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Spring **2016**

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## Create Vacation Memories

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**M**emories of happy times become stories we share again and again with family and friends, and no one helps you make those memories more magical than Disney. This year, as you plan your family's vacation, think of the stories you will create together.

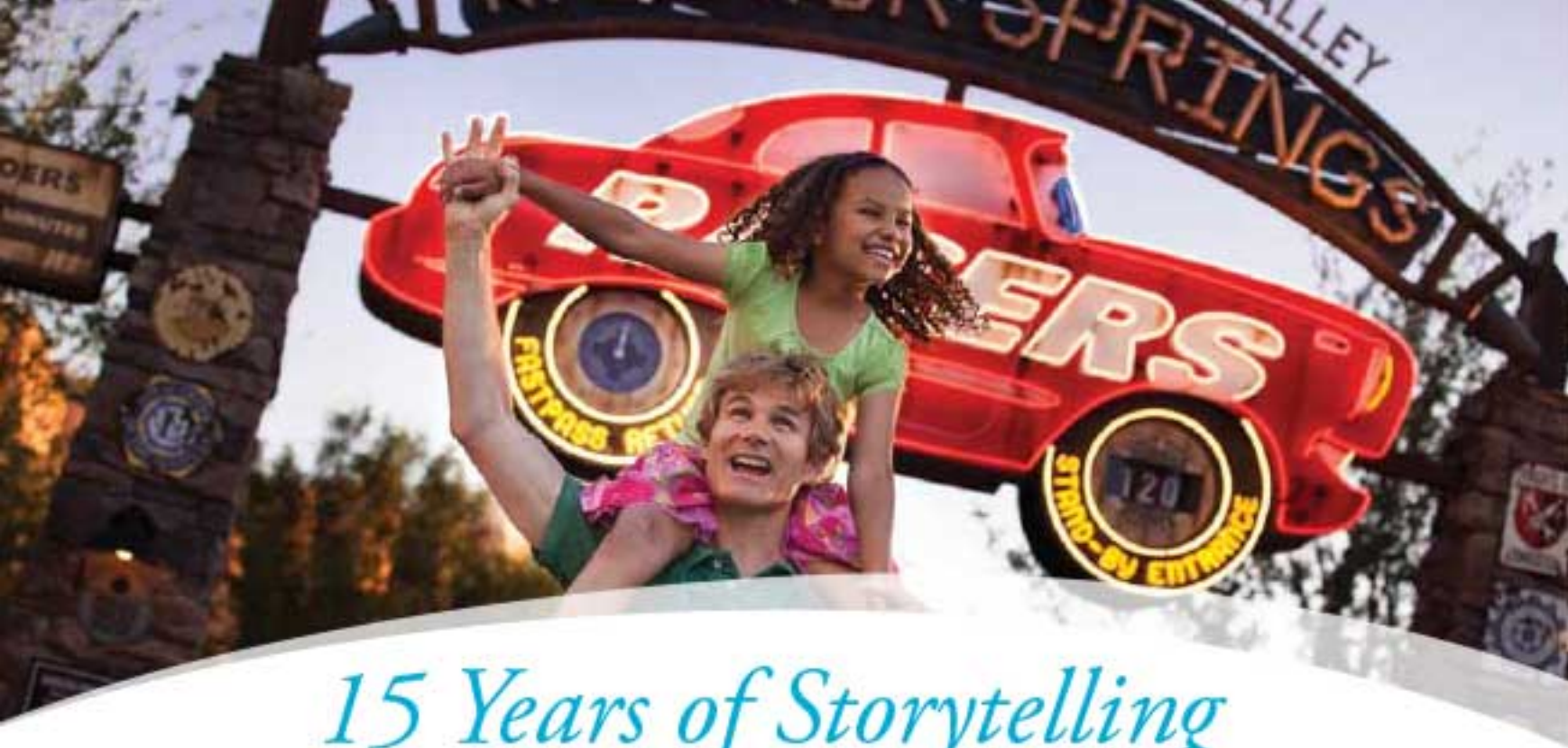
Perhaps it will be of your visit to Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawaii, where the storytelling heritage of Hawaii meets Disney storytelling in art, music, dance and song. Maybe you'll indulge your senses of sight, smell and taste at the 23rd Annual Epcot® International Flower & Garden Festival at Walt Disney World® Resort. Or stroll through the new Disney Springs™ at Walt Disney World® Resort, where you can relax, refresh and rejuvenate in the ambiance of a historical small Florida town complete with shady promenades, fountains, waterfront views and more dining, shopping and entertainment opportunities than ever!

