

Photo shop

Picture it: Loads of photos from Disney attractions old and new. We've got them online, and on subjects ranging from the new Club Disney at Hollywood Studios to "Captain EO Through the Years." See more at TheDailyDisney.com



■ FUSION FORAY:

Orlando Sentinel Food Editor Heather McPherson went to Morimoto Asia at Disney Springs. Was she blown away or not? Read her review at TheDailyDisney.com

QUEBEC SOUNDS OFF AT WORLD SHOWCASE

Oui, Canada has new act at Epcot

BY DEWAYNE BEVIL
Staff Writer

A handful of new experiences are afoot at Epcot, and feet play a major part in one of them.

A group billed as TradNation is now performing on the theme park's Mill Stage in Canada. It's a five-piece, Quebec-based ensemble — basically a flutist, a guitarist, two violin players and a step dancer.

That last guy is an eye-catcher with a role that's part river dancer, part snare drum. When he's not up doing a joyous jig, he's sitting on a box and tapping away the beat for the band. It can be mesmerizing.

TradNation's sound is folksy and, well, French. There were English explanations and instructions, a plea to clap along, perhaps an Irish joke and a reference to "mouth music" in the 20-minute show.

Yes, this is the same stage that was previously home to performances of the popular Off Kilter band and, later, the Canadian Lumberjacks show. The small pool for the jacks' log-rolling contests has been removed, but the cutting remarks live on. I abandoned live streaming of TradNation via Periscope after a single song because user comments were sinking into well-worn anti-lumberjack territory.

Everyone, it seems, wants to make that "they got the ax" joke.

To be fair, when Disney mixed up the Epcot lineup in 2014, an official told me that it was a return to a mind-set of changing the entertainment offerings more often. Along with fresh blood in Canada, street performers also have changed in the United Kingdom and Morocco pavilions in recent months.

Meanwhile, back in front of the Mill Stage, preschoolers are jam-



DEWAYNE BEVIL/STAFF

TradNation perform on the Mill Stage in the Canada section of Epcot.

ming to TradNation. One is dancing at the foot of the stage. A little girl sitting in her stroller shakes maracas to the music. It's very international and understanding. Can't we all just get along like Epcot?

TradNation performs several times a day, Wednesdays through Sundays. It's a limited-time engagement, Disney says, expected to run until mid-April.

Short, sweet

An animation triple-feature debuted last month at Epcot's Magic Eye Theater. Future World visitors can drop in on the Disney & Pixar Short Film Festival throughout the day.

The first — and most inventive — of the trio is 2013's "Get a Horse!" This madcap short intermingles old-school cartooning and

the more modern Mickey Mouse look, and the 3-D effects are a perfect fit for the stage and screen at this theater, which was previously the home for "Captain EO."

Bonus: The remixed voice of Walt Disney himself speaks for Mickey in "Get a Horse!"

The other films, Pixar pair "La Luna" (2011) and the Oscar-winning "For the Birds," are sweetly whimsical and silly, respectively. I got an anti-bullying vibe from the latter, which debuted in 2000. But I also got a big smile.

Maximum Baymax

"Big Hero 6" fans can now meet and greet Baymax in Epcot's Future World.

For the uninitiated, the character looks like a second cousin to the Pillsbury Doughboy and the Michelin Man. But it will be more

impressive to your best Disney friend if you know that the robot appeared in the 2014 Disney animated film as the butler/bodyguard/chauffeur/best friend of Hiro Takachiho.

Ah, but there are unusual rules. You can't wear pins or lanyards when approaching Baymax. Let's just say he looks like he's so happy he could burst — and lots of guests like to hug.

He also doesn't talk, but he blinks/winks, which is expressive and a little freaky. He's also into fist-bumping.

Baymax stands in the Character Spot across the breezeway from the traditional Character Spot. A permanent backdrop has been installed there. Disney World lists his hours as 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

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Potter celebration back at Universal

Fans of the boy wizard are expected in droves again at Universal Orlando this weekend for A Celebration of Harry Potter.

Along with film-star power in the forms of actors Rupert Grint, Bonnie Wright, Matthew Lewis, Evanna Lynch and Katie Leung, the three-day event features a freeform expo with Potter-related partners and more structured activities such as panels and demonstrations.

The celebration is included in regular admission, but Universal recommends that guests get a two-park ticket as some activities are in Universal Studios theme park and some are in the neighboring Islands of Adventure.

Both parks — and their respective Wizarding World of Harry Potter attractions — will be involved in a photographic scavenger hunt.

The event expo, which opens at 9 a.m. daily in Soundstage 33 on the Studios side, includes a Sorting Hat experience and an interactive mini-tour from Warner Bros. Studio Tour in London.

Among the panels will be a discussion of movie props with Pierre Bohanna, graphic design with Miraphora Mina and Eduardo Lima of MinaLima design studio and kid-oriented experiences such as a "Dance Like a Beauxbatons and Battle Like a Durmstrang."

For an exact schedule with times and locations, plus rules about costumes, go to universalorlando.com.