Chew Train and the rest of Flik’s Fun Fair closed permanently September 4, 2018.



© Disney / © 2018 Marvel

“Super Hero-themed land coming to Disneyland Resort in 2020”

TUCK AND ROLL'S BUGGIES



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Don't call them bumper cars. They're not cars. They're bugs. Pill bugs, to be more precise. Hungarian pill bugs.

Their names are Tuck and Roll. You can tell them apart by their eyebrows. Tuck has a unibrow, while Roll has two separate eyebrows. You might remember them from the movie *A Bug's Life*. They worked as Armadillidiidae cannonballs at P.T. Flea's Circus.

There's another reason you might not want to call them bumper cars. Real bumper cars are known for their jarring collisions. In comparison, these bumper bugs are quite tame.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Under the umbrella "big top"



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Smiling Armadillidiidae sign

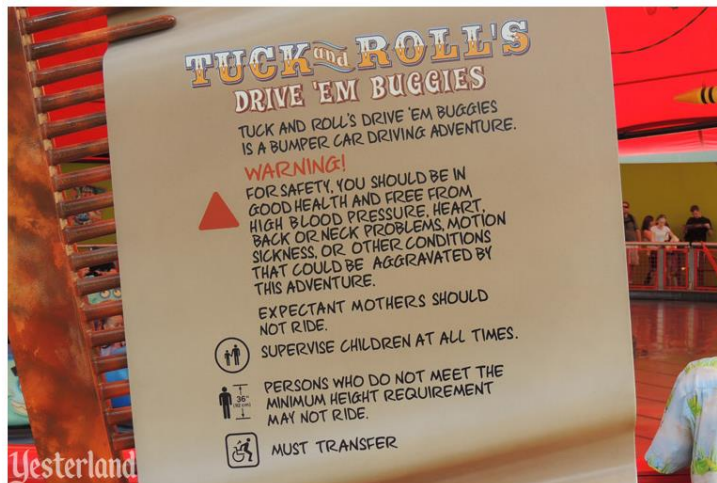


Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Warning!



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Roll and his silly grin



Tuck and his unibrow

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015



Family fun

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006



Pill bug traffic jam

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006



Directional crayon

Photo by Chris Bales, 2005



Two Tucks colliding

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013



Spectators

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2006

Each buggy has two gas pedals. That's useful because there are often two drivers—an adult and a child—and only one of them is tall enough to reach the pedal.

During the ride, Tuck and Roll talk to you. Don't worry if you can't understand them. They're speaking faux-Hungarian gibberish.

Tuck and Roll's Drive 'Em Buggies opened at Disney's California Adventure (now Disney California Adventure) on October 7, 2002. It was one of four rides and a water play area that comprised Flik's Fun Fair, based on the Disney-Pixar animated feature *A Bug's Life* (1998).

When Flik's Fun Fair opened, the Internet was rife with complaints about the “off-the-shelf rides,” but it was not a fair criticism. Although the mechanisms were manufactured by established ride manufacturers, the many clever details were unique to Disney-Pixar.

The Tuck and Roll's Drive 'Em Buggies ride was manufactured by Majestic Manufacturing Inc. of New Waterford, Ohio. Majestic makes a wide variety of body styles for theme parks, amusement parks, and carnivals around the world—but, not surprisingly, the Tuck and Roll bodies were never anywhere but at Disney California Adventure.

Another criticism was that the rides of Flik's Fun Fair were aimed entirely at children—even though Walt Disney had described how sitting on a park bench while his daughters rode Los Angeles' Griffith Park Carousel had inspired him: “I felt there should be something built... some kind of an amusement enterprise... where the parents and the children could have fun together.”

While it's true that Flik's rides were for children, adults could ride with their children—or even without children—and still enjoy the details.



Alternating metal strips to provide electricity to the “bugs”

Traditional bumper cars get their power from a metal ceiling grid and metal floor. That's why each car has a pole to the ceiling. Conductive brushes under each car complete the circuit, powering an electric motor. This is called Over Head System (OHS).

The “buggies” of Tuck and Roll's Drive 'Em Buggies were powered through a newer method, Floor Pick-Up (FPU). As the name suggests, all power came from the floor. Alternating strips of metal, separated by insulating spacers, provided the two electric polarities. FPU allowed the ride to be under the high “umbrella” without a ceiling grid.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2017

Guardians of the Galaxy - Mission: BREAKOUT! looming over Tuck and Roll's Drive 'Em Buggies

The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror loomed over Tuck and Roll's Drive 'Em Buggies for most of its existence. The 2017 transformation of the tower into Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: BREAKOUT! portended the end of the bumping buggies.

After a run of almost 16 years, Flik's Fun Fair closed permanently September 4, 2018, to make way for a Marvel-themed land. And that was the end of Tuck and Roll's Drive 'Em Buggies.

FLIK'S FLYERS



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2008

You don't have to be a myrmecologist to be fascinated by how ants build elaborate underground tunnels and other complex structures. Flik, the hero of *A Bug's Life* (1998), is a particularly ingenious ant. He built a carnival from litter dropped by humans, along with leaves and twigs dropped by nature.

Flik's greatest achievement is constructing a spinner ride called Flick's Flyers. Eight single-portion food containers fly in a circle. They're suspended from eight "balloons"—fallen leaves stitched together by Flik. The central tower consists of a non-dairy whipped topping tub, an aluminum pie tin, and bundles of twigs.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2011

No minimum height

Flik's Flyers is part of Flik's Fun Fair. When you visit this land, you miraculously become the size of a bug. Are you ready?

Your first decision is whether you'd rather sit in a Fun In the Sun Raisins box, a "Thank you" Chinese food carryout container, a Homespun Applesauce Super Snack Pack, or a Casey Jr. Cookies box. (Did you catch the homage to the train in Dumbo and the Disneyland ride?)



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Pick a container



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

How about a Casey Jr. Cookies box?



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Lifting off the ground



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Flying!



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

At maximum height



Photo by Karen Weiss

Looks more thrilling in this photo than it really is



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Prepare for landing



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Whip-O-Whirl—a dessert topping or a description of the ride?



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

The back side of Whip-O-Whirl

As you leave the ride, note that Flick's Flyers is the only Yesterland ride with nutrition information.

Flick's Flyers and the rest of Flick's Fun Fair opened at Disney's California Adventure (now Disney California Adventure) on October 7, 2002. It was part of "a bug's land", which had previously been Bountiful Valley Farm.

The attraction was based on the Samba Balloon ride from Antonio Zamperla S.p.A., an Italian amusement ride company. Instead of Zamperla's typical light theming—usually just a custom paint scheme—the Disney version was wildly inventive. That didn't stop some Disney fans from complaining about an "off-the-shelf ride."

As the next two photos show, each balloon originally had a flower petal propeller.



Photo by Tony "WiseBearAZ" Moore, 2002

Flower petal propeller on each balloon



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2017

No propellers in the later years

Flik's Flyers and the rest of "a bug's land" closed permanently September 4, 2018, to become the site of the Avengers Campus.

Flik's Flyers hasn't really "gone to Yesterland." It's gone to Pixar Pier—in the form of Inside Out Emotional Whirlwind, which opened June 28, 2019. It's said to use the Zamperla Samba Balloon mechanism harvested from Flik's Flyers.



Photo by Chris Bates, 2019

Inside Out Emotional Whirlwind



Yesterland

Photo by Chris Bales, 2019

Flying!

Only this time there isn't any nutrition information.