

Mike Nilsen Dragon Ball Museum Questions

Subject: Mike Nilsen of www.DragonBallMuseum.com

Journalist: Derek Padula of [The Epoch Times](#) and [The Dao of Dragon Ball](#)

Property of: Derek Padula

Overview

The following is a series of Questions and Answers about the Dragon Ball Museum project, the creator, Mike Nilsen, and his goals for the museum.

The answers were used to write a [featured report about the Dragon Ball Museum on The Epoch Times website](#).

Mike has given Derek Padula, the author of the article, permission to display the full answers to his questions on his blog, The Dao of Dragon Ball, in this PDF.

The following pages are the responses Mike gave to the questions asked by Derek.

Questions

General

When did you start collecting Dragon Ball memorabilia and related products?

Dragon Ball started in Japan as a manga, Japanese comic, around 1985. I started collecting Dragon Ball memorabilia in 1996. It wasn't that popular in the United States until about that time. When I first took interest in the series nobody really knew what the show was about. I remember buying VHS videos of Dragon Ball that were in Japanese with English subtitles. The picture and sound quality were not very good, but at least it was Dragon Ball. Ocean Studios was first contracted to dub the series in English but after about 50 episodes (out of 291 uncut episodes) they couldn't afford to keep going. FUNimation took over production around 1995 and produced the rest of the series dubbed in English. The series took off; its popularity in the US grew immensely.

Are you a fan of Dragon Ball, or do you just like to collect Dragon Ball related products? If you are a fan, what interests you so much in the Dragon Ball series and not another series or type of collectibles? Why Dragon Ball?

Dragon Ball is an animation trilogy that consists of: Dragon Ball, Dragon Ball Z, and Dragon Ball GT. I am a huge fan of Dragon Ball Z. The story and characters are so well developed it pushes your imagination

and challenges your creativity. The series also teaches you valuable characteristics like: trustworthiness, teamwork, loyalty, honor and hope. Dragon Ball Z has been labeled as the greatest story ever told. It is comprised of about 291 episodes, 13 feature length movies, and two background story specials. That's over 100 hours of pure non-stop action. That's not including the Dragon Ball or Dragon Ball GT series.

Where are you located? Do you still live in Duluth, Minnesota? Is your collection in the same location or stored elsewhere?

I currently live in Duluth, Minnesota. My collection is stored in a secure facility away from the elements and has been insured with the American Collectors Insurance Inc.

Purpose

The website succinctly describes the purpose of your museum. Is there anything else you would like to add to this description?

The Dragon Ball Museum Exhibit is just a small piece to the overall venture. I have a few amazing surprises in store for Dragon Ball fans. It's just a matter of time before Dragon Ball Museum becomes reality.

You mentioned previously that this exhibit would help teach children how to live a healthy lifestyle. Please describe how you believe it will do so.

It is too early to determine what all will be included in the exhibit. However, the exhibit will illustrate a few main topics such as: what consists of a nutritional diet, what are different types of recommended physical activity as well as lengths of time for physical activity, and the benefits for achieving a higher education. The healthy lifestyle topic is just a small part of the exhibit. There are many surprises that are in store for Dragon Ball fans.

Goals and Vision

When did you start the Dragon Ball Museum project?

When I was about 12 years old I wanted to do something on a large scale. However, I didn't know what. The Guinness World Records Book fascinated me and then it clicked. I thought it would be a great idea to set a Guinness World Record. Being only 12 years old it seemed pretty impossible to be the best in the world at something, so I decided to move on. The following year my younger brother introduced me to a Japanese animation show called Dragon Ball Z. We started watching the episodes and it was quite exciting. Over the next few years I started collecting Dragon Ball related memorabilia. A few years later I realized I had quite the collection. That's when I figured I could try an attempt to set a Guinness World Record for the Largest Collection. I set the record in January of 2007. Family and friends were amazed at my collection. We also realized how popular the series actually was. I had items from countries all over the world. I figured I should create a children's museum exhibit, so that Dragon Ball fans everywhere could see and enjoy its popularity.

Why did you start the project? What motivates you to create this museum and exhibit?

I have a couple of reasons for my motivation about my exhibit. First, for the last 25 years the Dragon Ball trilogy has been shared by millions of fans. It has hit number one in many countries including: the United States, Japan, France, Spain, Hong Kong, and Mexico. I want to commemorate the Dragon Ball trilogy, so future generations can experience this amazing legend. Second, I want to inspire people to live a healthy lifestyle by: maintaining a nutritional diet, participating in physical activity, and pursuing a higher education. All topics are interconnected in the Dragon Ball world! By using a popular brand children will have a better chance of understanding the educational information.

What are the long-term goals of the Dragon Ball Museum?

Currently, I have a limited license agreement with the company FUNimation for the rights of Dragon Ball Museum's Web site. My goal is to achieve a full license agreement with Toei Animation for the rights to create a Dragon Ball related exhibit, without legal complications. At this time I am not at liberty to use the copyrights and trademarks of Dragon Ball set forth by Toei Animation for a physical museum exhibit. A representative from FUNimation is working on a possible license agreement with Toei Animation for me. However, these legal issues take time, so patience is essential.

Once a license agreement is constructed the project will be in full force. Fundraising and awareness will be the main topics and once we hit our financial goal the exhibit will then be created. The creation process can take months or even years. This process will be captured and posted on the Dragon Ball Museums Blog, so fans can see how museum exhibits are created from concept to reality. While the exhibit is being created the next step is to determine the touring schedule. Any museum has the potential to host the exhibit. Once the schedule is set and the exhibit is completed the tour will then commence! Exhibit tours can last anywhere from 5 to 10 years! It depends on how many museums host the exhibit.

