

## = Medieval Faire ( Canada 's Wonderland ) =

Originally themed around the Middle Ages , Medieval Faire is a section of Canada 's Wonderland , a theme park in Vaughan , Ontario , Canada . As such , early attractions created under Kings Entertainment Company were named after knights , Don Quixote , Vikings , dragons , bats , and beasts . Throughout the Paramount Parks era , the section 's new attractions lacked appropriate theming . The introduction of the Leviathan roller coaster to Medieval Faire in 2012 was the first major investment in the section since 2000 ; the park is now under ownership of Cedar Fair . The section includes four roller coasters ( The Bat , Dragon Fire , Leviathan , and Wild Beast ) and six other rides .

Over the years , atmosphere performers have disappeared from most sections of the park , including Medieval Faire . Two entertainment areas have remained constant in the section , a proscenium theatre and a stunt and acrobatic space surrounded by water . Currently named Wonderland Theatre , the indoor facility has hosted a variety of stage show revues , ice shows , and now an acrobatic production , Cirque Ambiente . A structure within Arthur 's Baye initially featured a pirate diving and acrobatics show , which has changed now to have a more generic theme ; it is currently branded Kinet ? X.

Food in the section was originally themed to the era , with a large indoor pub and rib stand . The food later took on a more traditional North American cuisine , like a buffet and subs . Private events are held in the Courtyard facility .

## = = Theming = =

A 1979 planning document describes the section : " A trip into the Middle Ages is in store for those visiting this area of Canada 's Wonderland . Rides , restaurants , boutiques and the 1 @,@ 200 seat air @-@ conditioned Heritage Theatre where live shows are performed daily , await our guests in the Medieval Faire . "

The section is entered through a fortresses ' walls , over a castle moat . The front facade of Wonderland Theatre , previously Canterbury Theatre , was designed as a castle , and the other buildings were designed to fit the same time period .

Artist and inventor Bill Lishman created two sculptures for this section of the park , as well as some smaller works for application to the buildings . The most prominent is a dragon at the entrance to the Dragon Fire , which had originally been intended to hold a sign , but the park management decided they liked it enough for it to be a standalone sculpture . Lishman was allowed to design it from scratch , as opposed to follow preset designs established before he was hired , taking him and assistant Richard Van Heuvelan two months to complete . The other main sculpture was the wild boar at Wild Beast , both this and the dragon being built at his home in Blackstock , Ontario , for about \$ 75 @,@ 000 . Signs by Lishman included Sherwood Florist , Boo Boo 's Buggys , an ice cream cone , and for a popcorn counter .

Near to the First Aid building is the Medieval Faire washrooms . Initially themed in a medieval style , the thatched cottage was marked " Lords " and " Ladies " . Publicist Mike Filey told the press that many were confused by the doors , or even where washrooms were , and this was to be fixed for the second park season . In the opening year , an information and ticket booth was located in front of Arthur 's Baye ; tickets have since been phased out . Two designated smoking areas are in the section , one at the wall area next to the Prime Time Building , and the other by the Boar at the entrance to the Wild Beast .

## = = Rides = =

This section of the park originally opened with five rides : Dragon Fyre , Wilde Beast , Viking 's Rage , Quixote 's Kettles , and Wilde Knight Mares . Steel roller coaster Dragon Fyre includes 4 inversions , and is now the only Arrow Dynamics coaster in existence to have counter @-@ clockwise turning corkscrews . Out and back wooden roller coaster Wilde Beast has 3000 feet of

track , while Wilde Night Mares is a standing Enterprise ride featuring ten four @-@ seater gondolas rises 60 feet , tilting 90 degrees . Viking 's Rage , was the first of three pendulum rides the park operated ; unlike the now removed Jet Scream , the boat ride does not go upside down . Quixote 's Kettles features spinning kettles on a tilted platform . ( Two years before opening , Dragon Fire was simply called the Looping Corkscrew , and another ride was to be the Wildcat . )

In May 1981 , Canada 's Wonderland Director of Rides and Ground Services Jim Wilson told the Toronto Star that The Wilde Beast ( along with two of the other original coasters at the park , Scooby 's Ghoster Coaster , and the Mighty Canadian Minebuster ) was wooden thanks to the apparent popularity of different styles of rides . " Experiments " found that steel coasters weren 't as popular or enjoyable to the public , " the sound and feel all contribute to the thrill of the ride . People just didn 't like steel roller coasters . "

Early promotion for the Dragon Fyre highlighted all the safety measures , from an indirect reference to centrifugal force to x @-@ raying welds . The most popular attraction in Medieval Faire , lines for Dragon Fyre were about half @-@ hour at their peak in 1982 , considered at the time the longest of any attraction at the park .

Over the years , only four major attractions were added to Medieval Faire . Added in 1987 , The Bat was a backwards looping roller coaster , including one loop and two lifts . The park addition included a shop named the Belfry . Later additions were Speed City Raceway ( 1997 ) , Drop Zone ( 1997 ) , and Cliffhanger ( 2000 ) .