Closer to home, make memories of laughter and adventure

together when you experience the hilarious new Disney animated comedy-adventure, Zootopia. Or travel deep into the wild with The Jungle Book, Disney's new live-action adventure inspired by the beloved animated classic.

Whatever memories you want to share, the Disney Visa Debit Card can help you create your own family stories of good times together. Venture into the wild with your Cardmember savings of 10% on select merchandise purchases of \$50 or more at Disney Store and [DisneyStore.com](http://DisneyStore.com) and pick up some cuddly cuteness inspired by Zootopia.<sup>1</sup> Or get up close and personal with some of your favorite Disney Characters at the Cardmember-exclusive Disney Character Meet 'N' Greet at our private Cardmember location at Walt Disney World® Resort and the Disneyland® Resort.<sup>2,3</sup>

Whatever you choose, start your vacation planning today, knowing you're making memories you'll talk about for years to come. Every moment of Disney magic is a story waiting for you to make it happen.



# 15 Years of Storytelling at Disney California Adventure® Park

**W**e all have family stories we love to tell about funny, tender or sweet moments we remember. And we add to those stories every year. The same could be said of Disney California Adventure® Park, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.

Disney California Adventure® Park, which opened on February 8, 2001, was originally designed around the idea of telling the story of the Golden State through such beloved attractions as Soarin' Over California, California Screamin' and Grizzly River Run among others. These attractions are all still favorites today.

The story grew, and the original California story evolved to highlight Walt Disney's storytelling heritage and history. A wider variety of attractions were added for family members of all ages to share. *World of Color*® was introduced to bring dazzling color and light to the night, and Guests can enjoy attractions and events featuring even more of the Disney and Disney•Pixar storytelling they love.\*

"Our storytelling is always expanding," explains Kevin Rafferty, Executive Creative Director, Walt Disney Imagineering. "We continue to tell our California story, but today it's adhering more closely to the story of Walt Disney arriving in Hollywood with 'a suitcase and a dream,' and how successful he was at making that dream a reality. We begin the story with his arrival on Buena Vista Street. That's our foundation."

"The world knows and loves the stories Walt Disney gave us and the hundreds of stories that have come after, including the amazing Characters and adventures from Disney•Pixar. The fact that these stories are developed and created in California is also a perfect connection with the overall California theme," Kevin points out.

"My big granddaddy example for how the two come together is Cars Land," he says. "At Walt Disney Imagineering, we had been thinking for a long time about creating an attraction that celebrated California car culture in the early 1950s. At the time, we called it Carland. Then in 2004, we learned that Pixar was working on a film about cars. We met with John Lasseter, Chief Creative Officer, Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios. Carland quickly transformed into Cars Land. Basically everything fell into place. It was as if the moons—or in this case, the tires—had all aligned. It's the perfect example of the evolution of an idea. We ended up in the best possible place we could be."

"It was time to bring the world of *Cars* to life. But how? In general, we take what the filmmakers create in two dimensions and we translate it to a three-dimensional immersive world so our Guests can step into and play in the worlds they know and love," says Kevin.

Kevin recalls walking through Radiator Springs in Cars Land shortly after it opened, and overhearing an awe-struck young boy ask his mother, "Mom, is this where they made the movie? I knew at that moment we had been very, very successful," he says.



Now a new personality has joined the fun with Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters. "We wanted to bring more Characters from the world of Disney•Pixar's *Cars* films to Cars Land," Kevin explains. "We were inspired by Luigi's enthusiastic personality. Our story is that he misses his hometown in Italy, so all his cousins from the little town of Carsoli have turned up. They've cleared the storage area behind Luigi's tire shop, and turned it into a dance floor."

Guests sit inside cars inspired by the rear-engine micro cars from Italy in the mid-to-late 1950s as they show off their car-eography. "I think it's safe to say you've never seen anything like it in your life. It's one-of-a-kind," Kevin says.

According to Kevin, the idea took about two years "from spark to Park." "We always have challenges when we create something we've never done before," he says. "But for Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters we had a really clear vision and all of the pieces just clicked."

