

## Megacon Aftermath!

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Greetings all!

Just got back from sunny Florida. We went on a little vacation/working trip down there. Visited my little brother in South Beach first where it was quite lovely, and then headed up to Orlando for the MEGACON! But first we detoured over to Heath McKnight's villa for a little pow-wow on the 3 Geeks flick. Heath showed me some of the clips from his upcoming film "9:04 AM" and they looked pretty sweet. Had a great meeting about the 3 Geeks feature film and I am getting ever-so-delighted as filming dates approach. We're gearing up for the start of filming and all involved agree that a fall start is looking good. We also pow-wowed over the script and it's looking better and better! No details yet! I'm a firm believer in "No Spoilers!"

Before the start of Megacon we had a day to go to Universal Themepark. Let me sum up this little outing for you in two words...RIP. OFF. \$235.00 for the three of us to get in. Ouch. It was kind of cold that day so attendance was probably a bit lower than on a warmer day, but even still the lines were long. We got the "2 Park Pass" so we were able to go to both parks and still we only got on about 10 rides/shows! Again, RIP. OFF. And! We scurried around the park for a bite to eat and three restaurants in a row were closed without any signs indicating so! The doors were open, lights were on, but no one was home! Huge waste of time spent running around just to get a decent bite to eat. And what has become of the theme park ride? Has anyone else noticed that not only do you stand in line for ungodly amounts of time to go on a 45 second ride, but they seem to think that the more jerky the ride the better! And when I say "jerky" I mean that literally. They just jerk you back-and-forth throughout the ride hoping that you think this was somehow thrilling in some way. It's not. Save your money, folks.

Megacon was great! Except for all the Manga/Anime wannabes. But the crowd was big, the show as big, and the people came to buy goodies (except, again, for the Anime/Manga wannabes who only came to preen). I sold a ton of sketches and had a great time talking with fans. Also got to hang out with my good buddy, Chuck Rozanski and his charming wife Nanette! Played some poker with them and some other fine folks on Saturday night as well. I recommend Megacon for any of those thinking about attending. It is a very nice show.

After Megacon we had a few more days in Orlando for some quality vacation time. So, once again, we decided to try a theme park...I know!...I'm a glutton for punishment. This time it was Disney's Animal Kingdom that violated us to the tune of \$202.00. This was just wrong. They should be absolutely ashamed of themselves how they take complete advantage of vacationers! There should be signs outside that park warning people before they come in and pay a lot of money just how big the crowds are on any given day. The place was so packed there were 90 to

120 minute waits for all their premiere attractions. You could barely move through the crowds. There should really be some kind of "cap" on the crowd to be perfectly fair. They should only be able to allow so many people in at one time. It's not like they're hurting for dough, you know! This was just plain and simple taking advantage of people, folks. And they have those handy-dandy "Quick Passes" where you can go and scan your pass so you don't have to wait in line...where you can come back at a later time so you can go and enjoy other attractions...they were all full up and unavailable within the first couple hours of the park opening!! That's how packed it was. Talk about feeling sick over spending \$200 bucks just to mill about hoping to get on something, ANYTHING! before the frigin' park closes! After 2 hours there we saw or rode on two attractions. TWO! So we frantically ran around from ride to ride, show to show, for the next few hours trying desperately to get some of our money's worth. We squeezed into a couple pitiful rides and the Tribute To The Lion King show (which was actually very cool) until finally we got into the Nemo, The Musical, show line. This was the last scheduled show of the day. We had to, unfortunately, miss the parade to see Nemo but we figured that given the choice between the two Nemo was the better. After an hour in line and another 15 minutes waiting for the curtain to rise, Nemo finally started. It was great!

20 minutes into the 40 minute show the lights went up, an announcer said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the Nemo show has been cancelled. Please exit to your right!"

That was it. No explanation. No apology. Just get out!

So I marched! Right to Guest Relations! I fully expected a long line ahead of me. There was only a couple people besides myself. But surely they would come, right? Nope. No one else seemed to care. What the Hell? Have people become so blaise when it comes to these things? Don't they care that they're being ripped off? Is it laziness? They don't want to "make trouble?" Hey man, I'm big on principle...I just spent a fortune to go on four frigin' rides and one of them broke! I want some sort of vindication here!

So I complained. I did it calmly but I got my two cents worth in. They credited us with 2 hours of time and told us we could return the next day to see Nemo again. Okay, I guess that's kind of fair. So the next day we returned. When I went to redeem my voucher to get in some chick working the Guest Realations desk acted all bitchy with me like I was trying to scam them or something. So I had to re-explain our situation the prior day and plead my case to this harpy!

Well, we finally got in, AGAIN! And in the 2 hours we were credited we managed to see two whole shows. The Pocohontas show and Nemo. Nemo was cool. I'll give them that. But you'd think that after wasting our time the day before they'd of let us get in without having to stand in line again, right? Nope. Had to stand in line agin for an hour before going in.

So, to summarize. RIP. OFF. BIGTIME!!!! RIP. OFF.

But Megacon was great. And Stella got to go swimming for three hours  
our last day!

Word!

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