

Monsieur Mickey

Nestled in the French countryside, a short 45 minute drive from Paris' Charles De Gaulle airport, lies Disneyland Paris (known to Americans as EuroDisney).

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With parades, music and, of course, the big mouse himself, Disneyland Paris made good on their promise of fun and magic.

The admission price is about 200 French Francs—close to what a visitor would pay in the United States. After making it through a disorderly admission line, guests are greeted with Main street, USA, which looks exactly like it does in Disney World, and includes music ... in English ... from many Disney feature films.

The usual Disney paraphernalia is available in the many shops on Main Street. Casey's Corner offers a good old American meal of hot dogs, Coca Cola, and potato chips. Paraphernalia such as T-shirts and hats from various American sports teams are also available in another Main Street gift shop.

The park consists of four sections: Frontierland, Adventureland, Fantasyland and Discoveryland. These "lands" house such attractions as the Mad Hatter's Tea Cups, Thunder Mountain, Swiss Family Robinson Treehouse, It's a Small World and The Haunted Mansion, among others.

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Shows are also part of the everyday program for those who appreciate a less active vacation. "Beauty and the Beast" is a popular film and was part of the daily program during May. The Beauty and the Beast show highlighted the award winning songs from the film. Although the show was in French, it was just as entertaining.

Although Disneyland Paris concentrations a great deal on American tradition, the creators of the park did a good job adding in French favorites into the character of the park. From French favorites like crepes to baretts, most guests should find something of interest.

Although Disney provided their usual array of entertaining music, cartoon-like buildings, friendly service and first-rate costumes, they do face a few minor problems.

■ crowd control: perhaps this particular visit was on a beyond-capacity weekend, but traffic jams entering Frontierland makes for unhappy guests. But once the crowd moved into Frontierland towards one of the most popular rides, The Haunted Mansion,

By Jennifer Stanley,
Staff Writer

there was plenty of room for the crowd, right? Wrong. But that would have been a good idea. However, Frontierland dead-ended leaving the crowd to turn around and face another to-close-for-comfort walk.

The lines ranged from 45 minutes to 3 1/2 hours long (even for a bite to eat). Although this might be an average wait at most amusement parks, one might ask "how long does it take to make a hot dog?" Certainly it should take less than an hour.

■ Like other Disney parks, Disneyland Paris is working to create a resort with nightlife, hotels, and plenty of relaxation. The Disney corporation has begun establishing the Paris resort around one general idea—the Old American Frontier. Normally Disney develops several ideas to appeal to different tastes and interests. However, European Disney guests are getting exposure to only one "American tradition." I sure hope that this doesn't present the wrong impression of the US today.

All-in-all, Disney is introducing Paris to their usual magic. The positives far outweigh the negatives and, judging from the crowd, Disney has another success to add to their list.

'Hunchback of Notre Dame' disappointment due to sex, violence

LIGHTS! CAMERA! REACTION!

ANNE KNIGHT Staff Writer

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

★★ (out of four stars)

Mildly disappointing. There is no better way to describe Disney's newest release, an animated film based on Victor Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris*. Quite simply, the movie has more violence and sexual innuendo than any previous Disney movie. The innocence of *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and similar films has been cast to the wayside as Disney seeks to bring darker elements into its current film. Perhaps beguiled by the success of the traditionally violent summer blockbusters—Arnold Schwarzenegger's relentlessly action-packed movies come to mind—Disney seems to be catering to a more adult audience than ever before.

The story line of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* focuses on a deformed young man named Quasimodo, which means half-formed. Stolen during infancy from his Gypsy mother, Quasimodo has been reared by the nefarious Frollo, who rules over Paris and who has told the boy that his mother abandoned him because of his ugliness. Cautioned against leaving the cathedral of Notre Dame, where Frollo keeps him hidden away, Quasimodo longs to go outdoors and get to know the peasants and shopkeepers he has only observed from the heights of the bell tower. When he sneaks out, Frollo becomes enraged and lets the peasants pummel him with vegetables and tie him up with ropes. Esmerelda, a beautiful Gypsy dancer, saves him from the crowd, and the two become friends. Frollo, however, vows both to punish Quasimodo for leaving the cathedral and to arrest Esmerelda for interfering with the crowd's actions.

Frollo's interest in Esmerelda, however, is not strictly punitive. At one point, when he has managed to capture

Overall, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is less than inspiring. The violence and sexual innuendo are unexpected and very misplaced, and the dark tone of the film is a far cry from the uplifting, innocent Disney movies of just a few years ago. While the final scenes are touching, they fail to make up for the movie's numerous flaws. The children leaving the theater when I saw the film looked confused, and their parents unenthused. Very telling, that.

her for a few minutes, he buries his face in her hair and asks her why she "clouds [his] mind with unholy thoughts." An entire song is devoted to Frollo's lust for Esmerelda, and he repeatedly refers to "this fire in my skin." Hardly oriented to children.

Another section of the film that is less than child-friendly comes closer to the end of the movie when Quasimodo and his three gargoyle friends are fighting to repel Frollo's forces from the cathedral. Quasimodo dumps boiling oil onto the soldiers and peasants in the courtyard, and one of the gargoyles chews up a stone block and spits it out machine-gun style. Though Disney kindly refrained from showing blood spurting from wounds, the violence is reminiscent of video games, where killing is a matter-of-fact undertaking that is necessary for survival.

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