

## = SpongeBob 's Truth or Square =

SpongeBob 's Truth or Square is a 2009 made @-@ for @-@ television one @-@ hour comedy special directed by Andrew Overtoom , Alan Smart , and Tom Yasumi . It stars Tom Kenny , Bill Fagerbakke , Rodger Bumpass , Clancy Brown , Carolyn Lawrence , and Mr. Lawrence . The special originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on November 6 , 2009 , celebrating the tenth anniversary of the American animated television series SpongeBob SquarePants .

The television series follows the adventures of the title character in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom . In the special , SpongeBob and his friends are accidentally locked inside the Krusty Krab on the day of its " eleventy @-@ seventh " anniversary celebration . As they crawl through the ventilation system trying to escape , they look back on shared memories through flashback moments .

SpongeBob 's Truth or Square was written by Luke Brookshier , Nate Cash , Steven Banks , and Paul Tibbitt . Rosario Dawson , LeBron James , Tina Fey , Will Ferrell , Craig Ferguson , Robin Williams , and Ricky Gervais guest starred in the special as themselves . Upon release , the special attracted an estimated 7 @.@ 7 million viewers , and met mixed reviews from critics .

## = = Plot = =

SpongeBob realizes that the Krusty Krab restaurant is celebrating its " eleventy @-@ seventh " anniversary . He remembers his first visit to the Krusty Krab and tells Gary about it . SpongeBob then leaves to go to the Krusty Krab , but as soon as he exits his house , he bumps into the back of a long line of customers waiting to get into the restaurant as well . SpongeBob jumps on top of every person in the line , eventually reaching the Krusty Krab .

Mr. Krabs tells SpongeBob and Squidward that it is a perfect opportunity for his business rival , Plankton to steal the Krabby Patty formula . Mr. Krabs has hired Patrick as a security guard so he does not have to pay for a real one , and SpongeBob spectacularly decorates the Krusty Krab . Patrick , Squidward , and Mr. Krabs follow SpongeBob into the freezer where he shows them a giant Krabby Patty ice sculpture that he made himself . However , in attempt to take the ice sculpture outside , they accidentally knock SpongeBob out the open freezer door ; he then rebounds off the kitchen door and back into the freezer . The impact shuts the door and it locks , trapping all four friends inside . Mr. Krabs remembers that there is a way to escape without using the door , which is through the ventilation system . While finding their way through the maze of air vents , they look back at some memorable moments in their lives .

To get out of the air shaft , SpongeBob molds Squidward , Patrick , and Mr. Krabs into a battering ram to bust out the shaft , and he finally makes it out , only to find that all the customers have left after waiting for so long without getting any food . However , SpongeBob summons them all back as he sings a song in honor of the Krusty Krab to the tune of O Tannenbaum . Meanwhile , Plankton finally finds the perfect opportunity to steal the Krabby Patty secret formula . He fails , having been caught by Mr. Krabs . The eleventy @-@ seventh anniversary celebration then goes ahead .

## = = Cast = =

## = = Production = =

## = = Writing and music = =

Truth or Square was written by Luke Brookshier , Nate Cash , Steven Banks , and Paul Tibbitt . The writers have described the television special as " Seinfeld @-@ esque " that parodies the recycled flashback episodes seen in Seinfeld , Friends and other U.S. shows . The featured song , " We 've Got Scurvy " , was sung by American singer and actress Pink .

## == Cast ==

SpongeBob 's Truth or Square stars the series main cast members including Tom Kenny , Bill Fagerbakke , Rodger Bumpass , Clancy Brown , Carolyn Lawrence , and Mr. Lawrence . In addition to the series cast , it featured Rosario Dawson , Craig Ferguson , Will Ferrell , Tina Fey , LeBron James , Triumph , the Insult Comic Dog , and Robin Williams as guest actors appearing as themselves in the live @-@ action sequences , while Ricky Gervais provided vocal cameo as the narrator . Nickelodeon animation president Brown Johnson said " Over the past decade , SpongeBob has become one of the most beloved characters in television history [ ... ] And we 're excited to cap off the year 's celebration with this star @-@ studded special anniversary event . "

## == Directing and animating ==

Andrew Overtoom , Alan Smart , and Tom Yasumi served as the special 's animation directors . It was a part of the series ' tenth anniversary celebration .

The title sequence of SpongeBob for the special was made exclusively for the series ' tenth anniversary . It was animated in stop motion animation , with Cee Lo Green performing the theme . Mark Caballero , Seamus Walsh and Chris Finnegan of Screen Novelties , in 2009 , animated its opening titles . Finnegan claimed that the crew were " thrill [ ed ] " to do the title sequence because " the original title sequence is so recognizable and everyone seen it over and over and it 's so great in its own way . " Executive producer and the episode 's writer Paul Tibbitt said " We don 't just want to redraw it [ the original title sequence ] , we want it to be something special and different [ ... ] So we thought we would do it in three dimensions [ ... ] " Nickelodeon animation president Brown Johnson lauded the new title sequence and said it is " SO great ! " Some traditional animation on scraps of brown paper are intermixed into the stop motion .

