



Bid a fond farewell to
IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth

PICTURED: Tribute artwork by Kim Gromoll
for Epcot® International Festival of the Arts.



In this Issue

It's time to have big fun in the summer sun here at Walt Disney World® Resort. There's plenty to see and do throughout all four Theme Parks, Disney Springs® and beyond. So come say goodbye to an Epcot® spectacular. Let Your Adventure Begin at Disney's Hollywood Studios®.

Have a wicked good time during a new Magic Kingdom® event. And find new ways to celebrate *The Lion King* at Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park. You'll even discover a thrilling new basketball experience at Disney Springs®, Water Park fun for everyone, exciting new merchandise and more!

Hope to see ya real soon,

*Your Passholder
Program Friends*



Say "Goodbye" to *IllumiNations:* *Reflections of Earth*

This summer, join us in bidding a fond farewell to the *IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth* nighttime spectacular at Epcot® after a dazzling 20-year run. The last show will be September 30, and it will be followed by the debut of a new limited-time show—*Epcot® Forever*. But before we look ahead, we wanted to take a look back at how *IllumiNations* came to be and celebrate its long history. We sat down with Vice President of Live Entertainment Bettina Buckley to get the scoop. Not only was Bettina the producer on the original version of the show in the '80s and '90s, she also worked with the team that created the current version.

How did *IllumiNations* come to be?

Bettina: We had experimented with a variety of nighttime shows on World Showcase Lagoon from the time Epcot® opened in 1982. *IllumiNations* was a big step up when the first version of that show debuted in January 1988.



How long did it take to develop from concept to debut?

Bettina: The current show, *IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth*, opened as part of our Millennium Celebration in October 1999 after more than two years of development.

Any interesting anecdotes about bringing the show to life?

Bettina: The original *IllumiNations* show in 1988 was the first time we introduced technology allowing us to program the launch of fireworks in time with music cues. It was a new artistic tool for us and really changed the game in many ways. On *IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth*, our biggest challenge was creating the Earth Globe. It was the world's first spherical video display system, with continent-shaped LED screens covering a globe three stories high. It took a lot of effort to get everything working just right.

How has it evolved over the years?

Bettina: There have been several versions of *IllumiNations* over the years, including a special edition for the *Walt Disney World*® 25th anniversary in 1996 and a holiday *IllumiNations* show that

ran for several seasons in the mid-'90s. *IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth* has remained relatively unchanged for the past two decades.

What's the feeling of saying goodbye to this classic show?

Bettina: It's had such a great run, and the popularity of the show can really be attributed to its unbeatable music and message of hope. Not only does the show look back at our history and our planet, but it reflects on the things we have done and how far we've come. What's great about live entertainment in our Parks is that we're able to change things and keep the experience fresh and new. We've loved *IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth* for 20 years, and now we're excited for what the future holds.

So gather around World Showcase Lagoon one last time to enjoy this breathtaking display of lasers, lights and fireworks. And join us in embracing the future of *Epcot*®...and all the magic still to come.



A*

- A** Step out in style in this fabulous Figment raglan-style shirt.
- B** Carry a torch for this marvelously magical Mickey tee.
- C** Give a big hats off (or on) to *IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth* with this cool cap.
- D** Adorn your wrist with this most spectacular of *MagicBands*.

- E** Stick with this limited-release pin starring Mickey Mouse.
- F** Get this limited-edition pin featuring Epcot® mascot Figment.
- G** Add this magical Mickey youth tee to your farewell collection.

*Exclusive Annual Passholder merchandise available at Mouse Gear.



ILLUMINATIONS: Reflections of Earth Farewell Merchandise

Show your love for *ILLUMINATIONS: Reflections of Earth* and its dazzling 20-year run with this fabulous farewell merchandise collection. Because while the show will always be in your heart, we think it should also be on your head... and your wrist...and your lanyard. Visit *Epcot*® beginning June 17 to purchase the goods. And don't forget to use your 20% Passholder discount.



Outside Lightning McQueen's Racing Academy

Let Your Adventures Begin at *Disney's Hollywood Studios*®

Here at Walt Disney World® Resort, not only are we celebrating the 30th anniversary of *Disney's Hollywood Studios*®, we're celebrating the new attractions and lands that make a day here even more extraordinary as well.

