

Little tailors dress up Duffy

BY DANIELLE CAMERON



The Sang family of Claremore, Okla., had just capped off an exciting day at Disney's Hollywood Studios with Fantasmic! As the family of four wandered through Keystone Clothiers on their way toward the park exit, they were stopped by Merchandise Host Jerry Zaninelli, who was holding two Duffy bears.

"Do you two happen to know the story of Duffy the Disney Bear?" Jerry asked the two sisters, Alexia, 8, and Isabella, 5.

When they shook their heads no, Jerry bent down on one knee and proceeded to explain how Duffy came to the United States. Jerry then told them that Duffy was having a hard time deciding what to wear that day and asked if they would like to help him pick out an outfit. The sisters excitedly agreed, and each, with a Duffy in hand, began digging through the trunk filled with fashions.

The Merchandise team came up with this moment to immerse Guests visiting the store.

"Some kids are shy, and others know the character and go for it," Jerry said. "I think they get so excited with this moment because they get to take part in what goes on. It includes them in what we do."

Jessica and Larry Sang watched, smiling, as their daughters tried various outfits on the bears, including the Sorcerer Mickey and cowboy costumes.

"Daddy look!" said Isabella, as she proudly held up her fully dressed Duffy.

The Sangs first brought their daughters to Disney when Isabella was only 18 months old and have been visiting almost every year since.

"We grew up [on] Disney. We just love it," said Larry Sang.

After the finishing touches were added, the little tailors' names were written on a clapboard displayed next to the Duffy duo. Everyone who walked by saw that Alexia and Isabella had chosen the bears' perfect ensembles.