



Performance Preview Guide

The SpongeBob Musical

Patrons have different ideas of what material or themes are appropriate for themselves, their families, and their students. For this reason, we provide the following information. Please note that the following contains plot spoilers. For more information about the show you can visit [Concord Theatricals' page on the *The Spongebob Musical* here.](#)

Age Recommendation

Wheelock Family Theatre's production of *The SpongeBob Musical* may not be suitable for children under the age of 6. Please note that every production is different based on direction and design, and there may be elements in Wheelock Family Theatre's production that are more or less suitable for certain ages than other productions you may be familiar with.

Versions available to preview

A script is available at the Wheelock Family Theatre box office for you to read. Please email wfttix@bu.edu to arrange a time to read it.

Production length

The show is estimated to run 2 hours and 30 minutes with a 15-minute intermission.

Accessibility

Wheelock Family Theatre was founded on a mission that is dedicated to providing accessible theatre for all. Wheelock Family Theatre is wheelchair accessible, and all performances are open captioned. Additionally, select performances will be interpreted in American Sign Language, and Audio Described. For more information on Wheelock Family Theatre's access programs, [please visit our accessibility web page](#) or contact Audience Services Manager, Jamie Aznive at jaznive@bu.edu (617) 353 – 1451.

Educational Content Overview

The SpongeBob Musical is a fun and colorful story based on the well-known Nickelodeon animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg. Although the show draws its characters and world from the cartoon series, its exciting plot and relevant themes makes it enjoyable to fans and non-fans alike. It includes themes of prejudice and environmental crises told in ways that younger audiences can understand. The show also focuses on the values of teamwork, and showing appreciation for home, community, and friendship! For more information on *The Spongebob Musical's* educational content, a study guide will be available closer to the performance.

Content Advisories

The SpongeBob Musical has some instances of cartoonish violence, mature themes, and suggestive language.

Examples of Cartoonish Violence:

- The show includes the role of The Foley Fish, a fish that is present throughout the entire show, and creates cartoon sound effects for the action happening on stage. These sound effects include footsteps, dings for objects appearing, whacks for hits, and in one case an explosion sound effect when Sandy is first introduced implied to be from one of her scientific gadgets
- The volcano sends large boulders that destroy parts of Bikini Bottom and flatten Old Man Jenkins. He is replaced by a 2D cutout of himself, but then his 3D self reappears and shows that he is unharmed
- Sandy cartoonishly slaps SpongeBob to snap him out of his panic

Examples of Mature Themes:

- Patchy the Pirate interacts with the audience and encourages them to join in his chant of “Yo ho, we won’t go” to protest anti-pirate discrimination
- Throughout the show, Bikini Bottom is faced with the threat of an underwater volcano erupting and destroying the entire town
- When faced with the impending catastrophe, the Mayor of Bikini Bottom is portrayed as ineffective, suggesting “setting meetings to encourage dialogue about drafting proposals for eventual action”
- The citizens of Bikini Bottom turn against Sandy and her scientific solutions and blame her for the volcano because she is a land mammal and not originally from Bikini Bottom. They form an angry mob and chase her with signs and pitchforks. This is used as a metaphor for racism/xenophobia
- The Sardines become increasingly obsessed with Patrick’s ideas and form a cult like group with him as their leader

Examples of Suggestive Language:

- Plankton and Karen are married, and some of their dialogue may be considered as suggestive, such as Karen saying, “I guess it took a little apocalypse to spice things up,” and Plankton asking Karen to call him “Big Guy”.
- When Plankton and Mr Krabs are fighting it is implied that they are swearing at each other but it is covered by dolphin noises

Pre-Show

Patchy the Pirate, SpongeBob's number one fan, and President of the SpongeBob fan club, sits on the stage after the audience has taken their seats. He reveals he has traveled from Encino, California, to record the musical on his phone and make a "pirate copy". Two security guards tell Patchy to leave, as the show is about to begin. Patchy objects but gets kicked out as he claims he is a victim of pirate discrimination and sings a protest chant, "Yo ho, we won't go". One of the guards apologizes, then tells the audience to enjoy the show.

Act One

SpongeBob SquarePants awakens and welcomes the day with his pet sea snail, Gary ("Bikini Bottom Day"). He greets various friends in his hometown of Bikini Bottom—including his best friend Patrick, his neighbor Squidward, and his friend Sandy Cheeks—as he walks to the Krusty Krab restaurant. At work, his boss Mr. Krabs tells his daughter Pearl that she will manage the restaurant one day. With Pearl uninterested, SpongeBob hints at his desire to become the manager. Mr. Krabs laughs at the idea, telling SpongeBob he is "just a simple sponge" ("Bikini Bottom Day" (Reprise 1)). Then, a violent tremor suddenly rocks the entire town.

A news report reveals that the tremor was caused by the nearby Mount Humongous, a volcano that will soon erupt, throwing the town into a panic ("No Control"). SpongeBob cheers up an upset Patrick by reiterating that they are best friends forever ("BFF"). With the town in a panic over the impending doom, married villains Plankton and Karen try to convince the citizens to enter an escape pod that ensures safety—a cover-up for their secret scheme to hypnotize the citizens in the pod into liking the chum that they serve at their restaurant, the Chum Bucket ("When the Going Gets Tough"). The townspeople, unknowingly, support this idea and decide to hold a last-minute music concert to raise enough money to build the pod. Squidward's idea of his one-man show is immediately shut down. Instead, Pearl suggests that a famous rock band, the Electric Skates, play at the concert. Everyone agrees and Squidward is named manager of the event. Despite Sandy's pleas that science could help them solve the problem, the townsfolk ignore her for being a land mammal.