"...Guests will feel like they've stepped right into their favorite films...(and) get to experience their own adventures!"

The Park's remarkable transformation began with the opening of Toy Story Land, the addition of Disney Junior Dance Party! and the debut of

Lightning McQueen's Racing Academy. It continued with Wonderful World of Animation—an excitement-packed projection show on the façade of The Chinese Theatre that immerses you in an unprecedented collection of over 90 years of Disney and Pixar animated films. And beginning August 29, experience the smells and tastes of a cantina set in a galaxy far, far away and feel the rush of taking control of the *Millennium Falcon* in the much-anticipated new land, *Star Wars*™: Galaxy's Edge*. Finally, enter a crazy cartoon world as you embark on a wacky railroad escapade aboard Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway.

We spoke with *Disney's Hollywood Studios*® Vice President Phil Holmes



about the Park's evolution and he was understandably enthused. He explained, "Right now, *Disney's Hollywood Studios®* is such an exciting place to be as we're in the midst of unprecedented growth. We are transforming the Park into a place where Guests will feel like they've stepped right into their favorite films, and on top of that, they'll get to experience their own adventures!"

When asked in what ways the Park is changing beyond what you can see and experience, Phil answered, "It's not just new lands or even new attractions we're transforming. It's the sights, smells and even sounds. For example, we know that every great movie has a soundtrack that sets the tone and supports the narrative. With that in mind, we worked with Walt Disney Imagineering to update the music throughout the Park, complementing each area's setting and timeframe

perfectly. From brassy horns near Echo Lake and jazz at the BaseLine Tap House to the sounds of live performances outside *Rock 'n' Roller Coaster®* Starring Aerosmith, it truly is music to your ears."

And how does he want Guests to feel after spending a day at *Disney's Hollywood Studios®*? Fabulous of course! "It's no secret that our Guests love the stories we create at our Parks. Only Disney can let you live your own *Star Wars™* story, step into Andy's backyard or be in an episode of *The Twilight Zone*. My hope is Guests visiting the Park will feel the true magic of Hollywood, a place where everyone can live their adventures together, making memories to last a lifetime."

Your adventure is waiting. Come live it today at *Disney's Hollywood Studios®*.

**Star Wars*: Galaxy's Edge and its experiences are limited.



Explore More to Make You Roar at Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park

In the last issue of the *Mickey Monitor*, we talked about celebrating your love of *The Lion King* as part of the 25th anniversary of the animated classic. Well now we have even more to roar about at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park! And not only will you be able to get down at the new Hakuna Matata Time Dance Party and revel in the vibrant Festival of The Lion King show, you'll discover new enchantment at the *Tree of Life*® and during Rivers of Light as well.

First, watch the Park's iconic tree become even more stunning during *Tree of Life Awakenings*. Because beginning Memorial Day weekend, the show will include brand-new awakening scenes with a new story depicting moments from Simba's journey set to evocative music inspired by the score of *The Lion King*.

Then get ready for the next chapter of the Park's beautiful nighttime pageant with the Memorial Day weekend debut of *Rivers of Light: We Are One*. As Show Director James Silson explained, "Rivers of Light has been enchanting Guests for more than two years. This

enhanced version of the show will tell a new story about our connections with animals through new footage from DisneyNature and classic moments from Disney animated films including *The Lion King*." He also added, "Guests really respond to beloved Characters and stories from Disney animation, so we want to use moments from great films to illustrate the emotions and milestones we all share in our journey through the great circle of life."

Finally, when asked how he felt the show would inspire Guests, James said, "I hope Guests will come away from Rivers of Light: We Are One impassioned by the emotional experience and inspired to protect our animal brethren and the planet we all call home."

Come celebrate all things wild, wonderful and new. This summer at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.



Did You Know?

The *Tree of Life*'s Asian Small Clawed Otter, Axis Deer, Capybara, Galapagos Tortoise, Cotton-top Tamarin, Red Kangaroo and Ring-tailed Lemur all represent the diversity of life.

(Top) Lionhearted Friends
(Bottom) Rivers of Light



Have a Wicked Good Time at a Limited-Time *Magic Kingdom*® Event

For 10 nefarious nights between June 6 and August 8, more mayhem awaits after we close the gates! That's because some Disney villains will be emerging from the shadows and taking center stage during *Disney Villains After Hours* at *Magic Kingdom* Park—a terrific twist on the already popular *Disney After Hours* event.

