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Yehaa Bob needs two things during his show at Port Orleans Riverside at Walt DisneyWorld Resort. Photo: Mike Miley, flickr / Creative Commons License

Salute to Disney Cast Members: Yehaa Bob at Disney's Port Orleans Riverside

- By Debra Peterson, Disney Travel Examiner
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Today introduces an occasional series, "Salute to Disney Cast Members," for the Disney Travel Examiner column. Disney theming and attractions at the parks and resorts, the hotels, the food – all are central to a Disney vacation. But after numerous trips over the years, what stands out most for me is how much Disney pixie dust relies on the hard work, talent and enthusiasm of its Cast Members.

Yehaa Bob (Or it it YeeHaw Bob, or Bob, Yee Haw?!)

Regardless of how you spell his name, Yehaa Bob is one of the delights of visiting Walt Disney World Resort. Yehaa Bob, or Bob Jackson, has been the featured performer at River Roost Lounge at Disney's Port Orlean Riverside (POR) for more than twelve years.

Yehaa Bob's show combines music, comedy and lots of audience interaction. During his shows, Yehaa Bob plays piano and offers a line-up that combines boogie-woogie, ragtime and popular sing-a-longs. It's not usual to hear a packed crowed join Bob in singing popular songs (e.g. Jimmy Buffet's "Margaritaville," the Beatles' "Hey Jude," the "Gilligan's Island" theme song), do the hand jive, and hang out for photographs and autographs.

River Roost Lounge is currently home to Yehaa Bob's regular gig, and a must-do evening of entertainment for many Walt Disney World guests, particularly those at Port Orleans Riverside and French Quarter, and locals.

But Bob Jackson is also something of a Disney and Orlando fixture. He has a long history performing at Disney – from the Magic Kingdom's Diamond Horsehoe Revue, to Disney's Animal Kingdom Tarzan Rocks, to playing piano in most Disney shows at one time or another. He has also performed at other Orlando area attractions, including Pat O'Brien's at Universal CityWalk and the now-closed shows at Seafire Inn at SeaWorld and Auggie's Jammin' Bar at the Gaylord Palms Hotel.

Yehaa Bob at Disney's Port Orleans Riverside

A Yehaa Bob show is family friend and appropriate for guests of all ages. Bob has a way of making even the most reserved guests forget their self-consciousness and end up bopping in their seats and singing (sometimes off-key). Trust me, I know. His shows are one of the highlightsof my trips, and I find them perfect for a high-energy, low-key evening at POR. It's well worth the stay at that resort, or a visit.

Guests will be delighted to know there's no cover charge to see Yehaa Bob, although guests should order a little something if occupying a seat. The Roost offers both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and a limited menu of heavy bar appetizers. Guests may also bring in food from the Riverside Mill Food Court for more well-rounded meals, so long as they are complements to drinks ordered from the Roost.

Bob's shows generally start at 8:30 p.m. and guests will often show up early to get a seat and enjoy a drink or light bite before the joint starts hopping. Do try to arrive 20-30 minutes early for a seat.

Yehaa Bob generally appears Wednesday – Saturday nights, although he sometimes travels to do other shows. His schedule is updated regularly on the Yehaa Bob website (scroll down the page if you don't see his monthly schedule) and guests can receive a monthly schedule through the Yehaa Bob Yahoo group. Bob also maintains Facebook and MySpace pages.

Yehaa Bob Jackson is one of those Cast Members who represent the best experiences of a Disney Parks trip, and the best in Disney Cast Members.

Like Bob says, "No one has more fun than us!!!"

About "Salute to Disney Cast Members"

Whether characters or entertainers, custodians or Mousekeepers, Guest Relations or Jungle Cruise Skippers, Cast Members at all levels are the essence of the Disney Difference. Whether it's selling Mickey Mouse balloons or Imagineering the next big attraction, Disney Cast Members work while we play. And they make our play both possible and pleasurable. They are truly essential elements to the Disney show.

And for that, I salute Yehaa Bob Jackson and all the Disney Cast Members who make the magic happen. Kungaloosh!