Other attractions take more time for the story to come together. "Sometimes we may know what we want to do, but it takes time to figure out how to do it," Kevin explains. Toy Story Midway Mania!® at Paradise Pier is an example. Walt Disney Imagineers asked themselves if there was a way to combine traditional boardwalk games with a family ride-through attraction that puts Guests inside the games. "We had a lot of questions: How could we marry the

Toy Story Characters to that idea; how would the vehicles ride through the games; what would it look like; how would it work? Everything happens in real time, so we had to develop a new operating system that is incredibly complex," explains Kevin.

An Audio-Animatronics® Mr. Potato Head serves as the game "barker," conversing with individual Guests in the queue. "He says 'from expert to beginner, everyone's a winner,'" Kevin quotes the witty spud. "I'd like to think that is true for all our Guests. They are the ones we tell the stories for."

Disney California Adventure® Park is also home to the Disney Character Meet 'N' Greet at our private Cardmember location.² So between your trips down Route 66 at Cars Land or under the ocean with *The Little Mermaid*—Ariel's Undersea Adventure, make sure you stop by to see some of your favorite Disney Characters.

What will the future look like in the next 15 years at Disney California Adventure® Park? "I don't have a crystal ball," Kevin says. "But I can guarantee that we'll always have new stories to tell and new ways to invite our Guests to share them."



## Adventures Through the Years

2001	2002	2004	2008	2010	2011	2012	2016
Disney California Adventure® Park opens	a bug's land invites Guests to go small for big fun	The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror™ inspires screams of laughter	Toy Story Midway Mania!® shoots onto the scene	World of Color® sets the night ablaze	The Little Mermaid—Ariel's Undersea Adventure makes a splash	Buena Vista Street welcomes Guests to Walt Disney's Hollywood of the 1920s and 30s Cars Land revs onto the scene	Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters joins the fun at Cars Land

# Disney Springs™ “Your Place to Be”

at Walt Disney World® Resort

**S**troll along shady promenades past bubbling flowing springs, relax and enjoy waterfront views, dine at more than 40 food and beverage offerings, shop at over 100 stores and enjoy an eclectic mix of entertainment from live concerts to art, acrobatic performances and more. Welcome to *Disney Springs™* at Walt Disney World® Resort.

The four-year transformation of *Downtown Disney®* to *Disney Springs™* was the largest in the history of Walt Disney World® Resort. “*Downtown Disney®* had always been very successful, and it has continued to grow in popularity since the Village opened in 1975. “We wanted to bring more dining and retail experiences while creating a more cohesive experience with a stronger story,” says Theron Skees, Executive Creative Director, Walt Disney Imagineering. Now in the final stages of construction, *Disney Springs™* will be ready to delight Guests in May 2016 with more new venues opening through June and beyond.

In 2012 Walt Disney Imagineers put on their thinking caps and began concepting just what that story might be. Imagineers invited experts across different disciplines from show writing to retail dining and shopping to come up with some ideas. Eventually the team landed on the idea of a Florida waterfront town that developed around a natural spring. There are a lot of natural springs in Florida, and that’s where people settled. Hence the name, *Disney Springs™*.

“Over time, towns change, so we also wanted our story to



be about a town that has grown and evolved but looks as if it’s been lovingly restored to keep all its historic charm,” says Theron.

But how do you build a destination that feels old and yet looks new? “It’s tricky,” Theron admits. “We decided to tell a story about adaptive reuse. Adaptive reuse is an approach you see all the time in real places where communities have repurposed older buildings such as manufacturing plants into apartments or retail and entertainment venues. The idea of adaptive reuse perfectly fit our story of a small town changing through time.”

Imagineers created a timeline from the mid 1800s and then began designing the four districts or neighborhoods to fit it. With myriad dining experiences and retail shops, there’s so much to see, taste and do at *Disney Springs™*.

- In **Town Center**, you’ll enjoy a sophisticated mix of shopping at such stores as Lilly Pulitzer, Tommy Bahama and UGG. Or simply stroll the shady promenade as you enjoy the multitude of fountains.
- At **West Side**, you can catch the beat of live entertainment at House of Blues or experience the magic of Cirque du Soleil’s “La Nouba.”
- **The Marketplace** offers a family-friendly atmosphere for delicious treats or fun shopping at the world’s largest *World of Disney®* Store. Or stroll the over-the-water pedestrian causeway for beautiful nighttime views.
- At **The Landing**, enjoy boutique shops not found anywhere else in Central Florida, then dine in style at Morimoto Asia, where for a limited time Cardmembers receive 10% off lunch. See page 15 for details.