As part of this devilishly delightful happening, you could be among the limited number of Guests who will get to experience more than 20 popular *Magic Kingdom* attractions with low wait times. Even better...there will be surprise additions to *Pirates of the*

Caribbean® and *Space Mountain*® so you can experience them like never before! Be sure to stop by Cinderella Castle for Villains Unite the Night—a villainous new stage show featuring appearances by Hades, Meg, Jafar and more. The Maleficent Dragon parade float, with her Steampunk style and ghastly grin, will even be let loose for the first time at night, breathing fire as she makes her way through the Park. Plus, discover great new event-exclusive merchandise and a collection of the best Disney villain merchandise available.



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Your event ticket also includes tasty ice cream treats, popcorn and bottled beverages (available during event hours only). And for those evil late-night cravings, a variety of Instagram-worthy food and drink options will be available for purchase as well.

Finally, and if you really wanna get in on the action, feel free to show off your sinister side by dressing up as your favorite baddie.

The excitement runs for three hours after the Park closes, but you can check in as early as 7 p.m. to get a jump on the fun. The number of tickets available for each night is limited, so be sure and get yours soon at any *Walt Disney World*® ticket window or at

[DisneyWorld.com/VillainsAfterHours](https://www.disneyworld.com/VillainsAfterHours).

Missing out would be scary.

*...stop by Cinderella Castle
for Villains Unite the Night—
a villainous new stage show...*

SINFUL SAVINGS

Passholders, save up to \$35 off regular ticket prices when you buy in advance!

Please note that while the villains will be entertaining Guests in their new stage show, they will not be participating in Character Greetings during the event.

Admission to this event requires a separately priced ticket valid only during specific event dates and hours. Please visit [DisneyWorld.com/costumeguidelines](https://www.DisneyWorld.com/costumeguidelines) for costume guidelines.

Attractions, entertainment and experiences are subject to change without notice.

Take Your Shot at the New NBA Experience at *Disney Springs*®

We know that becoming a basketball star takes passion and determination, but how many of us know what the journey to achieving that dream is truly like? With the all-new NBA Experience, opening August 12 at *Disney Springs*®, you'll get a glimpse into how the game feels at the championship level as you play your way through an immersive world where all your NBA and WNBA dreams are just a layup away.

...enjoy 13 unique activities that merge Disney magic with NBA thrills, bringing every angle of the player experience to life.

In this impressive re-creation of a modern-day basketball arena, you'll be able to enjoy 13 unique activities that merge Disney magic with NBA thrills, bringing every angle of the player experience to life. Test your shooting skills as spots light up on the court, guiding you from one location to another while you try to sink as many buckets as possible in 15 seconds. In a slam dunk challenge, you can change the height of a standard 10-foot-tall rim

to as low as 7 feet so you can perform your own superstar moves. And see how you stack up to some of the world's best basketball players by measuring your vertical leap, wingspan, and shooting and dribbling skills. There's even off-the-court excitement thanks to activities designed to take you into the locker room and Replay Center.

To complete your player experience, you'll be able to purchase some personalized gear (and enjoy a 20% Passholder discount) at NBA Store. You can also shop through a clutch collection of both NBA- and Disney-co-branded merchandise.

So whether you're a new fan or a seasoned enthusiast, come find out what it's like to walk in the shoes of the basketball greats at NBA Experience, a first-of-its-kind offering at *Disney Springs*®. Purchase tickets online at [DisneyWorld.com/NBAExperience](https://disneyworld.com/NBAExperience).





Splash Into Summer Fun at the Disney Water Parks

Beat the heat this summer at a Disney Water Park. Better yet, beat the heat at BOTH Disney Water Parks. Each features big thrills, ways to chill, family fun and areas for little ones. Not to mention...they're great for washing away the summer blockout blues! See the adjacent page for a few things you might want to check out.

And with even more in store—from the scenic Chairlift up the green slope at *Disney's Blizzard Beach* Water Park to North America's largest wave pool at *Disney's Typhoon Lagoon* Water Park—you'll find plenty to do, no matter who's in your crew. Plus, both

Parks offer cabana rentals (with 10 new premium cabanas coming soon, four with splash tubs), sand pail ice cream buckets and more.

