



FACT SHEET

Monster Mansion Quick Facts

Type:	Dark ride, family ride
Opened:	March 21, 1981 – Monster Plantation, May 16, 2009 – Monster Mansion
Designer:	Gary Goddard Entertainment
Length of ride:	4.5 – 5 minutes
Seating capacity:	6 – 9 per passenger boat
Capacity per hour:	1400
Speed:	7 feet per second
Sq ft of building:	25,246
# of characters:	105

About Monster Mansion

- Monster Mansion has more 4D effects than any other ride in the world.
- The ride was designed by Gary Goddard Entertainment. Many of the designers that worked on the Monster Plantation project in 1981 also worked on the design for Monster Mansion.
- Monster Mansion will have new lighting and audio systems.
- Monster Mansion added eight new characters to the existing ride.
- To bring the existing 97 animatronic characters up to 2009 standards, Six Flags Over Georgia will have replaced and installed:
 - 355 pneumatic actuators
 - 1,065 pneumatic flow controls
 - 1,000 bearings
 - 355 pneumatic valves
 - 230 yards of fur
 - 80 new or reworked costumes
 - 12 new face skins
 - 55 new or rebuild props

About Monster Plantation

- Monster Plantation opened at Six Flags Over Georgia in 1981 and was designed by Gary Goddard Productions, now called Gary Goddard Entertainment. This was one of GGP's first large scale projects.
- Monster Plantation was specifically designed for Six Flags Over Georgia; the ride could not be found anywhere else.

- The Monster Plantation was built on the site of the old Okeefenokee Ride, better known as “Tales from the Okeefenokee,” but only the trough and the building were used. All the other elements from the old ride were removed. Monster Mansion will include a semi-hidden tribute to the Tales from the Okeefenokee.
- During the ride, boats proceed through a water-filled track through the interior of the building, which is filled with loveable and not-so-loveable animatronic monsters having a family reunion picnic.
- Near the end of the ride, boats are accidentally run off course into "the Marsh," a dark swamp filled area with a variety of scary monsters before the boats are sent back to the outdoor boarding station.
- Construction began in September 1980 and was completed by opening day March 21, 1981.
- Nov. 2, 2008 was the last day Monster Plantation was open to the public. On May 16 2009, Monster Plantation became Monster Mansion with new characters, interactive elements and overall makeover.
- Monster Plantation consistently ranked among the most popular rides at the park.

Firsts

- Monster Mansion is the first theme park ride that has 12 4D effects. Monster Mansion has more 4D effects than any other ride in the world.
- Monster Plantation was the first true “animatronic ride” to be done outside of Disney.
- It was the first dark ride to bring more than 100 animatronic characters together outside of Disney.
- The ride was created as a completely original attraction, unique to Atlanta and was not based on a pre-existing movie or character. It was a totally original project.

Creating the Ride in 1981

- Gary Goddard Productions was a newly assembled group of ex-Disney imagineers, and Monster Plantation was their first major undertaking.
- Sketches of 130 monsters were drawn by GGP artist Phil Mendez, and all the creatures were brought to life through the magic of Theatronics, which is micro-electronic programming.
- The characters were produced from foam, which is covered with fiberglass to form shells. Then, fur and costuming was applied to each monster.
- Moving parts are made of latex rubber, and the life-like movements are controlled by a computer using stainless steel “innards,” voices and personalities.
- The movements themselves are powered by air, with small pumps pushing hydraulic fluid into pneumatic cylinders. In 1981, more than 7,000 feet of wire tied each one to a central computer bank.
- Approximately 10 key GGP designers, art directors and writers led the project in 1981. But in addition to the 10 key people, there were hundreds of others working on creating the models, sculptures, sets, animatronics, soundtrack, etc to bring the ride to life.

