

The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition

The Court Theatre

1 – 13 July 2025

Review by Robyn Peers

The SpongeBob Musical fizzles. It is full of colour, life and energy and is a tribute to the young cast, their director and the technical crew who oversaw it. The young audience and attendant adults were captivated from beginning to end.

The production encapsulates the graphic quality apparent in the popular cartoon, from the animated drawings setting the scene, the vivid staging of Bikini Bottom to the stereotypical movements which capture the personalities of the key characters and other denizens of the undersea world.

The story, as befits an animation, is straightforward. Life under the sea is threatened by an eruption, the heroes overcome the villains and the volcano, and all is well in the end. The music is fun, covering a variety of genres, the choreography has pizzazz, the singing well done by all, and the cast from the teenagers to the under twelves, radiates a joy which communicates effortlessly to the audience.

It may be a show aimed at a young audience, but The Court Theatre is to be commended for the attention to detail given to every aspect of the production. It is in the large Stewart Family Theatre, the set is splendid, and the cast tread the boards like seasoned troupers.

Life must have been chaotic backstage, a large array of props fly on and off the performance space, and the variety of costumes, brilliant in conception, materials and colour, was dazzling. Quick changes were necessary for many members of the ensemble meaning that Bikini Bottom had a very full cast of characters. I confess a particular fondness for the four-legged Squidward and the multi-limbed octopus.

It was the Green Cast I saw in performance, I would love to see what the Pink Cast brought to their alternating shows. Director Tim Bain is to be commended for the quality of performance he drew from his large, young cast. They are focused and energetic in bringing to life these well-known characters and their world.

The Spongebob Musical is enormous fun. If you have children to entertain these holidays, this is the perfect vehicle to introduce them to the new Court Theatre and you will be sure to enjoy yourself too.