Upon completion of the tour, around the nations museums and possibly the world, I plan on having a permanent location for Dragon Ball Museum. There will be a permanent location somewhere in the world where Dragon Ball Museum can be promoted and experienced for future generations.

How do you think fans will respond to this exhibit?

Dragon Ball fans range from children to adults. It's been around for quite sometime now and its popularity continues to grow. My exhibit will appeal to every generation, not just children. Dragon Ball fans from all ages will enjoy what the exhibit has to offer. Also, there will be subjects that will impress the best of critics.

Do you have plans or goals to take this exhibit to Japan, the birthplace of Dragon Ball?

There is no limit as to where I would take the Dragon Ball Museum exhibit. Again, the demand for the exhibit will determine where the exhibit will be hosted. I think it would be a great idea to take the exhibit to Japan, China, and possibly Europe!

If Akira Toriyama heard of this exhibit, what do you think he might do or say?

It's about time! What a great idea. A place where fans from across the world can remember and new generations can experience the world of Dragon Ball.

Logistics

How many museums do you plan to show this exhibit in, and will it only be in the United States? If so, then in which cities?

I've contacted numerous museums across the country about my Dragon Ball exhibit. At this point we are in the conceptual stage and are patiently waiting on the licensing agreement from Toei Animation. There is no limit on the number of museums that could potentially host the exhibit. The demand for the Dragon Ball exhibit will determine which cities will host the exhibit, nationally or worldwide. The best advise for Dragon Ball fans is to talk with your local museums and encourage them to bring the Dragon Ball exhibit to their city. As of now I have contacted the following museums: Boston Children Museum, Museum of Nature & Science of Texas, Children's Museum of Houston, Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Children's Museum of Manhattan, Miami Children's Museum, Chicago's Children's Museum, Children's Museum of Los Angeles, The Children's Museum Seattle, The Science and Children's Museums of Minnesota, The Please Touch Museum and The Franklin Institute of Philadelphia. There is no guarantee that each of these museums will host the Dragon Ball exhibit.

Have the museums you wish to display in been contacted? If so, how much might such an exhibit cost? And how much do you think tickets would be priced for?

As stated previously I've contacted numerous museums across the country. Museum exhibit costs range from tens of thousands of dollars to multimillions of dollars, depending on the quality and size of the exhibit. I am estimating the budget range for the Dragon Ball exhibit will be from five hundred thousand to one million dollars. At this point it is too early to estimate a ticket price, however, it is my goal for every Dragon Ball fan be able to experience the exhibit.

Would you also consider non-museum venues such as anime conventions or gaming conventions?

I would definitely consider any interested venue. If there is enough demand, the Dragon Ball exhibit will be there!

Is the collection currently on display? If so, then where?

Not at this time, but hopefully in the future!

Do you have a schedule of places the show will tour?

Not at this time. Once the creation stage of the exhibit has been started the touring schedule will then be created. This information will be posted on the Dragon Ball Museums Blog. Be sure to check www.dragonballmuseum.com for updates and touring schedule.

Inventions and Product Line

Please tell me a bit more about your invention and product line that is described on your website. What do you have planned for the Dragon Ball community?

Due to legal issues I am not able to reveal my Dragon Ball inspired product line at this time. However, in the near future, you will soon be able to experience my vision. It has taken me over seven years, countless hours, tens of thousands of dollars to develop my product line for the public to enjoy. I guarantee that you will not be disappointed.

Again, I have a few amazing projects in store for the Dragon Ball community. However, it's only been me up to this point and I need some help. Attention Dragon Ball fans and professionals, I need your support. I am interested any help you can give, whether it's a donation of your expertise, time, sponsorship, or other monetary means, no gift is too small. You can contact me at mike@dragonballmuseum.com. For donations please visit the Exhibit Page on the Dragon Ball Museum Web site.

Consulting

You also have a consulting business to find specific Dragon Ball related items on the Internet. Please tell me about this.

As a collector in general I have found that, over time, it is difficult to locate original authentic memorabilia. I have about 14 years of experience in collecting Dragon Ball related items and I want to offer my expertise, resources, and experiences to collectors worldwide. Also, fraud is a factor of life and by knowing what to look for I try to prevent collectors from becoming victims. An authentic Dragon Ball item may be worth anywhere from \$10 - \$5,000 depending on the rareness.

Have you been requested to find or actually found any unusual or notable items?

You won't believe the wacky Dragon Ball related items I have come across. One of my favorite items is a Master Roshi tissue dispenser. Maser Roshi is a Dragon Ball character that gets nosebleeds, so naturally the tissues are dispensed through his nose! Another favorite item is a working Scouter walkie-talkie. A Scouter is a communication device that shows your enemy's strength before combat and if you aren't strong enough for battle you can radio for help. (I've included a picture of both of these items.)

Room for Other Comments

Please make any other comments you would like to make in the space below. And thank you for your time!

I am still waiting to hear from Toei Animation on a licensing agreement. If anyone from Toei Animation wants more information on my project or wants to get in touch with me please email me at mike@dragonballmuseum.com or call me at 218-343-5645.

Accredited professionals, arranging from the following groups but not limited to, will provide all educational material, exhibit production, and special projects: University of Minnesota Duluth, Mayo Clinic Rochester Minnesota, Jan Crocker LLC, Popular Mechanics Magazine, and various others.

Thank you very much for your interest in my project. Again, any help that comes my way will be much appreciated. I hope I've answered your questions well enough for you to write your article and/or book. If you have more questions or need more information don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks again and good luck with your future endeavors!