

Disney World Anniversary Celebration Set Technology Creates New Sounds For Fun



THE TRIBE—Egypt has a remarkable history and tradition now under the watchful eyes of scholars and writers. Mary Cross, author of *Egypt*, a photojournalist recently exhibited her photographs which will travel to the National Humanities Center in North Carolina and then to Harvard University. Photo shows a Bedouin woman of the Sawarka tribe.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.—Call it a BiTencennial, a Twin-Tennial, or simply a 20th anniversary. By any name, it means Walt Disney World Resort is roaring into its 20s. And to mark the occasion, a nonstop, 15-month surprise party featuring all-new shows and entertainment spectacles throughout the Vacation Kingdom continues from Oct. 1—the anniversary of the Vacation Kingdom's grand opening in 1971—through 1992.

A colorful aerial spectacle brightens Epcot Center days. A marvel of electro-technical wizardry fills Magic Kingdom nights with magical, moving colors. Pretty women sing and dance their way to stardom at the Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park. And throughout the day, fun-loving Roger Rabbit pops up to announce, "Sur-p-p-prise!"

Disney entertainment wizards have reached new heights to present what show producer Chase Senge calls "the biggest, best parade in 'World' history." Towering 35 to 40 feet above the Magic Kingdom's Main Street, USA, a cast of brilliantly colored, larger-than-life inflated Disney characters herald festivals from regions of the world in "Surprise Celebration."

Roger Rabbit decked out as the vernal jester soars above a carriage on which a surprise grand marshal, selected from among park visitors, leads the procession. The festive 20th-anniversary theme song builds, and on cue... everyone along the parade route is encouraged to sing in unison, "Surprise!" as each new unexpected feature pops into view.

New Orleans' Mardi Gras, Latin America's Carnivale de Rio, Europe's Carnival in Venice, and Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival are celebrated in music, dance and stunning costuming during the 20-

minute parade, a daily feature of the 20th anniversary celebration.

Imagine Goofy as a 35-foot "jack-in-the-box," Minnie Mouse as a towering Brazilian dance queen, Donald Duck as a bigger-than-life calypso drummer, Pluto donning the dog-gonedest Caribbean garb and Mickey Mouse in royal finest. Eyes turn upward to admire them all, then back to street level where more than 100 musicians and dancers join in the merriment.

Future-technology wizardry creates a moving gallery of light, music and color during "SpectrMagic," the biggest nighttime attraction ever in the Magic Kingdom. "Imagine complete animated cels the size of a house," says show producer Don

Frantz. "That's what we are producing with a synthesis of music, light and mechanical animation along the mile-long Magic Kingdom parade route."

The 20-minute production borrows from the prismatic holographic industry, military lighting developments, electro-luminescent and fiber-optics technologies, and tosses in light-spreading thermoplastics, clouds of underlit liquid-nitrogen smoke and a sprinkling of good old-fashioned twinkle lights.

Powered by batteries and synchronized by computer with a new, digital music score, the light show portrays the magical worlds of Disney—music, wonder, fantasy and dreams.

Mickey Mouse in prisms of light leads the way, followed by tableaux depicting the merriment of a musical band and colorful garden, the beauty of the sea, the wonder of flying horses, and the chilling specter of an evil, winged monster with a 38-foot wingspan.

A fanfare unit announces the final act—a more-than-100-foot-long unit showcasing Cinderella's coach and carousel all decked out in dazzling colors. At the front, Practical Pig dips his paintbrush into white, gives a "swish," and the entire scene turns into a scintillating, brilliant white. Jiminy Cricket, perched at the back, sprinkles a confetti of light while Practical Pig plunges his brush into color and restores the stunning array of hues, carousel and everything else.

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Talented Teens Make Tribute In Harlem

HARLEM, N.Y.—The historic Apollo Theatre came alive with youthful, energetic talent recently when the 21st annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International competition showcased 45 young ladies from around the world. The 1991 winner of the Talented Teens International crown is 16-year-old Myisha Richmond, a hooper (tap dancer to no music), who resides in Lawndale, Calif. The sold-out show featured guest appearances by Motown recording artists Boyz II Men and Another Bad Creation.

This year's entire production, titled "A Tribute to Harlem," began with the curtain rising to "Drop Me Off in Harlem" and all of the enthusiastic competitors onstage in pastel evening gowns moving to the music. Once they were "dropped off in Harlem," there was the parade of states and countries which included such places as Antigua, India, Alaska, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Jamaica, the British and U.S. Virgin Islands, England, Nigeria, and other locations around the United States and the world.

The judges for the evening, who sat in the box seats on both sides of the theater so that everyone in attendance could see them, included Mattie Rich, the producer and director of "Straight Out of Brooklyn;" Melba Moore, the singer and actress who sang "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," the Black National Anthem, a cappella for the audience; Grace Garland, an exceptional actress; Shannon Buettow, president of FCO Management; Terry Hill, Miss Maryland TTI 1974 and currently the first black plastic surgeon in the state of Maryland; Luther Fontaine, executive director of the LaRocque Bey School of Dance; and Oliver Sutton, president, Apollo Theatre Records.

Ms. ReNisha Rayford, the 16-year-old 1990 Talented Teens International winner, co-hosted the show with the legendary broadcast pioneer Hal Jackson and Dr. Bob Lee of WBL. During the night's show, Another Bad Creation ignited the stage and the entire audience was spellbound with the entertainment which also included Boyz II Men who capped the evening off with presentations of trophies and kisses for the bubbly winners.

Once the scores were tallied, the winners were announced. The fourth runner-up was 17-year-old Keitra Musgrave from Fayetteville, N.C.; third runner up was 17-year-old Tamara White from Atlanta, Ga.; second runner-up, 17-year-old Shonte Harrison from Plainfield, N.J.; first runner-up, 17-year-old Debelah Morgan from Tucson, Ariz.; and the winner, Myisha Richardson, 16, from Lawndale, Calif.

Myisha will be flown from her home state of California to London, England via American Airlines to experience West Indian Carnival in London. She will be reunited with the United Kingdom contestant, 13-year-old Aretha Thomas, and they will be able to compare notes of the long rehearsals and spectacular, fast-paced week all of the contestants shared while staying in New York.



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