“We wanted to make *Disney Springs™* feel as if it has always been here, but has changed with time. It’s about creating a structure or interior that looks as if it were old, but someone came in and cleaned it up. It was a lot of fun. We had a blast—it was pure invention—pure storytelling. We know from experience that our Guests really want to be immersed in a place with a story. There’s nothing we like more than creating that for them,” says Theron. To learn more and check out the latest happenings, visit [DisneySprings.com](http://DisneySprings.com).

3/2/16–5/30/16

The 23rd Annual Epcot® International  
Flower & Garden Festival  
visit [EpcotInSpring.com](http://EpcotInSpring.com)

# Discover “Fresh Epcot®”

at the 23rd Annual Epcot® International Flower & Garden Festival

**I**t’s Spring! Time to relax and smell the flowers. But wait—what are those other delicious scents wafting your way? Welcome to the 23rd Annual Epcot® International Flower & Garden Festival, where not only the scents and colors of Spring are celebrated—but also the tastes!

For the fourth year, at Outdoor Kitchens throughout the Festival, Guests can enjoy unique opportunities to sample cuisine featuring fresh vegetables, as well as fruit and herbs they see growing in nearby garden displays.

“In a way it was our Guests who inspired us to create the Outdoor Kitchens,” says Eric Darden, Horticultural Content Manager, Epcot® Park. “So many of them would see a display and tell us ‘I wish you had someplace where I could taste this.’ We thought ‘why not?’ Food is a big part of the storytelling in gardening, so adding Outdoor Kitchens was a natural.”

“We now have about 11 Outdoor Kitchens,” says Chef Gregg Hannon, Executive Chef, Walt Disney World® Resort. “They’re inspired by the plants displayed during the Festival, so all the recipes are driven by fresh produce. In fact, our slogan for the Festival is ‘Fresh Epcot®.’”

This year, Guests will be able to savor the flavors at favorite Outdoor Kitchens including Urban Farm Eats, Jardin de Fiestas, Smokehouse Barbecue & Brews, the Pineapple Promenade and Florida Fresh. “Some of our offerings have already become Guest favorites,” Gregg says. “So we’ll be serving our Watermelon Salad and Beef Brisket Burnt Ends Hash among others.”

But plants take time to grow, so planning begins far in advance of the actual Festival and is a very close collaborative process between the culinary and horticulture staff. “It’s a two-way street,” explains Eric. “We might tell the chefs that we really want to incorporate a fruit, vegetable or herb into a garden display, and they’ll create recipes that utilize it. Or they’ll come to us with a recipe they’re considering, and we’ll work those plants into our displays.”

“For instance, the first year we introduced the Outdoor Kitchens, we asked all the participants if there was something they’d like us to grow. The folks at the Japanese Pavilion requested Yuzu, a Japanese citrus fruit, so we now have Yuzu trees in our nursery. We may have the only two Yuzu trees growing in Florida,” Eric adds with a laugh.



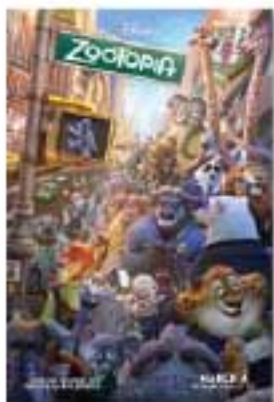
“I really enjoy the planning process,” Chef Gregg notes. “It is inspiring to work with my fellow chefs and with the horticulture staff to come up with new ideas and then watch those ideas grow into something wonderful. It’s all food for the spirit.”

Also fun for the spirit is meeting some of your favorite Disney Characters. No visit to Epcot® would be complete without a visit to the Disney Character Meet ‘N’ Greet at our private Cardmember location at Innoventions West from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.<sup>2</sup>

So, tempt your senses and give your taste buds a treat this Spring, and explore the smells, sights and tastes of the 23rd Annual Epcot® International Flower & Garden Festival with your family. Most Festival events are included with your admission to Epcot®, but availability is limited for some events, so make your plans early. For more information, visit [EpcotInSpring.com](http://EpcotInSpring.com).