During the 1990s , almost all the rides were renamed : Dragon Fyre , Wilde Beast , Quixote 's Kettles , Wilde Night Mares , and Viking 's Rage became Dragon Fire , Wild Beast , Spinovator , Nightmares , and The Rage . When the park was sold to Cedar Fair , Paramount @-@ specific ride names disappeared with Cliffhanger , Drop Zone becoming Riptide , Drop Tower , respectively .

In 2012 , the Leviathan joined the similarly named Behemoth at Canada 's Wonderland , stripping the Behemoth of its titles as tallest ride in Canada and fastest ride in Canada . It was the first new ride in Medieval Faire in more than a decade . Leviathan is ranked as the seventh tallest , and the eighth fastest roller coaster in the world . It is Canada 's Wonderland 's 16th roller coaster . The addition came quickly after the launch of the 230 @-@ foot @-@ tall Behemoth roller coaster in 2008 , and the 301 @-@ foot @-@ tall swing ride WindSeeker in the 2011 season .

= = Entertainment = =

There was initially a variety of street theatre present in the section : both a " town rustic " performing magic and " a wily wizard performing slight of hand " , a juggling jester , Robin Hood , and a singing Maid Marian who accompanied herself on the autoharp . Some outdoors performers existed in the section until at least 1987 . While Peanuts characters appear on International Street and in Planet Snoopy , and Halloween programming includes walk @-@ around characters , all regular season unlicensed atmosphere characters and entertainment have been removed from the park .

= = = Wonderland Theatre = = =

Established as the Canterbury Theatre , this castle @-@ fronted theatre spent a few years as the Paramount Theatre , and has gone from hosting Broadway @-@ style productions to ice shows , during the regular season , and adult @-@ targeted musicals during Halloween Haunt .

Early resources conflicted on the size of the theatre : most sources suggest 1100 seats , but a 1982 program suggested 1200 . The theatre is formatted as proscenium , and was considered ' ultra @-@ modern ' upon opening .

In the first season , Canterbury hosted Those Magnificent Movies ; " ... a salute to Hollywood " . The stage show lasted 45 minutes , with eight sets for eight segments , 20 singer @-@ dancers , and a crew of 18 . After an opening medley , a fantasy segment features " On the Good Ship Lollipop " , " Yellow Submarine " , " The Candy Man " , and " Be a Clown " . The next segment focused on the 1930s and 1940s , with " As Time Goes By " , " Cheek to Cheek " , and " I Got Rhythm " . A western segment includes a tribute to Oklahoma ! , while the sci @-@ fi segment features " Star Wars ( Main

Theme ) " ( 1977 ) , John Williams ' " Superman Theme " from the 1978 Superman film , a segment from the Academy Award- nominated score of Close Encounters of the Third Kind ( 1977 ) , and " Cantina Band " from Star Wars . The modern segment included " The Rose " , made famous by Bette Midler 's 1979 film of the same name , and Academy Award winning song " Fame " , from the 1980 film of the same name . The finale included " All I Need Is The Girl " from stage musical Gypsy : A Musical Fable and " Get Happy " , a 1930 song most associated with Judy Garland in Summer Stock ( 1950 ) . In all , there were 200 costumes . Entry to the show was a D ticket , or \$ 1 @. @ 50 , and shows were performed by high school students . On some days , 1950s musical revue Rock Around The Clock would perform there , as opposed to Labatt 's International Showplace .

Later stage shows included Those Magnificent Movies , Fantasy , Superstars , Hot Ice , and School of Rock : Live in Concert . A cassette of recordings by the cast of Best of Broadway was released under the Taft Attractions label . At some point in the 1990s , a skating production was held at the theatre .

During Paramount ownership , the theatre was known as Paramount Theatre . Eventually , the Paramount Theatre stage was converted to an artificial ice surface , and renamed Wonderland Theatre . Two ice shows were presented , titled Endless Summer on Ice ( 2007 ? 2009 ) and Snoopy Rocks ! on Ice ( 2010 ? 2011 ) . The first production included Scooby @-@ Doo and outfits like s 'mores , while Snoopy , Charlie Brown , Lucy and Linus appeared in sequences of the latter . The show appeared at various other former Paramount Parks , and in each situation , the sequenced did vary between the Scooby @-@ anchored and Peanuts @-@ anchored productions .

Cirque Ambiente opened in Wonderland in 2012 ; located at Wonderland Theatre . The show is produced by Les Productions Haut @-@ Vol , who also produces the Wonder Mountain dive show and the shows in Arthur 's Baye . This isn 't the first " cirque " act at the park . Quebec 's Cirque du Tonnerre , featuring a contortionist from Cirque du Soleil , made an " exclusive Toronto appearance " at Wonderland in 1990 .

Of all the shows over the years , Wonderland estimates there have been 1300 performers . Jersey Boys choreographer Sergio Trujillo , television actor Matt Austin , and stage actress Erica Peck among them .

