

‘Most Excellent’ Sea Turtle Crush from ‘Finding Nemo’ Comes to Life at Disney’s California Adventure Park

Olympic Gold Medalist Amanda Beard Introduces Disneyland Resort’s Newest Breakthrough Real-Time Character Interaction

ANAHEIM, Calif. (July 15, 2005) – A new wave of fun washed ashore today at Disney’s California Adventure park as swimmer and Olympic Gold Medalist Amanda Beard helped to open “Turtle Talk with Crush,” an all-new attraction inside the park’s “Disney Animation” exhibit. The attraction experience features Crush, the sea turtle. Turtle Talk with Crush is inspired by the Walt Disney Pictures presentation of a Pixar Animation Studios film “Finding Nemo,” representing Disney’s newest breakthrough in bringing favorite characters to life.

“This new attraction gives Guests the most lifelike interaction with a computer animated character that they’ve ever experienced,” said Jay Rasulo, President of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. “Disney’s Imagineers have used breakthrough innovations to bring Crush the Sea-Turtle to life. He’ll hold completely unscripted, real-time conversations with Guests. You have to see it to believe it.”

The live, real-time computer-animated show gives Guests the chance to engage in live, unrehearsed conversations with the animated sea turtle. From his digital world under the sea, Crush chats, plays, jokes and reacts to Guests in a unique, personalized way. The 152-year-old turtle recognizes guests and asks them questions about themselves and the human world.

Imagine Crush stopping in mid-stream, noticing someone in the audience, and saying in real-time, “Hey you — dude in the righteous Hawaiian shirt — what’s that on your head?” Walt Disney Imagineers have created precisely this kind of incredible interaction in the new attraction.

The magic is created with an innovative combination of digital projection and sophisticated, voice-activated computer animation. The attraction is located in the Hollywood Pictures Backlot section of Disney’s California Adventure. The initial version of the attraction opened in 2004 as part of “The Living Seas Pavilion” at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and has been immensely popular with park Guests.

“Turtle Talk with Crush” and the energetic “Block Party Bash” (where Disney presents the Pixar Film Pals at Disney’s California Adventure) join an incredible array of new innovative attractions and spectacular entertainment premiering at the Disneyland Resort during its 18-month 50th anniversary celebration – called the Happiest Celebration On Earth. The 50th anniversary is also being celebrated globally and features spectacular new shows and attractions at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida; Tokyo Disney Resort in Japan; and Disneyland Resort Paris in France, plus the first west coast itinerary for the Disney Cruise Line and the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland (September 12, 2005).

For news media inquiries and photos regarding the 50th anniversary “Happiest Homecoming On Earth” celebration, please visit disneylandnews.com or call Disneyland Resort Press and Publicity (714) 781-4500.