

Don't Be a Simple Sponge, Enjoy EDHS's "The SpongeBob Musical"

written by Griffin Croft, a junior at San Clemente High School. April 1, 2022

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea? SpongeBob SquarePants and his pet snail Gary! However, the imminent eruption of Mount Humongous ruins their beautiful Bikini Bottom day and sends the town into a panic. After saving his friendship with Patrick, building an eruptor disruptor, and climbing an unclimbable volcano, SpongeBob saves the town in the best day ever.

Sofia Candela as SpongeBob SquarePants masterfully assembles the iconic character out of an exuberant character voice, a bouncing walk, and a determination to stay optimistic in the face of doom. While singing with Phoebe Martin as Sandy Cheeks and Blake Schalliol as Patrick Star in "Hero Is My Middle Name," Candela's strong voice blends with the others and maintains her distinctive tone quality for a powerful declaration of courage.

In an already-hilarious show, JD Cavalluzzi as Larry the Lobster and Lexie Gilstrap as Karen the Computer stand out with their comedic brilliance. Cavalluzzi excels at portraying Larry as the town jock and mayor's bodyguard with a deep voice and funny one-liners. Gilstrap's machine-resembling monotone allows her campy movements to reveal Karen's newfound love for her "big guy."

The cultish Sardines praise Patrick with simultaneous hand movements and singing during "Super Sea Star Savior." Following Patrick, the group shouts out all his "wisdom," and they even join Patrick in a well-executed tambourine dance. The Sardines explore their uniformity through in sync dance moves, hand movements, and vocals.

Costumes (Sofia Candela, Lucy Cavalluzzi, Jayden Ford, Amelia Taberski) create the original looks of the leads while exploring creative outfits for the ensemble. Some detailed renditions of original clothing are SpongeBob's striped socks, Patrick's lime green shorts with flowers, and Squidward's brown shirt. In addition to the widely-recognized clothing of the leads, the costumes crew successfully develops new ideas for residents of Bikini Bottom out of sea creatures such as angler and clown fish.

Props (JD Cavalluzzi, Cammie Kohlenberger, Owen Switzer) builds the farcical atmosphere of the show with 150 different items. Beach ball boulders gradually increase in size to simulate the growing urgency of the volcano's eruption. Out of paper mâché, cardboard, and a skateboard, the props crew creates a beautiful rendition of Sponge's best friend, Gary the snail.

With strong character development and captivating vocals, El Dorado's "The SpongeBob

Musical" explores real-world themes of self-worth, discrimination, and the power of optimism.