

University's The Spongebob Musical is Absolutely Absorbing!

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University's peppy rendition of The Spongebob Musical proves to audiences that nothing-- even impending doom--is a match for the potent power of friendship and teamwork.

In the vibrant aquatic town of Bikini Bottom, ordinary townfish are suddenly thrown into a mad panic by Mount Humongous' imminent volcanic eruption. Spongebob Squarepants, Patrick Star, and Sandy Cheeks join forces to devise a bubbly solution in a race against the clock and Sheldon J. Plankton's chum-inspired sabotage. Though trials and tribulations abound, the trio comes to learn the true value of their combined strengths and close bond.

With a plucky Texan twang to her voice and a bounce of her fluffy tail, Sandy (Mallika Cadin) strides boldly across the stage while delivering strong, melodious vocals. Her confident, athletic physicality distinctly contrasts the goofy clomping of Patrick (Brian Bajak) and Spongebob's (Owen Stapp) bouncy strolling. The trio's connection and joyful stage presence are strengthened by an abundance of small, playful interactions and well-timed jokes.

Eugene H. Krabs (Matthew Dorfman) scuttles hurriedly around his beloved Krusty Krab establishment, eyes roaming in search of a new money-making opportunity. Dorfman's gruff demeanor and growly vocalizations heighten the cranky boss's comedy.

A consistently lively, cartoonish atmosphere is established by the distinct, yet cohesive work of all technical crews. The efforts of both Lighting crew (Yannik Cadin) and Running crew (Hannah Sedehi) to emphasize the characters' emotions is especially notable in the volcanic earthquake scenes: the distress of the townfish is established by a chaotic combo of flashing strobe lights, uniquely colored GOBOs, and endless bouncing "boulders" hurled from the sides of the stage. Commitment to an immersive ambience is also apparent in Prop crew's (Camden Krause, Maddie Williams) shimmering translucent jellyfish and Scenic Design crew's (Naaron Araque, Zoe Huxman) glowing solo cup coral, as both aspects lend a magical feel to the production.

Stage management's (Yannik Cadin, Logan Masters, Akemi Nishida) timely deliverance of cues lends the show an effortless flow. The effectively delivered sound effects, both provided by Sound crew (Kokone Makino, Arpi Gharadagin) and the Foley Artist (Ian Mavrikis), stand out for the many comedic moments created by their spot-on execution. Additionally, the Fly Rail crew (Logan Masters) never fails to fly in each set piece smoothly for the appropriate scene during speedy transitions.

University excites the senses with a vivid, catchy comedy that's far from fishy!