

Who Lives at PHS Under the Spotlight? The SpongeBob Musical!
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In the bubbly underwater town of Bikini Bottom, life is usually as simple as flipping Krabby Patties and jellyfishing with friends. But when the looming eruption of Mount Humongous threatens to wipe the town off the map, chaos bubbles to the surface. Portola's musical makes waves, turning chaos into laughs while keeping Bikini Bottom afloat. Turns out saving the world might just require optimism... and a really good pair of square pants.

From the instant the curtain lifts, the stage hums with mirth as Lilian Chehade's SpongeBob bursts forth, voice chirping with effervescent, high-pitched fervor. Logan Charlton's Patrick delivers uproarious physical comedy, tumbling and gesturing with faultless timing, while Alison Bauchat's Sandy astonishes with a commanding vocal presence, effortlessly soaring through dazzling high notes. Together, the trio's jestful choreography and fluid harmony propel the spectacle, rescuing the day in quintessential Bikini Bottom style.

With circuitry more than micro in scale, Rylan Flanigan's Plankton plots and croons across the stage, dropping an unexpected rap "shell-raiser," while Jazzy Peterson's Karen hums and beatboxes with robotic precision. Their duo radiates an eccentric, tech-infused villainous romance, each glance and synchronized move hinting at a love engineered like Plankton's covert Krabby Patty schemes, turning every scene into a mischievous, electrifying "byte" of delight.

Oak Hudson Au Ignacio animates Squidward with razor-sharp sarcasm and vivid physicality, his deadpan wit punctuated through nuanced vocal inflections. The costume team's six-hour masterpiece, complete with stuffed socks stitched to his pants, perfectly evokes Squidward's flair. In "I'm Not a Loser," a clever wardrobe swap mirrors his playful transformation, set against the ensemble's glittering pink-and-blue sequins and polka dots. Amid the radiant, lively company, Hudson's meticulous gestures and sly charm elevate him to the star of every scene.

The student-driven choreography popped under the PHS scenic design team's two skillful false prosceniums. The lighting team's 370+ cues highlighted every leap, spin, and formation, immersing the audience while making each dancing student shine against the layered set.

Gary the snail stole the show thanks to the props design team who crafted him entirely by hand. Layered Owen Corning foam boards were carved and shaped impeccably, giving Gary both texture and personality, while sound effects brought his meows to life.

PHS's SpongeBob dove deep under the sea with bubble-blowing fun, leaving the audience hooked and wishing they could jellyfish-jump into Bikini Bottom!