The Monster Mansion/Plantation Theme Song

- The original lyrics of the Monster Plantation song are below. There have been lots of debates about the lyrics through the years. Many people think the song goes “...but humans are allowed to play.”
- The ride lyrics were not changed in the renovation. However, a new audio system, makes the lyrics more audible than ever before. Lyrics are:

You're invited,
To a picnic,
Monster Picnic,
But humans are allowed today to,
Join the monsters at the mansion!
Glad you came inside,

Relax! Enjoy the ride!
Hey, get ready,
Join the party,
Hear the music play!
This plantation celebration,
Never ends because our friends,
Came today to help us say...

Key Characters / Storyline

The story behind Monster Mansion is that it was built in 1852 by Col. Beauregard “Mad Dog” Powell in honor of his beloved wife, Mildred. The mansion was eventually willed to his wife’s second cousin on the “monster side.” She welcomed all the monsters in need of refuge, and over the years, many accepted the invitation. Today, her great-granddaughter Mizzy Scarlett maintains the mansion and greets all the visitors.

The river on which the human visitors venture was created during the Flash Flood of 1973 according to the story and the first level of the home remains flooded. The humans are allowed to visit for the day and they get to witness the monsters having their family picnic.

- **Mizzy Scarlett** – She’s the first and last character you see during the ride, which makes sense because she’s the chair of the monster’s hospitality committee. She is genuinely pleased to welcome the “human visitors” to her home. Mizzy Scarlett was loosely named after Scarlett O’Hara, a character from *Gone With the Wind*, to tie into the Southern theme of the ride.
- **Buzby** – The “face” of Monster Mansion, Buzby is the fun-loving, playful monster of the bunch. He was named after George Busbee, the governor of Georgia at the time the ride opened.
- **Marshal Billy Bob Fritter** – That’s right...the actual name of this character is Marshal Billy Bob. Over time, people referred to him as the “Sheriff,” but if you look closely at his badge it states his true title. Marshal Billy Bob is responsible for the law and order of Monster Plantation. He adamantly tries to warn the humans to stay out the Marsh, but the humans are just too curious.
- **Fritter Bitter** – Marshal Billy Bob’s loyal dog and best friend
- **Gengenbacher** – Named after Dave Gengenbacher, another Disney Imagineering veteran who left to work on Monster Plantation. Specifically, he designed the boats. Gengenbacher says “humans!” in the marsh.
- **Boat Eater** – This is the last monster the humans see as they leave the ride.
- **Swampserpent** – This is the serpent-like monster in the marsh.
- **E-e-rategator** – The E-e-rategator is also in the marsh, and he rises to see what the humans look like.
- **Gippy** – The short monster covered in pie is named Gippy.
- **Bernoggle** – The tall monster with the pie stuck in his throat is good ole’ Bernoggle.
- **Nestor (NEW)** – The photographer’s faithful assistant is named Nestor.
- **The BULLFROG TRIO: Ribbit, Bull, and Croak (NEW)** – The BULLFROG TRIO first rose to fame in the early 80’s as one of the top acts in the Everglades, and retired to the Monster Mansion in the late 90’s at the suggestion of some close friends who were then performing in their very own Six Flags show - the “Bullfrog Review” in *Bugs Bunny World* (they have also since retired).
- **SPLISH, SPLASH, & SQUIRT (NEW)** – Originally hailing from Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Monster Mansion serves as the summer residence for SPLISH, SPLASH, and SQUIRT. Rabid water sport fans, these three can always be found in or around water, and were initially drawn to Atlanta by Six Flags Over Georgia’s world-class collection of aquatic attractions.
- **The photographer (NEW)** – Born in a marsh near Macon in 1949, he moved to Atlanta in 1967 where he got his first job on the opening day crew of Six Flags Over Georgia. In the ensuing decades, he was instrumental in the founding of the Monster Mansion, which first opened its doors to monsters from all around the South in 1981. Over the years, he’s captured many of Six Flags’ crowning historical moments as

the park's official Head of Photography, along with his faithful assistant, Nestor. The photographer will be named through the monster naming contest.