## Adventure to a New World



In theaters  
March 4, 2016



**T**he mammals in *Zootopia* look a lot like the rabbits, the foxes, the elephants and the shrews that inspired them. But these mammals talk, wear clothes, fight crime and build sophisticated cities. When *Zootopia* opens in theaters March 4, 2016, audiences will experience an urban jungle that's like nothing they've ever seen before.

Composed of habitat neighborhoods like ritzy Sahara Square and frigid Tundratown, *Zootopia* is a melting pot where animals from every environment live together—a place where no matter what you are, from the biggest elephant to the smallest shrew, you can be anything. But when optimistic Officer Judy Hopps (voice of Ginnifer Goodwin) arrives, she discovers that being the first bunny on a police force of big, tough animals isn't so easy. Determined to prove herself, she jumps at the opportunity to crack a case, even if it means partnering with a fast-talking scam-artist fox, Nick Wilde (voice of Jason Bateman).

"We've made animated films with talking animals in a natural world and talking animals in human worlds, but we've never made a movie in a contemporary world where humans have never existed," says Clark Spencer, Producer.

"We wanted to create an animal world like no one has ever seen before," continues Clark. "So one

of our first questions was if all these animals lived together in one city, how would they build it?"

They took their cue from cities like New York, London and Paris that have distinct areas and neighborhoods or boroughs. But because animals come from many different climates, *Zootopia* needed to encompass that as well. How do you put the frozen tundra next door to the rainforest or the Sahara desert? "We had to come up with an idea that was believable within this world," Clark says.

The team met with a climatologist and a city planner and came up with the idea of establishing boundaries for each district by using a great wall to separate them. But this is no ordinary wall. "Our metaphor was an air conditioner," Clark explains. "One side blows cold air into the tundra, while the 'exhaust' side blows hot air into the desert area and the runoff goes into the rainforest to create mist and waterfalls."

When you're dealing with animals of all shapes and sizes, scale also becomes a significant consideration in the design of the world. "We had so much fun with scale," Clark says. "We had to design for animals ranging in size from elephants to mice. We played with everything from doorways and escalators to a two-foot-tall village for the mice. When Hopps goes there, she's like Godzilla to them. Visually, this film is so much fun."

But creating the setting is just one part of the development. As in all Disney films, story reigns supreme. Again, the creative team put on their



research hats and dove deep into the world of animal behavior and biology. One of the things they learned was that in the natural world prey animals outnumber predator animals about ten to one. "That insight became the first spark for the story," Clark recalls. "We asked ourselves what would happen if these two groups—who are like oil and water in nature—had to work together to solve a problem. They have a lot of misconceptions about each other to overcome. At first, Hopps thinks Nick is sly, conniving and untrustworthy, while Nick thinks Hopps is incapable of doing anything. But as they work together, they both learn that their original assumptions are wrong."

Sometimes the filmmakers have to change their original assumptions as well. At first, the development team assumed Nick should be the film's protagonist. "But it is hard to get an audience to root for a con man," Clark explains. "We were halfway into the storyboarding, and we realized focusing on Nick as the main character wasn't working."

"But it's very easy to get on Hopps' side," Clark continues. "She's so appealing you immediately fall in love with her. So midway through story development we flopped the two characters to make Hopps the protagonist. It was a huge change, but very important."

"Jason and Ginnifer are both amazing talents," Clark says. "Jason is so funny. You can give him any line and he makes it his own. He has a way of saying really edgy things, but he's so likeable as a person he can get away with that. Ginnifer is just about the nicest person you could ever hope to meet, and that comes through in her voice along with a strong sense of determination that is perfect for Hopps."

"Jason and Ginnifer worked so well together and they both brought so much humor and heart to their roles," Clark says. "In the long run that's what we want as storytellers—to have the audience become emotionally invested in the characters. To make them feel as if they've seen the characters learn and grow. And to leave the theater with something positive to think about. If you accomplished those three things, you will have a movie that stays with people long after it's over."

Plan your journey to *Zootopia*. It's time to enter a world like you've never seen before."