= = = Arthur 's Baye = = =

A large pond in the Medieval Faire has always hosted free performances , the shows have remained largely similar over the years , alternating only in choreography from year ? to ? year , as opposed to premise . In planning documents , the water was originally called Medieval Lake .

Labatt 's initially presented the Arthur 's Baye show , " The Plight of the Land Locked Pirates " . Described in the Guidebook , the " melodramatic stunt spectacular " was set on a " privateer ship " called the Sea Sceptre . Reports in 1980 suggested that the lake would have " ancient ? looking sailing ships . " The show would feature two sets of actors battling in a show of acrobatics and pyrotechnics . Billy , the 13 @-@ year @-@ old hero of the show ( played by a 20 ? year ? old trampolinist ) , is kidnapped from the audience on shore and taken to the boat . Pirate Captain Evil Medieval and Billy 's mother , played by a teenaged boy , were the two other primary characters . The trapeze and trampoline show ends with the mother lowering the pirate flag and raising a heart flag .

In 2009 the show was re ? titled simply as the Arthur 's Baye Dive Show , including trampoline and diving demonstrations , but no overarching plot . In 2011 , they were nominated for an IAAPA Brass Ring Award 2011 in the Live Entertainment category for Best Overall Production \$ 50 @, @ 001 @-@ 100 @, @ 000 . In 2012 it was re ? branded completely as Kinet ? X. The show was produced by Les Productions Haut @-@ Vol from 2002 to 2010 .

= = Food = =

The largest facility in this area of the park is The Marketplace ? International Buffet , originally called All 's Well Hall . In planning documents , it was simply called " Medieval Pub " . In the park 's

opening season guidebook , the facility is listed as selling " bratwurst , sausages , beef and mushroom pie , smoked sausage , grilled frankfurter , sauerkraut , mashed potatoes , soft pretzels , pastries , with beer , wine , coffee , tea , milk , and soft drinks . " The self ? serve restaurant had table service on request , and seated 528 ; Ginza Gardens in Grande Exposition of 1890 was the only other restaurant in the park with table service . A review of the restaurant in The Toronto Star describes the facility as the park 's flagship eatery , but it received mixed reviews . " The \$ 2 @.@ 50 beef and mushroom pie has a good crust and as much beef as potato . Tiny mushrooms , but big on flavor . " Conversely , 50 cent pretzels " are strictly for teething tots ? too chewy . " The Marketplace currently serves an all ? you ? can ? eat buffet , self described as " upscale " , offering meats like roast beef and fried chicken , pasta , a salad bar , a desert station , varied international cuisine , and other options . Marketplace has served a Mortal Meal , along with the Backlot Cafe elsewhere in the park , during Halloween Haunt in recent seasons .

While largely out of site from the bay for which it is named , Arthur 's Baye Mill & Bakery shared a building with store called The Market Place . The retail is now The Fun Shoppe , with the generically named Medieval Funnel Cakes . There is a Coca @-@ Cola Freestyle location at the funnel cake store .

Other original outlets were :

Yee Ribb Pytt : Barbecue ribs , smoked meat sandwich , and fries . Made by McCain , the fries were dubbed potato logs and Rubble spuds elsewhere in the park . Also listed in the guidebook were garden salad , coleslaw , melon , fruit drinks , soft drinks , and coffee .

Arthur 's Baye Mill & Bakery : Solely serving funnel cakes , at 90 cents . Teens taken to the park told the Star that " they look worse than they taste . "

Yorkshire Yogurt : " Freshly @-@ made frozen yoghurt with a touch of vanilla " , available in a cone , or with fresh fruit in a cup .

French Fries and Shrymps : Battered and fried shrimp , a dozen served in a paper cone . " What a cruel fate for such healthy food , " suggested a Star food writer .

The introduction of Leviathan to the section in 2012 lead to an expansion of Thrill Burger 's front service counter and kitchen , to handle the expected increased volume of traffic to the section . Thrill Burger offers " our basic good quality burgers and fries " , along with chicken fingers and onion rings . The Mixitup Icee station was remade into the " Leviathan Icee Yard " , featuring even larger drink containers than previously , emulating the size of the new ride . A truck positioned outside the Flight Deck roller coaster in Action Zone was rethemed and moved to Medieval Faire . Other current food locations include a Dairy Queen , a Subway , and Medieval Funnel Cakes which shares a space with Fun Shoppe .

Used for corporate catering and other large groups , Courtyard was originally known as King 's Courtyard , until at least 1998 . Public entry to the area is through a gate located between Wonderland Theatre and Riptide . Occasionally , other events are held at the Courtyard : in June 1998 , the section hosted Alligators Alive ! , an educational show about the Floridian animals .

= = Other = =

The area features a variety of games , including an arcade . The park 's First Aid and Security Building , now home only to the First Aid Centre , is located in the Medieval Faire section beside the games . Along with Hanna ? Barbera Land , this section of the park was recreated at Australia 's Wonderland .