SpongeBob, however, is against the idea of leaving town and believes the citizens should save Bikini Bottom. SpongeBob thinks back on Mr. Krabs' words from earlier and wonders if he could save the town ("Just a Simple Sponge"). He goes to Patrick and Sandy for help. Mr. Krabs sees the upcoming disaster as a money-making opportunity, holding an "apocalypse sale". Pearl worries about her father's greed, believing that it overshadows his care for her ("Daddy Knows Best").

Meanwhile, SpongeBob convinces Patrick and Sandy to team up, climb the volcano, and stop it from erupting with a bubble device Sandy will build. The friends are determined to succeed ("Hero Is My Middle Name"). Before they start their plan, a group of cultist sardines appear. They found wisdom in Patrick's thoughts at the town meeting and decide to make him their new leader ("Super Sea Star Savior"). Patrick likes the idea and decides to back out of SpongeBob's plan so that he can bask in self-glory, angering SpongeBob. The two argue and end their "BFF" status. After Patrick leaves, Sandy reminds SpongeBob that things are bound to be okay. The entire company reveals their personal thoughts and feelings about the impending disaster ("Tomorrow Is").

Act Two

Patchy again sneaks onstage, telling the audience that pirates are persecuted by others because of stereotypes ("Poor Pirates"), supported in song by a group of pirates he met during the show's first act after wandering into a dive bar on a nearby street. The theater's security again intervenes to chase Patchy away as he screams that he'll be back.

SpongeBob wakes up and greets a new day—the day when the volcano is expected to erupt ("Bikini Bottom Day" (Reprise 2)). Bikini Bottom has fallen into anarchy and chaos: the mayor has employed a dictatorship over the people and an angry mob has started to hunt down Sandy, thinking her science is the cause for the volcano's impending eruption. Sandy hides from the mob and shows SpongeBob the ingenious bubble device, the Eruption Interrupter. They plan to throw it inside the volcano and save the town.

Back in Bikini Bottom, Plankton worries that Sandy and SpongeBob will successfully climb up the mountain and save the town, but Karen tells him that she found his misplaced avalanche maker, saying they can use it to create an avalanche to kill SpongeBob and Sandy. The Electric Skates finally arrive ("Bikini Bottom Boogie") and accept Squidward's request to join their opening act if Squidward buys every item on a long shopping list. Meanwhile, SpongeBob and Sandy make their way up the volcano with great difficulty and Sandy tries to increase their morale, encouraging them to never give up ("Chop to the Top"). SpongeBob cannot help but think of how he misses Patrick and wishes he were there to help them. In Bikini Bottom, Patrick finds life as a guru unexciting and misses SpongeBob as well, prompting him to leave his followers behind to help SpongeBob ("I Guess) I Miss You").

Squidward obtains all but one of the items on the Electric Skates' list, so the band refuses his request and call him a "loser". In response, Squidward, who was called a loser in his childhood, snaps back at the band in anger. As the band quits and leaves, Squidward insists that he is not a loser and performs a song with a tap dance number and back-up chorus but becomes depressed again when he realizes that it was all in his imagination ("I'm Not a Loser"). However, with the band gone, there is no concert or escape pod. Pearl suggests Mr. Krabs hand over his money to build the escape pod, but even he cannot meet the price and the town citizens panic and fight one another. Back on the mountain, Plankton and Karen use the avalanche maker to cause an avalanche, sending SpongeBob falling off the mountain. Patrick arrives and saves him with a jetpack Sandy invented, and the two reaffirm their friendship and follow Sandy to the summit of the mountain. When they reach the top, neither Sandy nor Patrick is able to reach the rim where they need to throw the device in. They turn to SpongeBob, who doubts his skills ("(Just a) Simple Sponge" (Reprise)). They remind him that he is the only one who can squeeze through tight areas and that his optimism has gotten them this far. His determination renewed, SpongeBob throws the Eruption Interrupter in. The three soon discover the chaos Bikini Bottom is in and immediately parachute down to the town to stop the fighting from escalating further.

SpongeBob tries to calm everyone down, insisting that, despite whatever happens, they have each other ("Best Day Ever"). When the time comes for the volcano to erupt, everyone braces for their potential deaths. However, time passes with no eruption and bubbles fall down from above, signaling that Sandy's invention worked. With Bikini Bottom safe, everyone apologizes for their behavior, as Plankton and Karen argue and accidentally reveal their secret plot. Mr. Krabs decides to have SpongeBob as manager of the Krusty Krab someday. Everyone then decides that they should celebrate by having a new concert led by Pearl and Squidward, much to his delight, as Sandy is now welcomed back by the citizens of Bikini Bottom. Patchy descends from above on a rope, having finally managed to sneak into the show. He

makes the cast reluctantly agree to let him be a part of the finale as the townspeople welcome the brand-new day ("Bikini Bottom Day" (Reprise 3)). During the curtain call, the cast performs one final song ("*SpongeBob SquarePants* Theme Song").