



## SPARKING DISNEY JOY: SHEILA WARD

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Pleasure Island may seem like a distant fever dream, but for Sheila Ward it's where her Disney journey began. Originally from Michigan, Sheila had no plans to work for "the Mouse." Yet just after moving to Los Angeles, fate (and a friend) would lead her to the Orlando area ... and to the opening team of Pleasure Island – a nighttime entertainment area located at what is now Disney Springs. Sheila originally came down for a one-year gig, and 34-years later she's still here!

During her time at Pleasure Island, Sheila was an emcee for the XZFR Rockin Rollerdom. She also performed at the two comedy clubs, including The Adventurers Club – a Disney fan favorite. While Pleasure Island closed many years ago, Sheila continues to delight audiences through her work with Disney Event Group (DEG). You may recognize her as one of the characters she performs, including Ivanna Dream or Lorna Leader. Sheila says that her favorite part about her role is the "different people [she] meets – whether it is Cast Members or clients. They keep [me] excited about coming to work."



There is no typical day for Sheila as everyday is different. When she isn't getting into a costume a wig, she studies for site visits. She carefully studies the clients in the room and figures out a way to make a funny or meaningful connection. She reviews material and even memorizes fun facts. Her favorite project by far has been portraying Ivanna Dream for Walt Disney World's 50th Celebration. She says she has "loved helping celebrate the 50th as Ivanna Dream – special dress and all – sharing marketing messages, or just making folks aware of all the events that happened."



Sheila's favorite memory as part of the DDSS team was returning to her role with DEG after performing at Disney's Hollywood Studios during the pandemic. She recalls, "Walking back into my office at DEG with a 'Welcome Home' sign ... it felt really nice and did feel like I had come home."

Every month we want to spotlight you and your story! Our Cast play an integral role into sparking Disney joy with our Clients and it doesn't go unnoticed. As Walt said, "It requires people to make the dream a reality." Check back monthly as we'll be highlighting Cast Members all throughout our organization! Would you love to see someone featured? Take a look at the form below and feel free to nominate a fellow Cast Member.

## CAST SPOTLIGHT SUBMISSION

**Name of Cast Member**

**Cast Member's Work Area / Title**

**Briefly explain the Cast Member's story, or what makes them a good candidate:**

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