**Did You Know? . . . Fun facts about Disney’s Fireworks!**

Did you know Walt Disney World is the largest consumer of fireworks in the United States? That may not be surprising to you considering that they put on 3 different shows each night that use fireworks. The Disney parks also launch their fireworks with compressed air, rather than gun powder, to gain better height and timing and to reduce fumes. Check out these other fireworks-related fun facts about Walt Disney World!

* If you feel Disney tickets are too expensive, consider seeing the night-time entertainment… ***Illuminations: Reflections of Earth*** costs $35,000 per show to produce. Stick around to view it if you want to get the most bang for your buck!
	+ There is much more to Illuminations than the 2800+ shells used for fireworks; more than 26,000 feet of lights ‘outline’ the World Showcase pavilions, the Earth Globe used as the centerpiece weighs more than 350,000 pounds and contains more than 180,000 light emitting diodes, and before the show even begins a 30-minute music loop is played around the lagoon.
* ***Wishes*** is the largest fireworks display to ever occur at the Magic Kingdom. It runs about 12 minutes in length, is choreographed to portions of 15 songs from 10 different Disney animated features, and uses 683 individual pieces of pyrotechnics.
	+ Although the Magic Kingdom nighttime shows have changed over the years (preceding *Wishes* was the show *Fantasy in the Sky*) one thing remains…. Tinkerbell! Taking flight for the first time on July 4, 1985, Tinkerbell flies from the castle each night over the park. This month marks her 30th anniversary of that flight!
	+ The *Wishes* fireworks display costs about $33,000 per show to put on. Again, this would be a great show to see to “get your money’s worth” for those ticket prices!
* ***Fantasmic!*** is Disney Hollywood Studios nighttime entertainment show. While it focuses primarily on the performers, water fans and lights - fireworks are also used in this production.
	+ In the final scene of *Fantasmic*, when all the characters are on the Riverboat, as they turn the last corner all of the characters go inside the boat to avoid the firework fallout zone - except for Ariel. Because she can’t “walk,” Ariel is given a fireproof blanket to wear to protect her from any firework debris.
* **Disney Cruise Line** was the first cruise line to display fireworks at sea. A great way to cap off Pirate Night!
	+ Disney Cruise Line has a stage show entitled *Disney Wishes* (performed exclusively on the Fantasy.) While the primary form of entertainment is the performers and puppets, each show does conclude with it’s own indoor fireworks finale!

Fireworks are a predominant visual interest to several shows within the Disney Parks. Even the daytime castle show, *Dream Along with Mickey*, uses a fireworks burst. Disney certainly doesn’t cut corners when it comes to visual entertainment! I can’t say it enough, if you’re wanting to get the most bang for your buck… certainly see any or all of the shows that contain fireworks!

Terri Miller is creator, owner and a writer for [WDW Hints](http://www.wdwhints.com/). Terri enjoys all things Disney, especially researching tips, tricks and little known things about the Disney parks (and then sharing them with you!)