

# the best day

One eternity later...

In the early weeks of SpongeBob production, each performer had unique sets of challenges to overcome. "It was hard to learn everything in ensemble because you have to learn more dances and almost all of the songs," Madilynn Vannatta said. On top of the choreography and upbeat songs, those with lead roles managed to memorize an abundance of dialogue before they would be ready to begin piecing together the full show.

As weeks went by, the cast and crew shifted gears and began to focus on doing justice to such a popular show. "We had to spend a lot of time on making ourselves very cartoon-y and outlandish because it's an animated show," Meghan Stahlberg said. Outside

of their time as a group, some actors worked towards mastering the comedic and optimistic elements of SpongeBob by bingeing YouTube clips of the show, especially those who had not gotten to watch the show as kids.

After the last week full of long dress rehearsals, the final minutes ticked down to show time. The cast came together for one of the last times before performing to their friends and family. "We have two traditions that we do together, and then the boys will do their traditions and girls will do their traditions," Turner McClellan said. These bittersweet moments together helped generate excitement out of their nervousness and get ready to bring the magic of Bikini Bottom to the audience.



**INDIRECT IMPROVEMENTS.** Through preparing for a role, many actors find that they experience growth due to the characteristics they had to exude for their performance. "It was so fun to get to play the Mayor because I was commanding the stage," Susannah Blackford said. The bold persona of the Mayor of Bikini Bottom caused Blackford to find more ease in speaking to large audiences. *Photo by M. Friedrich.*

**NO MORE STATUS QUO.** To account for SpongeBob's predominantly male main characters, the production avoids defining a role by its original characteristics. "Playing the opposite gender role was hard. I had to drop my voice and act more like a guy," Raegan Rozmiarek said. Through tweaks made by both actors and costume designers, the musical's cast got a greater scale of diversity and more unique depictions of the people of Bikini Bottom. *Photo by M. Friedrich*

**A STYLISH SHOW.** The musical cast members are dedicated to enhancing the show in any means possible. "I dyed my hair green on Tuesday before the show. My hair is originally dark brown, and I'll dye it back eventually, but I'm gonna keep it like this for a little while," Soraya Manuele said. Manuele's commitment to the costume not only pushed her to try something new, but enhanced the show by adding an additional detail to her portrayal of Squidward. *Photo by M. Friedrich*



**NICE KNOWING YOU.** The characters of Bikini Bottom each hold vastly different personalities, dialects, and backstories that the actors have to familiarize themselves with. "I had to learn how to do a country accent, and Sandy speaks her lines really fast," Naomita Situmeang said. The learning curve to getting to know these characters was a challenging yet rewarding experience for the cast. *Photo by M. Friedrich.*

**FUNCTIONAL FASHION.** Changes to the costumes and are crucial to assuring that the show is immersive. "Every day before the show, we changed one small thing with the Squidward legs," Piper Martin said. Even the smallest changes to the costumes helped maintain a balance between their appearance and the mobility provided. *Photo by M. Glickman.*



## BUILDING bikini bottom

Tech crew manages the behind the scenes actions that tie the musical together.

**DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY.** The contrast between the real world and SpongeBob's colorful animation style may seem like it would be hard to recreate, but tech crew finds it to be quite the opposite. "It's a cartoon, it's not supposed to be perfect," Robyn Noble said. This mindset reduced stress about small mistakes and encouraged excitement about creating props instead of anxiety. *Photo by M. Glickman*



**CONSTRUCTION CODES.** Tech crew holds many important roles that help polish the final production. "The role of construction is to make sure everything is safe and up to code with the district, but also making the set look good," Miles Barela said. With a plethora of different kinds of props, the group had to pay special attention to several distinct issues concerning aesthetics and safety. *Photo by M. Glickman*



## NEW & IMPROVED

A production isn't put on in one night. Cherokee Trail High Schools welcomes the new theater director. As she puts on the production of Spongebob, as her first as a teacher and to the school she has something to say.

**"It really ended up being one of the most thrilling experiences by the end, but it's definitely chaotic."**  
Ms. Sara Oliver

Having a whole team to support and help to put on a musical couldn't have been without Ms. Oliver and her students.



**LAST MINUTE FIX** The tech crew works quickly before the show to make sure everything goes according to plan. "There were a lot of last minute changes we had to make to the props right before the show," Alexander Gurdoglanyan said. 30 minutes before opening night, many of the props needed to be adjusted and the tech crew had to scramble to fix them. *Photo by M. Glickman.*

**MAKE IT OR BREAK IT** Before the show starts, there is a lot of preparation backstage: finding props, getting in costume, and doing makeup. "I did Turner's makeup every night before the show. I did his makeup last year too," Olivia Cavazos said. The makeup was crucial for bringing the cartoony feel of Spongebob to the stage. *Photo by M. Glickman.*

**set it UP**  
Before the show starts, backstage the cast and crew get ready.



# CONNECT four



"My favorite color is blue because it reminds me of the ocean."  
**addison krei**  
"One of my biggest fears is sharks."



"I have five sisters and two brothers."  
**bryanna deherrera**  
"I have five sisters and one brother."



"I'm scared dying and the afterlife."  
**elishba dean**  
"Dying scares me more than anything else."



**karissa crozier**

spongebob the musical.tech crew.rehearsals.new theater director

M. Glickman, M. Friedrich, S. Cross