

= SpongeBob SquarePants (season 7) =

The seventh season of the American animated television series *SpongeBob SquarePants* , created by marine biologist and animator Stephen Hillenburg , originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States from July 19 , 2009 to June 11 , 2011 . It contained 26 episodes , beginning with the episodes " Tentacle Vision " and " I Heart Dancing " . The series chronicles the exploits and adventures of the title character and his various friends in the fictional underwater city of Bikini Bottom .

The season was executive produced by series creator Hillenburg and writer Paul Tibbitt , who also acted as the showrunner . In 2011 , *Legends of Bikini Bottom* , an anthology series consists of five episodes from the season , was launched . A number of guest stars appeared on the season 's episodes . Several compilation DVDs that contained episodes from the season were released . The *SpongeBob SquarePants : Complete Seventh Season DVD* was released in Region 1 on December 6 , 2011 , Region 2 on September 17 , 2012 , and Region 4 on September 12 , 2012 .

The series won the 2010 Kids ' Choice Awards in the category of Favorite Cartoon . The episode " That Sinking Feeling " was nominated at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Short @-@ format Animated Program . Furthermore , at the 38th Annie Awards , the show won for Best Animated Television Production for Children .

= = Production = =

The season aired on Nickelodeon , which is owned by Viacom , and was produced by United Plankton Pictures and Nickelodeon . The season 's executive producers were series creator Stephen Hillenburg and Paul Tibbitt , who also acted as the series ' showrunner . On March 13 , 2008 , during the broadcast of the sixth season , the network renewed the show for a seventh season , with 26 episodes in order . Cyma Zarghami , president of Nickelodeon & MTVN Kids and Family Group , said , " The strength of the Nickelodeon brand comes from how we embrace everything important to kids , and how we are with them virtually everywhere they want us to be . Our open philosophy to give audiences access to everything they love , and our commitment to making relevant and innovative content , have put us at the top of cable , VOD and online . Nickelodeon has strong momentum as a brand and as a business , and we have a great foundation built on great talent and relationships with some of the best creative leaders in our industry . "

In a statement , Brown Johnson , president of animation for Nickelodeon , said , " We are thrilled to be making another season of *SpongeBob SquarePants* ? a series we hope to make for a long time . " On July 19 , 2009 , the season premiered with the episodes " Tentacle @-@ Vision " and " I Heart Dancing " . The former was written by Luke Brookshier , Nate Cash and Derek Iversen , with Alan Smart serving as animation director . The episode " I Heart Dancing " was written by Casey Alexander , Zeus Cervas , Mr. Lawrence , and was directed by Tom Yasumi .

In 2011 , Nickelodeon debuted an anthology series , *Legends of Bikini Bottom* , of five seventh season episodes in the show . It was released on January 27 , 2011 on the online social networking service Facebook before it aired on the cable channel Nickelodeon . " Trenchbillies " was the first episode to air on Facebook and was written by Aaron Springer and Richard Pursel , with Andrew Overtoom serving as animation director . Nickelodeon said on January 27 that *SpongeBob SquarePants* has more than 16 million " friends " on Facebook . The decision of airing the series online was aimed at attracting " the young and the restless hooked to the internet and the social media . " In a press release , Brown Johnson said , " The anthology format of *Legends of Bikini Bottom* provides a great opportunity to try something new where we can give *SpongeBob* 's 16 million fans on Facebook a first look , in addition to new content on @-@ air " . Each episode was available for two weeks on Facebook . The other four episodes called " *Sponge @-@ Cano !* " , " *The Main Drain* " , " *The Monster Who Came to Bikini Bottom* " and " *Welcome to the Bikini Bottom Triangle* " premiered on Nickelodeon in an hour @-@ long special on January 28 , 2011 .

Animation was handled overseas in South Korea at Rough Draft Studios . Animation directors credited with episodes in the seventh season included Andrew Overtoom , Alan Smart , and Tom

Yasumi . Episodes were written by a team of writers , which consisted of Casey Alexander , Steven Banks , Luke Brookshier , Nate Cash , Zeus Cervas , Sean Charmatz , Derek Ivesen , Mr. Lawrence , Dani Michaeli , Richard Pursel , and Aaron Springer . The season was storyboarded by Alexander , Brookshier , Cash , Cervas , Charmatz , and Springer .

