



25 years ago,

Angeline Aguayo was busy preparing to spread Hollywood magic at the third Walt Disney World theme park,



then known as Disney-MGM Studios, which opened May 1, 1989. Working in exciting attractions such as SuperStar Television, presented by

SONY, Cast Members like Angeline said they really connected with their peers.

Walt Disney had first considered building a park similar to today's Disney's Hollywood Studios in his own backlot in California. His dream finally became a reality when land was utilized here in Florida for a true behind-the-scenes experience.

Originally intended to be a half-day experience, Disney-MGM Studios consisted of six attractions at its opening: SuperStar Television, presented by SONY; The Monster Sound Show, presented by SONY; SoundWorks, presented by SONY; The Great Movie Ride; Backstage Studio Tour; and The Magic of Disney Animation.

The search was on in April 1989 for Cast to help open and operate the new park. In a mere 21 days, 2,100 Cast Members were hired, many of them existing Cast who transferred from Magic Kingdom Park and Epcot.

"Working at the Studios was great. Everything we did was a fun and

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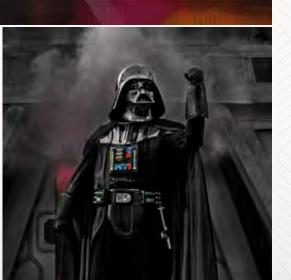


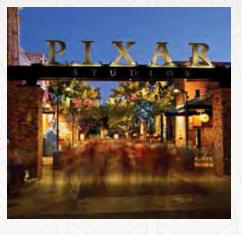












new experience," Angeline said. "I remember it was so busy that first day that we couldn't even get the Guests out. They didn't want to leave!"

A quarter century later, Angeline still keeps in touch with many opening-day Cast Members.

"We were such a tight group of people, and I think it was because we were in such unfamiliar territory that we bonded together," she remembered.

While the attractions, shows – and even the name – are no longer the same at the 135-acre park, that common bond of entertaining with a Hollywood



flair continues today with attractions including "Beauty and the Beast – Live on Stage" and Toy Story Midway Mania! When you are there, it truly feels like you are in the middle of a live set or have become part of a beloved Disney classic.

"Our park has fantastic experiences that our Guests love and seek out when they visit the Walt Disney World Resort," said Dan Cockerell, vice president of Disney's Hollywood Studios. "But it's the amazing Cast Members who can come together and make each Guest feel as if [he or she is] stepping onto that Hollywood soundstage every day."

WORD SEARCH

- 1. Action
- 2. Animation
- 3. Audition
- 4. Backlot Tour
- 5. Cel 6. Celebrities
- 7. Costumes
- 8. Dancing Lights
- 9. Earffel Tower
- 10. Echo Lake
- 11. Film Reel 12. Great Movie Ride
- 13. Hollywood
- 14. Mulan
- 15. Pixar Place
- 16. Premiere
- 17. Prime Time
- 18. Silver
- 19. Sorcerer Mickey
- 20. Sound Stage
- 21. Star Tours
- 22. Stunt Show
- 23. Sunset Boulevard 24. Television
- 24. Television
- 25. Tower of Terror

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For the answer key, visit the "Eyes & Ears" Backlot page.

