

= WhoBob WhatPants ? =

" What Ever Happened to SpongeBob ? " , promotionally known as " WhoBob WhatPants ? " , is the 18th episode of the fifth season and the 98th overall episode of the American animated television series SpongeBob SquarePants . The episode originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on October 13 , 2008 .

The series follows the adventures and endeavors of the title character and his various friends in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom . In this episode , SpongeBob feels neglected and ends up a nuisance when he tries to hang out with the other characters . They all call him " Idiot Boy " , so SpongeBob decides to pack up and leave Bikini Bottom . Along the way , he accidentally bumps his head , making him lose his memory . SpongeBob wanders away into a new place called New Kelp City and attempts to get a new job , unaware he is becoming a target for a criminal gang known as The Bubble Poppin ' Boys , while Patrick , Sandy and a reluctant Squidward try to find him .

The episode was written by Casey Alexander , Zeus Cervas , and Steven Banks , and was directed by Alan Smart and Tom Yasumi . The episode features guest appearance by Ray Liotta as the voice of Trevor , the episode 's villain . The episode 's premiere pulled an average of 7 @. @ 7 million viewers , but was met with mixed to negative reviews .

= = Plot summary = =

SpongeBob wakes up on a normal day as usual and attempts to hang out with Patrick , Squidward and Sandy , however he ends up angering them each , causing them to call him " Idiot Boy " . SpongeBob heads to the Krusty Krab but ends up creating a mishap that results in getting two dollars fried and reduced to bits , with a furious Mr. Krabs kicking him out of the restaurant and like the others did , Mr. Krabs calls SpongeBob " Idiot Boy " . SpongeBob decides to leave Bikini Bottom and tells Gary that he has a year 's supply of snail food to eat since SpongeBob will not be there to feed him . After leaving Bikini Bottom , he is frightened by bizarre people and as he runs in fear , SpongeBob falls off a cliff and bumps his head , knocking himself unconscious . Back in Bikini Bottom , Patrick and Sandy enter SpongeBob 's house and Sandy finds that Gary 's food bowl has a note from SpongeBob , saying he has left so that he will not bother anyone ever again . After Sandy reads it , she and Patrick show remorse .

Meanwhile , SpongeBob wakes up with amnesia . He sees two fishes who have found his clothes and express interest in using them ; SpongeBob mentions that he cannot remember anything except hitting his head , so the fish tell him that his name is " CheeseHead BrownPants " . However , they run away when they find out SpongeBob has a bottle of bubble soap . He wonders what the problem was and spots New Kelp City . Sandy and Patrick arrive at the Krusty Krab where customers have gathered , angered about not getting their orders , Sandy then shows the note from SpongeBob to Mr. Krabs . After he reads it , they all become upset about making him leave ( except for Squidward who is happy about SpongeBob being gone ) . Mr. Krabs has the customers leave the restaurant , so that he and the other can decide on how to find SpongeBob .

SpongeBob wanders around New Kelp City and upon getting accused of pickpocketing by a civilian and noticing his hunger , decides he needs to get a job . Each time he gets a job however , he uses bubble blowing , resulting in him getting fired . Back in Bikini Bottom , after Squidward ( who is determent to not see SpongeBob again ) destroys a device that Sandy made to find SpongeBob , Mr. Krabs orders him to look for SpongeBob . Squidward refuses at first but changes his mind when Mr. Krabs prompts him with his retirement gift : a Fabergé egg .

SpongeBob 's activity with blowing bubbles , brings up a confrontation with " the Bubble Poppin ' Boys " , a greaser @-@ like gang who have scared the city into never blowing bubbles because they keep being blinded by the bubbles whenever they pop . After they attack , SpongeBob uses his bubble blowing to trap the gang in a giant bubble that flies them out of town . He is rewarded by getting the position of mayor of New Kelp City while the previous mayor resigns .

