

= The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man =

The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man is a motion @-@ based 3D dark ride located at the Islands of Adventure , Orlando and Universal Studios Japan , Osaka theme parks . Built for Islands of Adventure 's opening in 1999 , the attraction is a hybrid ride combining special roving motion vehicles with 3D projection , elaborate physical sets , and both practical and tactile effects .

The ride takes park guests @-@ turned @-@ last @-@ minute @-@ reporters into the world of Marvel Comics ' Spider @-@ Man , and after boarding a Daily Bugle vehicle known as the " Scoop " , the rider learns that the evil Sinister Syndicate has captured the Statue of Liberty with an anti @-@ gravity gun . This evil group is made up of many famous Spider @-@ Man villains , including Doctor Octopus , Scream , Electro , Hydro @-@ Man , and the Hobgoblin .

The attraction took three years to produce , with many new technologies and techniques being developed . The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man has been well received , winning several awards including the Golden Ticket Award for Best Dark Ride for twelve consecutive years .

= = History = =

On March 27 , 1999 , Islands of Adventure opened for technical rehearsals , with The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man being one of its debut attractions . On May 28 , 1999 , the attraction officially opened to the public . Due to the success of the attraction , Universal Studios Japan opened a clone of the ride on January 23 , 2004 .

On May 19 , 2011 , Islands of Adventure announced a major refurbishment of the attraction , with plans to re @-@ master the entire ride film in high definition as well as to update the ride 's mechanics and to replace the film projectors with Infitec digital projectors . The refurbished version of the attraction debuted on March 8 , 2012 . The ride was refurbished in time for the release of 2012 film , The Amazing Spider @-@ Man . In 2013 , the attraction at Universal Studios Japan underwent a similar refurbishment with 4KHD projections being deployed . The refurbished attraction opened on July 5 , 2013 .

= = Experience = =

= = = Queue = = =

Guests enter the Daily Bugle from Marvel Super Hero Island at Islands of Adventure or New York at Universal Studios Japan . Guests are shown a video in which the company 's good reputation is touted and a new newsgathering vehicle , the " Scoop " , is introduced . After walking though the empty office , guests are shown a " live " video feed of news coverage . Five supervillains led by Doctor Octopus have lain siege to the city by an experimental anti @-@ gravity cannon created by Doctor Octopus himself . The syndicate steals the Statue of Liberty and threatens to destroy it if the city does not surrender to them . As guests walk through the empty offices of the Bugle , it becomes apparent that all the reporters have fled , leaving The Bugle 's Editor @-@ in @-@ Chief J. Jonah Jameson with no choice but to send the tourists to cover the story using the Bugle 's new Scoop vehicle .

= = = Ride experience = = =

After donning night vision goggles (3D glasses) the " cub reporters " get in the Scoop and leave the loading docks to a Manhattan back alley where they encounter Spider @-@ Man . He warns that he is in for the most dangerous night of his life and for the guests to be careful . In this scene , a series of synchronised effects are used to simulate Spider @-@ Man jumping on the Scoop . Nearly missing a trash truck driven by a Stan Lee cameo , the guests enter a warehouse where the Sinister Syndicate are holding the Statue of Liberty hostage . Once spotted , Electro , Scream , and Doctor

Octopus attack and hurl the Scoop into the sewer , where Spider @-@ Man is waiting . After he fends off Hydro @-@ Man and Doctor Octopus there , the guests escape narrowly to the river where Hobgoblin attacks with exploding pumpkins and sends guests into the streets .

In the ride 's climax , Doctor Octopus lifts the Scoop up to a height of 400 feet (120 m) using the anti @-@ gravity cannon . A number of synchronised effects help achieve this without the vehicle leaving the ground . These include a movable building set , lighting cues , simulator movements , projections and wind effects . Spider @-@ Man attempts to pull the Scoop down , but is attacked by all the supervillains . Spider @-@ Man thwarts them , but not before Doctor Octopus disengages the anti @-@ gravity device , sending the Scoop on a simulated freefall until it is rescued by Spider @-@ Man 's webbing right above the ground and another Stan Lee cameo . Spider @-@ Man manages to capture all of the supervillains by tying them with webs . As the vehicle pulls into the unload station , Spider @-@ Man thanks the guests for their help and sends them back to the Daily Bugle , where he has rigged the anti @-@ gravity cannon to lift Jameson up to the ceiling in his office . Guests unload while a modern rendition of the classic Spider @-@ Man theme song plays and a voiceover by Stan Lee instructs the riders on exiting properly .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Development of The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man at Islands of Adventure began in 1996 . Allen Ambrosini from At The Park Magazine stated theme park guests in the late 1990s were becoming more sophisticated , desiring rides that combined theming and thrills into a single immersive experience . As a result , the ride 's creators set out to develop a ride which would take the motion simulation elements of Back to the Future : The Ride , and combine them with a 3D film similar to that used on T2 3 @-@ D : Battle Across Time . The result was a prototype ride system combining a track @-@ mounted motion base vehicle with 3D projections and other special effects , with the aim of immersing guests inside a comic book . To develop the attraction , Universal Creative brought together a number of companies including the Oceaneering Entertainment Systems division of Oceaneering International , Birket Engineering , Moog , Soundelux , Kleizer Walczak , and Rinehart Manufacturing .

