

different beats and words, we all sing the same song - it's a small world after all.

Adventure-land, as the name suggests, is a place for those with a taste for thrill. Despite its many attractions like Robinson Crusoe's Cabin, Aladdin's Enchanted Passage and Indiana Jones' Temple of Peril, the Pirates of the Caribbean ride takes the crown. Taking its passengers through a themed area that actually feels like an ominous bay waiting to be attacked by pirates, the ride splashes its way through dingy waterways and tunnels that drop and slope up, where glittering treasures lay in abandon atop trunks, prisoners cackle from behind bars and pirates fight with enemies and mates.

Frontier-land hosts scarier attrac-



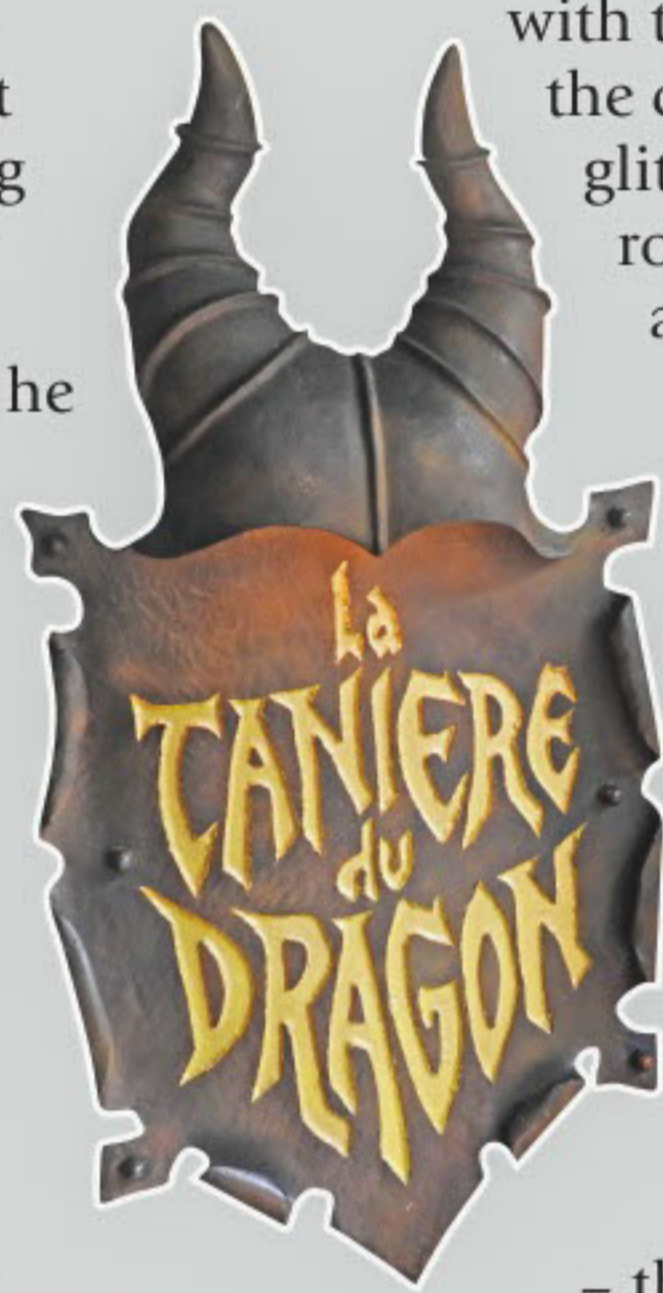
far away. We gathered in a Victorian-looking room where the lights went off and a maniacal laughter rang out as the floor began to descend. Taking my seat for the actual ride, I made the mistake of making eye contact with the spooky man guarding the entrance. He stared as my seat approached him; a split second before the ride began, he held my seat, bent close to my face and let out an eerie cackle. The train of chairs made its way through the haunted mansion, swinging precariously from side to side and turning upwards altogether when we descended into lower storeys. Frightening beings of every kind - beheaded villains, vampires, witches and beastly creatures - cackled and screamed along with ghastly music. We seemed to fly from floor to floor; before exiting, we passed a line of mirrors that showed glowing skeletons hugging the backs of each of our chairs.

Disneyland takes days to cover, and my one-day trip was far too short to visit everything. I missed out on the

more sci-fi based rides of Discovery-land, as well as the attractions of Disney Studio.

Once the sun set, the park sparkled with twinkling lights. The turrets of the castle shimmered with blue glitters that seemed to dance; rooftops and garlands strung across the streets lit up in gold. An hour after the Christmas parade that got an excited "Peter!" and "Simba!" from nearly every child present, the crowds gathered at the Main Street USA that boasted a gigantic Christmas tree. Dancers appeared on stage, performing to Christmas carols and when the music (and excitement) reached its crescendo - the three most eagerly awaited attractions finally made their appearance.

Mickey and Minnie danced onto the stage set in front of the Christmas tree. They jumped, they sang and they called out to the audience, as kids and grown-ups alike screamed in joy. But it seemed that there was more to come! Mickey announced the arrival of our guest of



honour - and who might that be? With a jingling of bells and his jolly "Ho ho ho", Santa Claus climbed the stage to wild applause. Mickey, Minnie and Santa held hands and lit up the Christmas tree, screaming "Merry Christmas!" in unison. A chorus of Jingle Bells rent the air. The back of the Christmas tree flared up in a shower of sparks and - with the kind of magic only Disney is capable of - snow began to fall.

If you think that was the highlight of Disney's Christmas celebrations, you're wrong. The entire park seemed to prepare for Disney Dreams. Gates closed up, children climbed their fathers' shoulders and a crowd of thousands gathered in front of the castle. At 10 pm sharp, the castle lit up with a laser show I'll remember for the rest of my life.

Olaf appeared to conduct Disney Dreams, wondering out loud "What does a real holiday celebration feel like?" In answer, every Disney character burst forth one by one to sing and dance against the walls of the castle, before an unimaginable kaleidoscope of lights spelt the word "PEACE" on the castle. When the show neared its end, the music and colours reached their peak. The sky exploded in a shower of fireworks that drenched the entire park in brightness.

Disneyland Paris bid us adieu as the fireworks continued to sparkle. Dazzled speechless, a throng of thousands made its way back to the gates, back to the real world. It had been a long and tiring day - my muscles were in agony from the endless walking and my hands and feet were numb from the biting cold and the lunch I'd had in the rain (a story for another day). Yet, it was the most magical twenty-four hours of my life, and I'd relive them a thousand times if I could.

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tions, such as the coalmine containing a dangerous roller coaster known as The Big Thunder Mountain. But I went for the Phantom Manor instead. Passing through rusted fountains and wild, overgrown trees, I entered the dilapidated mansion as wolves howled

## In association with **OVERSEAS STUDY LINK**, SHOUT presents quick facts about **Drew University**, United States

**Drew University is a private institution that was founded in 1867. It has a total undergraduate enrolment of 1,417.**

- Ranks 112th in the 2016 edition of Best Colleges is National Liberal Arts Colleges.
- 72.1% of full-time undergraduates receive some kind of need-based financial aid and the average need-based scholarship or grant award is US \$31,068.
- Student satisfaction 75% according to the Princeton Review (2015).
- Most students are female (63%).
- The application fee is US \$60. It is selective with an acceptance rate of 55.4%. Deadline for application is February 15.
- Best subjects are: Political Science, Psychology and English.
- Tuition fees are US \$46,384 (2015-16), and room and board US \$12,672.
- Most students complete their degree within 6 years (around 69% percent).



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