= = Cast = =

The seventh season had a cast of six main actors . Tom Kenny provided the voice of the title character SpongeBob SquarePants and his pet snail Gary . SpongeBob 's best friend , a starfish named Patrick Star , was voiced by Bill Fagerbakke , while Rodger Bumpass played the voice of Squidward Tentacles , an arrogant and ill @-@ tempered octopus . Other members of the cast were Carolyn Lawrence as Sandy Cheeks , a squirrel from Texas ; Clancy Brown as Mr. Krabs , a miserly crab obsessed with money who is SpongeBob 's boss at the Krusty Krab ; and Mr. Lawrence as Plankton , a small green copepod and Mr. Krabs ' business rival . The season had a number of secondary characters including Jill Talley as Plankton 's computer wife , Karen ; Mary Jo Catlett as Mrs. Puff , SpongeBob 's driving instructor ; Lori Alan as Pearl , Mr. Krabs ' daughter ; and Brian Doyle @-@ Murray as the Flying Dutchman .

In addition to the regular cast members , episodes feature guest voices from many ranges of professions , including actors , musicians , and artists . For instance , in the episode " Back to the Past " , Ernest Borgnine and Tim Conway returned , reprising their respective roles as Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy . The episode is also guest starred by the original Batman series stars Adam West as the young Mermaid Man and Burt Ward as the young Barnacle Boy . Borgnie and Conway later voiced their recurring roles in the episode " The Bad Guy Club for Villains " . Comedian and actress Laraine Newman voices the character of Plankton 's Grandma in " Gramma 's Secret Recipe " . In the anthology series Legends of Bikini Bottom , actresses Amy Sedaris and Ginnifer Goodwin guest star . Sedaris appears in the episode " Trenchbillies " as the voice of Ma Angler . Goodwin also guest stars as the voice of a purple @-@ haired mermaid in the episode " Welcome to the Bikini Bottom Triangle " . She lends her voice to a teenage mermaid who steals from others through Bikini Bottom 's version of the Bermuda Triangle . In " The Curse of Hex " , Saturday Night Live 's Kristen Wiig guest stars as the voice of Madame Hagfish . Marion Ross voiced her recurring role as Grandma SquarePants , SpongeBob 's grandmother , in the episode " The Abrasive Side " .

= = Reception = =

The series has received recognition , including the 2010 Kids ' Choice Awards for Favorite Cartoon . The series also won the same category at the succeeding year 's Kids ' Choice Awards and at the 2010 and 2011 Indonesia Kids ' Choice Awards . At the Kids ' Choice Awards Mexico 2010 and Kids ' Choice Awards Argentina 2011 , the show was nominated for Favorite Cartoon , but did not win . The episode " That Sinking Feeling " was nominated at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Short @-@ format Animated Program . Furthermore , at the 38th Annie Awards , the show won for Best Animated Television Production for Children , while the crew members , Jeremy Wakefield , Sage Guyton , Nick Carr and Tuck Tucker , won the Music in a Television Production category . SpongeBob SquarePants also won at the 2011 ASCAP Film and Television Awards for Top Television Series . At the 2010 and 2011 TP de Oro , the series won the Best Children and Youth Program category .

In his review of the seventh season for DVD Talk , Ian Jane wrote that the series " is one of those rare animated shows that can be enjoyed equally as much by both adults and children . " He described the concept of the show as " utterly ludicrous . " He cited the episodes " SpongeBob 's Last Stand " and " Tentacle @-@ Vision " as " interesting stand outs , " while the episodes " The Inside Job " , " Back To The Past " , " Gary in Love " , and " The Abrasive Side " as " memorable episodes this time around . " However , Jane said that the season is not as good as the previous seasons , writing " It 's not that this more recent material isn 't fun , because it is , but by this point in time storylines are beginning to get a little repetitive and as such , the series doesn 't seem quite as

fresh and original as it once did . " Jane " recommended " the DVD set , writing " This latest collection of episodes is not a high point in the series but it 's still decent enough family friendly entertainment , even if it does get too repetitive for its own good . "

Josh Rode of DVD Verdict said that the season " has its moments " , but is " by far the least consistently funny season of the venerable cartoon . " Rode also said that the characters of SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Star " have become the least engaging parts of the show , which is a problem since they dominate screen time . " He perceived that Patrick " has been dumbed down too far . " As for the character of SpongeBob , he criticized his changing voice that has become " more nasal over the years . " He described the character " like a happy , fun @-@ loving , not @-@ overly @-@ intelligent sponge , " but said that " [He] has entirely lost the naïveté which has long been the basis of his charm . "

= = Episodes = =

Key

The following episodes listed in the chart are arranged according to their production order , rather than by their original air dates .

= = DVD release = =

The DVD boxset for season seven was released by Paramount Home Entertainment and Nickelodeon in the United States and Canada in December 2011 , six months after the season had completed broadcast on television . The DVD release features bonus materials , including " animated shorts . "