DISCOUNTS AND MORE

Don't forget your \$16 Annual Passholder 1-day ticket discount! Or you can get a Water Park annual pass at a great value as well. Florida Residents even have the option of buying a Water Parks After 2 Annual Pass. Visit [DisneyWorld.com/WaterParks](https://www.disneyworld.com/waterparks) to purchase.

Water Parks subject to seasonal refurbishments and weather closures.

**DISNEY'S BLIZZARD
BEACH WATER PARK**

**DISNEY'S TYPHOON
LAGOON WATER PARK**

SLIDES

Summit Plummet

Zip down one of the tallest, fastest free-fall body slides in the world.

Humunga Kowabunga

Plunge down Mount Mayday for a near-vertical, 5-story drop in the dark.

RAFT RIDES

Teamboat Springs

Get propelled through 1,200 feet of twists and turns on this epic family rafting adventure.

Miss Adventure Falls

Board a raft with your crew and enjoy the longest ride in Disney Water Parks history.

CHARACTERS

Goofy

Share a laugh with your ol' pal Goofy, Memorial Day–Labor Day.

Lilo & Stitch

Say “aloha” to the delightful duo, Memorial Day–Labor Day.

KID ZONES

Tike's Peak

Treat your little ones to polar pint-size fun including mini slides, a junior inner tube ride and snow chutes.

Ketchakiddee Creek

Bring your little squirts to enjoy a water wonderland of squirting seals, mini waterslides and a small, sandy beach.



Party in the Water Park After Dark During Disney H2O Glow Nights

Here's your chance to Turn on the Night and add a big splash of fun to your Walt Disney World® visit with the return of Disney H2O Glow Nights—the ultimate glow party—at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park.

With Partysaurus Rex as your host, you'll practically have the run of the place as you enjoy:

- Access to all the Park's amazing attractions with low wait times
- Toy Story-themed fun and Character Greetings with Buzz Lightyear, Woody and Jessie
- A DJ dance party on the sandy beaches of the Surf Pool
- Tempting limited-time food and beverage offerings
- Surprises from *Toy Story 4* and more

Adults can even enjoy The Wharf—an exclusive location featuring a bar area with refreshing libations available for purchase.

With Partysaurus Rex as your host, you'll practically have the run of the place...

The party runs 8–11 p.m. every Thursday and Saturday night, May 30–August 24 (except for June 20). And with your event ticket, you can enter the Park as early as 6 p.m.

SOAK UP THE SAVINGS

Passholders save on tickets! Get yours for just \$55 plus tax, per adult (10+) and \$49 plus tax, per child (3–9).

Purchase online at [DisneyWorld.com/H2OGlowNights](https://disneyworld.com/H2OGlowNights) or by calling 407-560-PASS (7277).

Admission to this event requires a separately priced ticket valid only during specific event dates and hours. Savings based on non-discounted price a non-Passholder pays for the same ticket. Entertainment offerings subject to change without notice. Water Parks subject to weather closures.



Cheers to Specialty Drinks at The Wharf

(Top) Surf Pool
(Bottom) DJ Dance Party



Experience the Re-imagined Wonders of *Disney's Coronado Springs Resort*

Come celebrate the spirit of great Spanish explorers, writers and architects at the newly re-imagined *Disney's Coronado Springs Resort*—an oasis on the shore of Lago Dorado.

Here, classic Spanish influences, Disney touches and modern comforts combine to energize and inspire as you delight in an array of enhancements and new features.

Beginning July 9, you'll also be able to enjoy:

- The 15-story Gran Destino Tower which will feature a grand 2-story lobby, new Guest rooms and suites as well as additional dining and amenities for the Resort
- Toledo—Tapas, Steak & Seafood Table-Service restaurant located atop Gran Destino Tower (don't forget to use your 10% Passholder dining discount for dinner)
- Three new bridges that span the lake and conveniently link Guests to



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the island of Villa del Lago and all the features of the Resort

- Three Bridges Bar & Grill located on Villa del Lago (your 10% Passholder dining discount is good for dinner here, too)

Additionally, the entire Resort now has a fresh, sophisticated color palette and newly updated Guest rooms. More exciting news: Rooms and suites at Gran Destino Tower are now available to book! So get in on the action early and be among the first to see and do all that's new.