= = = Ride system = = =

The ride system used on The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man was originally prototyped for the attraction at Islands of Adventure , before being installed at Universal Studios Japan . It has since been utilised for Transformers : The Ride at Universal Studios Singapore , Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal Studios Florida . The ride vehicles , developed by Oceaneering International , are mounted to a track @-@ roaming platform that provides the forward motion to move the vehicle through each show scene . The yaw motor and a Stewart platform with six degrees of freedom attaching it to the platform allows the vehicle to move 360 degrees at different angles along the track . The track switches were manufactured by Dynamic Structures . Each of the vehicles are themed as the Daily Bugle 's new " Scoop " vehicle for reporters , with each accommodating twelve riders . Each row of four riders is restrained by a single lapbar . This system was invented by Universal Creative employees Philip Hettema , William Mason , and Gary Goddard . A similar system has been patented by Oceaneering International and used on rides such as The Curse of DarKastle at Busch Gardens Williamsburg , Tokyo Panic Cruise at Tokyo Dome , and Speed of Magic at Ferrari World Abu Dhabi .

= = = Ride film and projections = = =

The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man was primarily developed by Universal Creative , the

research and development division of Universal Parks & Resorts . Scott Trowbridge , who now works for Walt Disney Imagineering , was the ride 's producer . Thierry Coup , who has since worked on Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey and Transformers : The Ride , was the Director and production designer . Trowbridge and Coup helped develop the initial storyboards for the attraction . They travelled to Massachusetts several times to meet with the animation directors , Jeff Kleiser and Diana Walczak , and their team at Kleiser @-@ Walczak Construction Co . (now Synthespians Studios) who provided all the stereoscopic animation and custom software for squinching . Coup produced the film alongside Patrick Mooney and Mark Rhodes . Trowbridge is given writing credits alongside Ross Osterman and Scott Peterson . Peter Lehman provided the soundtrack with Soundelux .

The attraction features thirteen 30 @-@ foot @-@ tall (9 @. 1 m) projection screens , twelve of which use 3D projection . The ride uses a polarized 3D system where the two projectors have polarizers designed to interact with each lens of the 3D glasses . By blocking light from one projector with each lens , the 3D effect is achieved . With traditional 3D projections there is an ideal seating location , where an off @-@ center viewing location reduces the overall effect of the 3D . To allow the ride to effectively combine 3D projections with moving viewers , Kleiser @-@ Walczak and their head of software , Frank Vtitz , developed a process they called squinching . First , the amount of distortion is predicted from a particular viewing angle . This same amount of distortion is then added in the opposite direction in order to counteract the effects . Initially miniature models were used to determine the ride 's path and the vehicle 's point of view , with full @-@ scale prototypes being used later . Trowbridge and Coup are credited with inventing the concept of squinching , with Universal Studios holding a patent for the method .

= = = Special effects = = =

In addition to the ride 's motion base and 3D projections , special effects including fog machines , fire , wind , heat , mist , strobe lights , and water spray are also employed throughout the attraction . All of these effects , along with the ride system , 3D projections and soundtrack , are controlled by a central industrial control system which knows , to one thirtieth of a second , when they are to execute . Just shy of the ride 's debut , the director of show and ride engineering at Islands of Adventure , Steve Blum , described The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man as the " most technically complex of all of the attractions " at the park . Vice president of design and creative development Mark Woodbury stated that they " would not have been able to tell this particular story if it weren 't for the technical tools " .

= = Reception = =

Cited by many as one of the best amusement rides in the world , The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man has been well received . Howard Shaprio of The Philadelphia Inquirer stated the ride was " bound to become one of the all @-@ time attractions of theme parks anywhere " . He described the climax of the ride the " most amazing effect " . Bill Dean of The Ledger described the ride as the " most impressive " attraction at Islands of Adventure . Guests interviewed by Dean praised the ride with comments including " I loved it " , " I think this is better [than Back to the Future : The Ride] because of the 3 @-@ D effects " , and " it was so exciting and everything was happening all at once , so it was really , really good " . Fred Mawer of the Daily Mail described the rides at Islands of Adventure " as technologically sophisticated as any in the world " with The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man being " the most extraordinary few minutes " .

Arthur Levine of About.com gave the ride 5 stars describing the ride as " an incredibly sophisticated attraction " that " blurs the line between virtual and reality so well that you 'll emerge slack @-@ jawed and awe @-@ struck " . He stated the enhancements made to the film projections in 2012 and 2013 " make the attraction even more immersive and awe @-@ inspiring " . Brady MacDonald of the Los Angeles Times rated the ride his second favourite in the world , after Disneyland 's Indiana Jones Adventure . Following the opening of fellow Universal rides Harry Potter and the

Forbidden Journey and Transformers : The Ride in 2010 and 2012 , MacDonald bumped The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man to his fourth favourite . In an interview for Amusement Business , Mark Hansen Jr. of Theme Park Critic praised the ride in stating that their dream ride would combine The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man with a 4th Dimension roller coaster such as X at Six Flags Magic Mountain . Theme Park Insider rated the ride a 9 out of 10 , based on 250 reviews .

In April 2004 , just three months after the ride opened at Universal Studios Japan , Amusement Business reported the park was " benefiting greatly from the addition of the ride " . Figures released at the end of 2004 showed Universal Studios Japan 's attendance rose from 8 @.@ 8 million people in 2003 to 9 @.@ 9 million people in 2004 , ranking it the sixth most visited park worldwide .

= = = Awards = = =

The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man has been the recipient of many awards from the amusement park industry . It won Amusement Today 's Golden Ticket Award for Best Dark Ride for twelve consecutive years from 1999 through to 2010 . It has since placed second in that category , after fellow Islands of Adventure attraction , Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey , took the top spot in 2011 . In 2000 , the ride won a Thea Award from the Themed Entertainment Association for outstanding themed entertainment and experience design . It has also won numerous public @-@ voted Theme Park Insider Awards and Screamscape Ultimate Awards .