## Go Wild at Disney Store



Bring home some *Zootopia* fun from Disney Store and **DisneyStore.com** and take advantage of your Cardmember savings of 10% on select merchandise purchases of \$50 or more!

Kids will love pretending they're on the beat with a cool Carrot Recorder Pen just like Officer Judy Hopps uses. The pen is fully functional as a writing tool and features 30 seconds of character phrases and 60 seconds of voice recording.

Kids can also act out the story with *Zootopia* action figures or snuggle up with plush cuddly characters. From apparel to mugs, phone cases and water bottles, you'll find something for the animal in everyone.





## An Epic Adventure Comes to Life



Imagine Baloo and Bagheera looking so alive you can almost reach out and feel their fur. Shiver at the sharp menace of Shere Khan's fangs and claws. And shudder at the sinister stealth of Kaa. You've entered the world of *The Jungle Book*, which opens in theaters April 15, 2016.

Seamlessly blending live-action with photo-realistic computer-generated imagery of animals and environments, Disney storytellers have created a new version of Disney's classic film in an all-new live-action epic adventure so real, you'll feel you've been transported to the deepest jungle.

Directed by Jon Favreau (*Iron Man*) with screenplay by Justin Marks, and based on Rudyard Kipling's timeless stories and inspired by Disney's 1967 film, *The Jungle Book* retells the beloved tale of Mowgli (newcomer Neel Sethi), a man-cub raised in the jungle by a family of wolves, who embarks on a captivating journey of self-discovery when he's forced to abandon the only home he's ever known.

Hunted by the fearsome tiger Shere Khan (voice of Idris Elba), Mowgli is guided on his way by panther-turned-mentor Bagheera (voice of Ben Kingsley), and the free-spirited bear Baloo (voice of Bill Murray). Along the way, Mowgli encounters jungle creatures who don't exactly have his best interests at heart, including Kaa (voice of Scarlett Johansson) and the smooth-talking King Louie (voice of Christopher Walken).

"I felt drawn to make this film," says Jon. "I grew up with the original animated classic and was intrigued by the possibilities today's technology could bring to this great story. With

computer-generated imagery we could create entire realistic environments and populate them with animals that look as if you were watching them in a nature documentary—and yet have them talk and interact with a human boy. I think it heightens the emotional impact and sense of adventure."

"To create such realism, the artists observed animals closely and filmed them, then took their observations to the drawing board. They also filmed the actors as they performed their roles to capture their facial expressions and gestures and translated them to the animals," Jon explains.

"The cast brought so much to their roles. Their performances and their rich vocal textures gave the animators a tremendous amount to work with." Perhaps the most challenging character to cast in the film was Mowgli. "We auditioned 2,000 boys from all over the globe," Jon says. "Neel had never done a feature film before, but he really captured Mowgli's spirit," continues Jon.

It was a challenging role for a relative newcomer who had to interact with characters who weren't real and weren't present on stage with him. "We used human actors and puppets to give Neel something to react to, which brought that spark to his eyes," Jon says. "Sometimes it was me in there with him."

"This was a very different kind of film for me," Jon admits. "In other films, you're there with a camera, a group of actors and you start filming. You discover things as they unfold, and sometimes great things happen that weren't planned. With *The Jungle Book*, nothing happened that wasn't planned—every thing, every place, every movement. In the long run, with *The Jungle Book*, it all comes down to the artists. That's the real magic."

See the adventure come to life when you share the epic tale of *The Jungle Book* with your family. Then visit [DisneyStore.com](http://DisneyStore.com) with your Cardmember savings to pick up your favorite plush.<sup>1</sup> From Bagheera to Baloo, they are a necessity you won't want to live without.

## "The Lion Guard" Someone New to Roar About

Imagine watching a group of best friends playing as a team of aspiring superheroes in the park. Then imagine taking all that youthful energy, loyalty and friendship and turning it into a story based on one of the world's most beloved animated films, *The Lion King*.

That's what executive producer Ford Riley did when approached to create a story that would continue the epic saga of *The Lion King* for today's young viewers. The resulting tale was, *The Lion Guard: Return of the Roar*, that premiered in November 2015 on Disney Channel. Now the story continues with "The Lion Guard" animated series on Disney Junior.

"Disney wanted to create a series that took place in the world of *The Lion King*, but with characters and stories that were new," Ford says. Ford's idea was to tell a story that focused on Simba and Nala's second-born cub, Kion, and to give him a role in the Pride Lands.