Tibbitt said that the " biggest surprise " for him in the new title sequence was " the treatment of Painty the Pirate in the beginning " as seen in a fortune teller machine . Mark Caballero , one of its animators , explained " our idea was like our goal is like the more disturbing , the better because I don 't think there is a fortune telling machine out there that doesn 't disturb when you see it . Tibbitt said " it was a great idea [ ... ] I was just expecting maybe a 3D version of the painting but we got something totally different and it 's very cool . "

## == Release ==

In a press release , Nickelodeon officially announced the special " event " on October 13 , 2009 . According to the network , the special include " SpongeBob 's first visit to the Krusty Krab as a baby , a vintage Krusty Krab TV commercial , how SpongeBob found his beloved pineapple house , and the time that SpongeBob and Sandy got married ! " Prior to the official announcement of the television special , Entertainment Weekly broke the news by releasing a clip featuring a scene where SpongeBob and Sandy getting married .

It originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on November 6 , 2009 , along with " The Ultimate SpongeBob SpongeBash " marathon , Square Roots : The Story of SpongeBob SquarePants documentary , and a special SpongeBob episode entitled " To SquarePants or Not to SquarePants " .

On November 10 , 2009 , it was released on the DVD compilation of the same name in the United States and Canada , on November 16 , 2009 in region 2 , and on October 29 , 2009 in region 4 . The DVD consists of five season six episodes , a short called Behind the Scenes of the SpongeBob Opening , and karaoke @-@ mode songs : " F.U.N. " , " Campfire Song " , and " We 've Got Scurvy " . It was also released in the series ' season six DVD compilation , alongside 24 other episodes including the special episode " SpongeBob vs. The Big One " .

## == Marketing ==

In 2009 , Burger King tied @-@ in with Nickelodeon to release a toyline based on the special . The toyline features SpongeBob , Patrick , Squidward , Mr. Krabs , Sandy , Plankton , Gary , and a Jellyfishin ' SpongeBob .

The book titled The Great Escape ! that was a tie @-@ in to the special was released . The book was written by Emily Sollinger , published by Simon Spotlight / Nickelodeon , and was released on September 8 , 2009 . Another tie @-@ in book to the special was also released . The book titled Good Times ! was written by Erica David , illustrated by the Artifacts Group , and published by Simon Spotlight / Nickelodeon . Good Times ! was first released on September 8 , 2009 , then in 2011 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

The premiere of SpongeBob 's Truth or Square on Friday , November 6 drew 7 @.@ 7 million total viewers , ranking as basic cable 's number @-@ one entertainment show for the week . It was also ranked as the week 's number one program among children in the demographic groups ages 6 ? 11 and 2 @-@ 11 .

= = = Critical response = = =

SpongeBob 's Truth or Square received mixed critical response from critics and fans . Nancy Basile of the About.com gave the special positive reviews and wrote " I had doubts that the recent Truth or Square special of SpongeBob SquarePants would be funny or clever . I was quite wrong . " She added that " My kids and I were mesmerized . " Jose Strike of the Animation World Network positively reacted to the special and wrote " Truth or Square is a major treat ; in fact , I 'm so happy I think I 'll drop on the deck and flop like a fish ... " Ian Jane of DVD Talk said " Truth or Square isn 't your typical episode , as it mixes up a lot of live action material in with the more traditional animated sequences to very unusual effect . " He added " [ ... ] but there 's enough here in terms of the gags and the jokes that even if it 's not a classic episode , it 's still one worth seeing . " Nickelodeon animation president Brown Johnson said that the special is her favorite among the series .

However , it was not immune to negative reception , and was criticized mainly due to the " Patchy the Pirate " segments . Paul Mavis from DVD Talk said " Truth or Square is a strange mix of some truly memorable animated SpongeBob moments interrupted unfortunately by the largely unfunny Patchy the Pirate segments . " He added " All of those amusing moments in Truth or Square , along with the A Charlie Brown Christmas ending , make one forget the patchy Patchy segments in Truth or Square . " Roy Hrab of DVD Verdict gave the episode a negative review saying " Wow ... This is without a doubt the lamest SpongeBob episode I have ever seen [ ... ] In fact , nothing interesting happens at all . The Patchy interludes and reliance on cameos merely draws attention to the episode 's lack of substance . "

In 2010 , Tom Kenny won at the 37th Annie Awards for Best Voice Acting in a Television Production category for his performance as the voice of SpongeBob SquarePants in the special .

= = Video game = =

The video game SpongeBob 's Truth or Square that was based on this SpongeBob SquarePants television special was released for PlayStation Portable , Wii , Xbox 360 , and Nintendo DS . The game was first announce by THQ on May 21 , 2009 . Randy Shoemaker , the vice president for global brand management at THQ , said " SpongeBob 's Truth or Square provides the ultimate SpongeBob experience for kids , parents and SpongeBob fans of all ages [ ... ] The game delivers innovative new gameplay features combined with a story that celebrates 10 incredibly fun and zany

years of SpongeBob . Whether you 're an avid SpongeBob fan or a first @-@ time gamer , you 'll want to join the top adventure this game offers . " It was published by THQ , developed by Heavy Iron Studios , and was released on October 26 , 2009 in North America .