Sandy , Patrick , and Squidward arrive at a gas station and from reading a newspaper article , discover SpongeBob 's appointment as mayor of New Kelp City . But when they go to New Kelp City

to retrieve him , SpongeBob cannot remember who they are . Squidward hi @-@ jinks SpongeBob 's limousine and gets away from the city with SpongeBob , Patrick and Sandy in tow and they return to the Krusty Krab . SpongeBob still does not recall the eatery and wants to return to New Kelp City to resume his job as mayor . Delighted that SpongeBob is leaving again , Squidward requests for his jewel encrusted egg but slips and accidentally throws the egg onto SpongeBob 's head , which causes his memory to come back . But even so , SpongeBob still wants to return to New Kelp City . He changes his mind after a breaking news report comes on , saying that the bubbles in New Kelp City are blinding the citizens , and a thug threatens to do something to SpongeBob if he ever comes back . SpongeBob starts cooking Krabby Patties again , much to his friends ' delight . With a sigh of happiness , SpongeBob says that it looks like he will be back in Bikini Bottom . Upon hearing this , Squidward takes out his brain and drops it in a trash can .

= = Production = =

" What Ever Happened to SpongeBob ? " , also known as " WhoBob WhatPants ? " , was a special episode written by Casey Alexander , Zeus Cervas , and Steven Banks . It was directed by Alan Smart . Alexander and Cervas also functioned as storyboard directors . The episode was first announced by Nickelodeon on September 24 , 2008 on a press release . According to the network , SpongeBob " wanders the ocean , a stranger in his own pants , " and finds himself in a rough part of New Kelp City , where he faces off against the Boys ' gangleader , Liotta 's character .

The episode originally aired in the United States on October 13 , 2008 . From October 3 , 2008 , TurboNick featured a special playlist of content dedicated to the episode , including a sneak @-@ peek of the special , themed episodes , short @-@ form content , song clips , and an instant replay of the special following the television premiere . Nick.com , in 2008 , presented a new game called " SpongeBob SquarePants : WhoBob WhatPants ? " to celebrate the episode 's television airing . The episode also features SpongeBob 's signature sea chanty altered to " WhoBob WhatPants ? " during the chorus answers in the title sequence .

In addition to the regular cast , American Emmy Award Winning actor Ray Liotta guest starred in the episode as the voice of Trevor , the leader of New Kelp City 's Bubble Poppin ' Boys gang , and the main villain in the episode .

On October 14 , 2008 , " What Ever Happened to SpongeBob ? " became available in the DVD compilation called SpongeBob 's WhoBob WhatPants , along with six other episodes including " Goo Goo Gas " , " The Two Faces of Squidward " , " SpongeHenge " , " Banned in Bikini Bottom " , and " Stanley S. SquarePants " .

= = Reception = =

" What Ever Happened to SpongeBob ? " was viewed by 7 @. @ 7 million audiences . This ranked the program the number one most viewed entertainment show of the night , and the number two most viewed show in all categories after ESPN Monday Night Football . Despite the high ratings , the episode received mixed to negative reviews from critics . Maddy Pumila said that the episode was " extremely fun and entertaining . " He added " I hadn 't watched Spongebob in a while , but the laughs in this episode provided more laughs than I would get in an entire day . "

Maxie Zeus of Toon Zone cited the episode as an example of the series ' decline . Lesley Aeschliman of Yahoo ! Voices wrote " I have to look at this special like the ' Friend or Foe ? ' special . While ' WhoBob WhatPants ? ' works well as a regular story for SpongeBob SquarePants , I 'm not entirely convinced that it deserved to be hyped up as a special . While this story had the potential to be ' special material , ' it just didn 't materialize in the final produced product . " Roy Hrab of DVD Verdict said , " It makes me sad to think about how something so pleasurable has declined into something so tedious . " Paul Mavis of DVD Talk said , " With a laugh @-@ skimpy script , ' What Ever Happened to SpongeBob ? ' may be confirming a trend I noticed back with the last original SpongeBob toon to get its own disc release , Pest of the West : SpongeBob shorts are starting to get tired . And ' What Ever Happened to SpongeBob ? ' is even less funny than ' Pest of the West ' ,

" adding the episode was " Not a good sign . "