...celebrate the spirit of great Spanish explorers, writers and architects at the newly re-imagined Disney's Coronado Springs Resort...

SAVE ON A STAY

Passholders, enjoy a discounted stay select nights at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort now through August 28 by visiting [DisneyWorld.com/PassholderCoronado](https://disneyworld.com/PassholderCoronado) or by calling 407-560-PASS (7277) for details.

CALENDAR

May 24

*Aladdin**

Catch the whimsical
live-action release

IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE

SELECT NIGHTS
May 30 – Aug 24

Disney H2O Glow Nights

Enjoy the ultimate
glow party

DISNEY'S TYPHOON
LAGOON WATER PARK

SELECT NIGHTS
Jun 6 – Aug 8

NEW! *Disney Villains After Hours*

Be part of this wickedly
wonderful event

MAGIC KINGDOM® PARK

Jun 14
–
Aug 18

Out-of-this-World Concert Series

Sing along to
rockin' live music

EPCOT®

Jul 19

*The Lion King**

Watch the wild
live-action release

IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE





Jun 1
–
Aug 31

runDisney Virtual Series

Experience the fun,
wherever you run

ANYWHERE

Jun 21

*Toy Story 4**

See the toys
back in action

IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE



SELECT NIGHTS
Aug 16 – Nov 1

Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party

Join the far-from-
frightening festivities

MAGIC KINGDOM PARK

Aug 29
–
Nov 23

Epcot® International Food & Wine Festival

Sample your way
around the world

EPCOT®



Even More from Around our “World”

From all things Resort dining to *Disney Springs*® to miniature golf, there are plenty of ways to experience the magic beyond the Theme Parks this summer! Here are just a few:

DISNEY RESORT HOTEL DINING

- Whispering Canyon Cafe at *Disney's Wilderness Lodge*
- Sebastian's Bistro at *Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort*
- Ale & Compass Restaurant at *Disney's Yacht Club Resort*

DISNEY SPRINGS®

- Find awesome apparel, footwear, cosmetics, accessories and more at shops like Tommy Bahama®, Lilly Pulitzer®, Sanuk® and Free People
- Dine outside at delectably unique venues including Paddlefish, The Polite Pig, Frontera Cocina and Wolfgang Puck® Bar & Grill

- Keep cool with indoor entertainment at THE VOID, AMC® *Disney Springs*® 24 and Splitsville Luxury Lanes™

MINIATURE GOLF

- *Disney's Winter Summerland* Miniature Golf Course near *Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park*
- *Disney's Fantasia Gardens* Miniature Golf Course (includes two 18-hole adventures) near *Walt Disney World Swan Hotel*

Don't forget to use your Passholder discounts, valid at multiple venues! Visit [DisneyWorld.com/passbenefits](https://disneyworld.com/passbenefits) for the most up-to-date discounts. And your discounts are still applicable even if your pass is blocked out at the Theme Parks.

Save up to 40%*

on rooms at select *Walt Disney World* Resort hotels this summer!

For stays most nights now-6/30/19.

Book through 6/30/19.

Plus, as a Guest of a *Disney Resort* hotel, you can take advantage of benefits like early access to *Disney FastPass+* planning**, complimentary transportation via motor coach, ferryboat and monorail, and more time in the Theme Park each day to enjoy select attractions with the *Extra Magic Hours* benefit (valid Theme Park admission and Resort ID required).

For reservations, visit [DisneyWorld.com/PassholderSummerFun](https://disneyworld.com/passholdersummerfun)
or call **407-560-PASS (7277)**.

*The number of rooms allocated for this offer is limited. Length-of-stay requirements may apply. Additional per-adult charges may apply if more than two adults per room at Disney Value, Moderate, and Deluxe Resorts and Studios at Disney Deluxe Villa Resorts. Cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Advance reservations required. Offer excludes the following room types: campsites, 3-bedroom villas, Cabins at *Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge* and Bungalows at *Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows*. Passholder must present a valid *Walt Disney World* Annual Pass card at check-in. 40% savings is for select Disney Deluxe and Deluxe Villa Resorts; lower savings for other Resorts.

**Valid Theme Park admission and online registration required. *Disney FastPass+* attractions and entertainment experiences, the number of selections you can make and arrival windows are limited.

Walt Disney World.