"I met with the team at Disney Junior, and that evening I was thinking about the story when my son came in from playing a superhero team game with his friends. That's when it clicked—make Kion and his friends a team of superheroes who must protect the Pride Lands," says Ford.

Ford recalls pitching the idea to his son that evening. "He's my most honest critic," Ford says. His son's response was more or less enthusiastic. "It sounds okay, Dad," he said. But a bit later, I saw him playing with his plastic animals. When I asked what he was doing, he told me 'I'm playing Lion Guard.' That's when I knew I had something."

Superheroes have superpowers, but in this case Ford wanted those powers to be natural. So he made Kion the fiercest, another character the fastest, one the bravest, one the strongest and the last with the keenest of sight. Those

attributes led naturally to a cheetah, honey badger, hippo and egret.

Ford's son and his friends, plus the animals' natural characteristics, also inspired each character's personality. Kion is mischievous, bold and smart—a natural leader. Feisty and funny, Bunga, the honey badger, is Kion's best friend. Fuli, the cheetah, is the fastest in the Pride Lands. She is also the most independent and not afraid to stand up to Kion. The largest and strongest, Beshte, the hippo, may look intimidating, but he's actually a friendly, easy-going guy. Ono, the keen-sighted egret who serves as the Lion Guard's "eye in the sky," conducts reconnaissance and aerial surveillance, to scout the best and safest way for the Lion Guard to arrive at the scene of a problem.

"I wanted the characters to be diverse and relatable to kids," Ford explains. "Our primary goal is entertainment, but for kids' shows, it's important to present ideas they can think about and learn from. In 'The Lion Guard,' Kion has to figure out when to use the 'Roar of the Elders,' just like kids have to learn when and how to use their abilities and skills appropriately. The underlying theme of the show is about learning how to get along and work with others. To create a series viewers care about, you have to create characters they care about. I love all these characters and hope viewers will too."

Just like Ford's son, your kids can discover their inner Lion Guard power with plush toys, T-shirts, a character hoodie and backpack and more when you use your Disney Visa Card at Disney Store and [DisneyStore.com](http://DisneyStore.com) to save 10% on select merchandise purchases of \$50 or more.<sup>1</sup> It is truly something to roar about.



# The Fine Art of Storytelling

at *Aulani*, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i

**W**hat happens when great storytellers and artists come together to create a one-of-a-kind vacation experience? *Aulani*, A Disney Resort & Spa where Guests are immersed in the rich story, legacy and history of Hawai'i.

"When the Walt Disney Imagineers began developing the Resort, they embraced the fact that Hawai'i has stories to tell," says Kahulu De Santos, Cultural Advisor, *Aulani*, A Disney Resort & Spa.

At the very beginning of the resort development, Joe Rohde, Creative Executive, Walt Disney Imagineering, asked cultural consultants and local artists and designers how they would tell the story of Hawai'i in their art. The groups met continually to "talk story." "It created a powerful partnership," Kahulu says.

More than 60 renowned local artists contributed their vision and creativity through carvings and paintings, traditional feather work, bark cloth designs and kinetic sculptures. So wherever you are and whatever you're doing, you are surrounded and immersed in the art and storytelling of Hawai'i.

The story begins with architecture inspired by traditional canoe houses and homes. "It's a shape that says 'welcome home, come inside, let's share a story,'" Kahulu says.

Outside the Maka'ala lobby, rich woodcarvings honor the sailing and navigational traditions of the islands and invite you to begin your own exploration of discovery. Wooden friezes of kahili (royal feather standards) greet you as you enter. "Feathers are symbols of royalty and precious in Hawaiian culture," Kahulu explains. Brilliant murals encircling the lobby depict Hawaiian life in the past, present and future. Outside, larger-than-life bas relief panels tell stories of Hina, the Goddess of the Moon, and Maui, the demi-god who pulled the islands up on his magic fishhook.

The storytelling continues to unfold in Guests' rooms, where the décor reflects traditional kapa bark cloth designs. "Kapa is one of our most highly developed art forms," Kahulu explains. "It's such an important part of our legacy. Hawaiian artisan Dalani

Tanahy shares the art and techniques of kapa-making in a free demonstration as well as a premium experience where Guests can make their own kapa piece."

