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WORLD PREMIERE OF THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SEARCH FOR SQUAREPANTS SET FOR AFI FEST 2025 PRESENTED BY CANVA

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

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Patrick Star (Bill Fagerbakke) and SpongeBob SquarePants (Tom Kenny) in The Spongebob Movie: Search For Squarepants from Paramount Animation and Nickelodeon.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE â?? Los Angeles, CA, September 18, 2025 â?? Today, the American Film Institute (AFI) announced that THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SEARCH FOR SQUAREPANTS from Paramount Animation and Nickelodeon Movies, in association with Domain Entertainment and MRC,

will have its World Premiere at AFI FEST 2025 presented by Canva. Desperate to be a big guy, SpongeBob sets out to prove his bravery to Mr. Krabs by following The Flying Dutchman â?? a mysterious swashbuckling ghost pirate â?? on a seafaring comedy-adventure that takes him to the deepest depths of the deep sea where no Sponge has gone before. The family-friendly film, directed by Derek Drymon, will screen in the afternoon on October 26, the Closing Day of the festival, at the historic TCL Chinese Theatre as part of the Red Carpet Premieres section. Passes are available at FEST.AFI.com.



Bob Gazzale, AFI President and CEO

â??If nautical nonsense be something you wish, then join AFI for the World Premiere of THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SEARCH FOR SQUAREPANTS,â?• said Bob Gazzale, AFI President and CEO. â??Spongebob is an American icon â?? absorbent and yellow and porous is he â?? and AFI is honored to host this celebration under the sea.â?•

The film features Tom Kenny, Clancy Brown, Rodger Bumpass, Bill Fagerbakke, Carolyn Lawrence, Mr. Lawrence, George Lopez, Isis â??Ice Spiceâ?• Gaston, Arturo Castro, Sherry Cola with Regina Hall and Mark Hamill, and it will be released on December 19.

Making its Los Angeles debut with the feature is the new short film TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES CHROME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW JERSEY. From producers Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, James Weaver, Jeff Rowe, and Ramsay McBean and directed by Kent Seki, the film reunites audiences with the Turtle brothers from the 2023 feature TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:

MUTANT MAYHEM for a festive adventure. When a mysterious toy company seeks to profit off the turtlesâ?? new hero status, the brothers follow the clues to New Jersey and make a shocking discovery in this all new original short.

The festival will take place October 22â??26 at the TCL Chinese Theatres in the heart of Hollywood and feature a curated selection of Red Carpet Premieres, Special Screenings, World Cinema, Documentaries and Short Films.

As previously announced, Academy AwardÂ®-winning filmmaker Guillermo del Toro will serve as the Guest Artistic Director for this yearâ??s festival, and the festival will open with SPRINGSTEEN: DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE and will close with the World Premiere of SONG SUNG BLUE.

Passes to AFI FEST 2025 are now available for purchase online at FEST.AFI.com. Festivalgoers have the opportunity to purchase a Star Pass or upgrade to a Patron Pass. The AFI FEST Star Pass is a five-day pass with access to all screenings (excluding Red Carpet Premieres), early screening selection before individual tickets go on sale, priority theater access, entry to the festival lounge, invitation to the festival mixer to mingle with filmmakers and guests, a complimentary AFI FEST tote and free Rush Line access to all screenings. The AFI FEST Patron Pass features all the benefits of the Star Pass plus two tickets to all of the star-studded Red Carpet Premieres held at the historic TCL Chinese Theatre and priority screening selection before Star passholders.

The full festival lineup will be unveiled on September 30. Individual tickets will be available on October 6.

AFI FEST is recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a qualifying festival for the Live Action, Animated and Documentary Short Film categories for the annual Academy AwardsÂ®. AFI FEST is also a qualifying festival for consideration for the British Short Film categories of both the BAFTA Film Awards and the British Independent Film Awards (BIFA).

AFI is a nonprofit, donor-powered organization. Join AFIâ??s Premiere Circle to support the American Film Institute and enjoy access to exclusive one-of-a-kind opportunities at AFI events, including AFI FEST. To learn more, email Advancement@AFI.com.

Canva, the all-in-one visual communication and collaboration platform, returns as the exclusive Presenting Sponsor of AFI FEST 2025. Designed to empower entertainment professionals to visualize their ideas into impactful film and TV projects, Canva will be integrated throughout AFI FEST including hosting industry networking events, hands-on training workshops for filmmakers, and powering the festivalâ??s digital and printed materials. Entertainment professionals can explore resources to pitch projects, plan shoots, and bring creative visions to life at canva.com/entertainment.

About the American Film Institute (AFI)

The American Film Institute (AFI) is a nonprofit organization with a mandate to champion the moving image as an art form. Established in 1967, AFI launched the first comprehensive history of American film and sparked the movement for film preservation in the United States. In 1969, AFI opened the doors of the AFI Conservatory, a graduate-level program to train narrative filmmakers. The Conservatory, which counts Deniese Davis, Affonso GonÃ§alves, Susannah Grant, Matthew Libatique, David Lynch, Melina Matsoukas and Rachel Morrison as Alumni, is ranked as one of the top film

schools in America. AFIâ??s enduring traditions include the AFI Life Achievement Award, which honors the masters for work that has stood the test of time; AFI AWARDS, which celebrates the creative ensembles of the most outstanding screen stories of the year; and scholarly efforts such as the AFI Catalog of Feature Films and the AFI Archive that preserve film history for future generations. AFI exhibition programs include AFI FEST Presented by Canva and year-round exhibition at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Maryland. AFI Movie Club is a destination for movie lovers from around the world to celebrate and engage with the art form every day. Other pioneering programs include workshops aimed at elevating emerging storytellers and technology, including AFI DWW+ and the AFI Cinematography Intensive Workshop. Read about all of these programs and more at AFI.com and follow us on social media at Facebook.com/AmericanFilmInstitute, YouTube.com/AFI, X.com/AmericanFilm, TikTok.com/@americanfilminstitute and Instagram.com/AmericanFilmInstitute.



About AFI FEST

Now in its 39th year, AFI FEST is a world-class event, showcasing the best films from across the globe. This yearâ??s edition takes place in Los Angeles from October 22-26, 2025. With an innovative slate of programming, the five-day festival presents screenings, panels and conversations, featuring both master filmmakers and new cinematic voices. AFI FEST includes high-profile films with Q&As featuring the filmsâ?? cast and crew and a robust lineup of fiction and nonfiction features and shorts, providing a one-of-a-kind experience for movie fans. Additional information is available at FEST.AFI.com. Connect with AFIâ??s film festival at Facebook.com/AFIFEST, Twitter.com/AFIFEST, Instagram/AmericanFilmInstitute, TikTok/@AmericanFilmInstitute and YouTube.com/AFI.

About Canva

Launched in 2013, Canva is the worldâ??s leading all-in-one platform for visual communication and collaboration. Built to empower everyone to design, the company serves the creative and design needs

of enterprises, small businesses, consumers, and students in more than 190 countries worldwide. Whether youâ??re a novice taking your first steps in design, or a creative professional seeking powerful tools, Canva ensures users have what they need to transform an idea into something beautiful. Underpinned by the worldâ??s most comprehensive library of designer-made content, Canva is powered by a suite of products and proprietary AI tools which elevate how individuals and teams create, collaborate, and communicate with ease.

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