

Disneyland USA

Details

Disc 1

Insert 3

Title	Description
Dateline Disneyland	<p>DATE - July 17, 1955</p> <p>SUMMARY - An immense undertaking at the time, the grand opening festivities for the "eighth wonder of the world" were aired live on ABC. Walt is joined by popular Hollywood personalities Art Linklater (host of CBS' long-running daytime variety show <i>House Party</i>), Bob Cummings (star of several silly sitcoms during the 1950's and '60's including <i>Love That Bob</i> and <i>My Living Doll</i>) and Ronald Reagan (future 40th President of the United States) as hosts.</p> <p>What could have been an outright disaster runs pretty smoothly, even with a couple miscues and missing microphones. Twenty-four cameras and a staff of hundreds helped pull off the broadcast, which netted over 90 million viewers. Practically everyone in the country that had a TV set at that time was watching this program broadcast from a former orange grove in the then unknown city of Anaheim, California.</p> <p>Curiosities abound in the program for hard core Disney fans and novices alike, most notably how barren most of the property looks. The show begins in a pressroom filled with cigarette puffing reporters (this being the 1950's, after all). Fess Parker returns, with <i>Davy Crockett</i> co-star Buddy Ebsen, to sing another song, this one about his rifle "Old Betsy." Actress Irene Dunne christens the Mark Twain Steamboat. The Firehouse Five Plus Two make an appearance in what would later become New Orleans Square.</p> <p>The "fabulous world of Tomorrowland" is set in the far flung future of ... 1986. Rat-Packers Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. ride the Autopia. Disney stars Jerry Colonna (voice of the March Hare in <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>) and Bobby Driscoll (star of <i>Song of the South</i> and <i>Treasure Island</i>) are spotted in Fantasyland. And that Danny Thomas is everywhere.</p> <p>Shaky camerawork aside, this program is an invaluable document of a historic day in Disney, and American, history.</p> <p>EDITED FOR DVD - There were two notable edits in this DVD release. It has been speculated that both were due to legal issues regarding the Mouseketeers. The first edit is the removal of the Mouseketeers from the beginning parade segment. This takes place at around the 00:21:32 mark in the episode. The original broadcast had these 24 "performing children" making an appearance.</p> <p>The second, and most notable, edit is the removal of the Mouseketeers' performance of the "Talent Round-Up" song in the Fantasyland section. This takes place roughly around the 01:12:32 mark as Mickey & Minnie run up to the doors of the Fantasyland Theater. Bob Cummings says "They're going into the Mickey Mouse Theatre... A beautiful movie house which will have a continuous performance for children who visit Fantasyland." Inexplicably, a fade to black follows.</p> <p>The original broadcast featured Bob Cummings describe "a group of talented boys and girls who will be on the <i>Mickey Mouse Club</i> show this fall, October 3rd. And I guarantee you that many a future star will be coming out of this group." Dressed in western attire and along with adult leaders Jimmie Dodd and Roy Williams, they sing their Friday "Talent Round-Up" song capped off by their famous roll call.</p> <p>IMAGE TYPE - Black & White</p> <p>PREFACE - Leonard Maltin discusses the live broadcast of Disneyland's opening, seen by an estimated 90 million people.</p>