Hungry for more? Head to the Makahiki restaurant for a fabulous meal surrounded by murals depicting the traditional Makahiki annual harvest festival. But this is just a hint of the beauty everywhere you look. To learn more take the Maka'ika'i: Art and Nature Tour, a complimentary guided 45-minute walking tour of *Aulani* Resort art and wildlife included in your stay. Check the Daily 'Iwa for available dates and times.



The focus on storytelling through art continues in the shops. As a Cardmember, enjoy savings of 10% off select merchandise purchases of \$50 or more at both Kālepa's Store and Hale Manu.<sup>3</sup> You can take home island treasures inspired by the Art of *Aulani* Resort. For stylish, high-end contemporary gifts, visit Hale Manu, where you'll find Dooney & Bourke bags and the latest shirts by Tori Richard in styles designed specifically for *Aulani* Resort, as well as fine jewelry by local artists. "I especially love the jewelry made from Na Mea sunrise shells," says Michelle Harker, Manager, Merchandise Marketing & Communication, *Aulani* Resort & Spa and the *Disneyland*® Resort. "The shells glow when sunlight hits them and they are considered very rare."

Inspired by family-owned general stores that have served Hawai'i families for generations, Kālepa's Store offers a variety of commemorative keepsakes as well as vacation essentials. This year, new pieces in the *Aulani* Travel Collection feature a sophisticated vintage/retro Hawaiian surf theme. The *Aulani* Storybook Collection depicts Disney Characters

vacationing at the Resort. "Our artists had a lot of fun with the storytelling in this line of merchandise," Michelle says. "You see the Characters doing some of the things you did while you were here, so there's a real emotional tie."

The magic of Hawaiian culture and Disney storytelling doesn't end there. There is more music and magic beneath the stars. As the sun sets, families gather together on the



Hālāwai Lawn to learn lau hala (pandanus) plaiting, hear stories and make lei as part of the Starlit Hui preshow. Slowly the sky darkens, the stars begin to shine, and the sounds of music and song rise to meet them. The show has begun.

Offered several evenings weekly, the Starlit Hui is considered the signature evening event at *Aulani* Resort & Spa. Guests are enchanted as they watch the stage fill with graceful dancers who sway, turn and bend in dances that are both contemporary and as timeless as the nearby ocean waves. "We offer many wonderful experiences at *Aulani* Resort, but Starlit Hui is very special," says Shelby Jiggetts-Tivony, Creative Development Executive, Walt Disney Imagineering.

One of the first things the creative team determined was that they wanted to celebrate only Hawaiian dance and music, unlike commercial lū'au which typically include dances from other areas of Polynesia and the Pacific.

To reach that goal, finding the right creative team was essential. Shelby assembled a team that included Kaleo Trinidad, a dynamic hula choreographer and Peter Rockford Espiritu, a choreographer of modern dance with a background in hula. "There are two basic kinds of hula," Kahulu explains. "Hula 'auana, which is more modern, and hula kahiko, which is hula in a traditional style. Kaleo brought the traditional aspects of the dance and music, while Peter showed he could weave both traditional and modern elements into his choreography."

"It would have been easy to focus on Hawai'i as an ancient place and culture," Shelby says. "But we also wanted the voices of the creative team to come through to celebrate what is special about Hawai'i today. We were very conscientious about where we could honor something that is ancient but is also a part of the Hawaiian culture that is still very much alive and celebrated today."



Native writer T. Ilihia Gionson provided invaluable help, according to Shelby. "He gave us wonderful insights. For instance, after the actual show ends, we segue into a dance party where the Disney Characters come out and dance with the Guest. T. Ilihia insisted that younger performers ask permission for the party from Uncle, who hosts the show. "Hawaiians would never, ever just start a party without asking permission from an elder," T. Ilihia told me," Shelby recalls. "It was late. We were almost done programming the show. But we knew we had to add this moment where the young host and DJ ask permission to bring their friends—the Disney Characters and Guests—to dance. It turned out to be a very sweet little moment."

To Shelby, that's just one example of how little things add up. "It was important for us to get every detail right," she says. To discover all the ways you can experience the art and storytelling of *Aulani* Resort, including the magic of the Starlit Hui, visit [DisneyAulani.com](http://DisneyAulani.com).



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