

Spidey 81 Ep 16 – “The Unfathomable Professor Gizmo” - AIRDATE: 12/26/81 VILLAIN: Professor Gizmo

THE QUICK UPSHOT: A wacky plan that was MUCH more contrived than necessary, given the “powers” that Prof Gizmo had. An interesting and rather horrible origin story for the Professor, but he quickly reassures Spidey and the audience that he didn’t actually kill his former partner for the Device. The spider diving bell seems to have been the source of the idea for this episode, but there wasn’t much build out from there.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diving_bell_spider

<https://youtu.be/1rlt9yAhqTw>

1:17 – Spidey already in the thick of it, like this.

1:22 – Prof Giz really sounds like a villain, right out of the box.

1:38 – Whoa! Spidey helping a criminal??

1:54 – A model? Oh balls. That was actually a really interesting start, and now I’m just pissed. At least there’s some rationale for why he needs Spider-Man.

2:30 – The subway gang with matching outfits. The cheesy New York accents on this episode are unusually over the top.

3:28 – “Jonah’s Whale” – nice name, guys. Clever. Also, horrible tuxedos, all around.

3:50 – Really odd fundraiser: lots of loose gold and jewels in a sack just asking to be stolen.

4:00 – the Monitor, actual ironclad Civil War era “submarine.” Little history lesson for the kiddos.

4:14 – Ok, right there: Prof Giz in his magic green super-villain boat with robot arms: you’re telling me that thing can’t go down to the wreck and steal the gold?

4:55 – Jonah really fired up in this episode. He’s like Trump talking to his Cabinet.

5:24 – More real historical stuff: Spirit of St. Louis.

6:06 – OK kids, so: back in the 80s, literally anyone could walk into an airport terminal and literally sit at the gates where the planes were parked. This is not a joke.

6:19 – Hey, if he can surf a satellite in space, why not ride a jetliner like a horse?

7:54 – The guys at the hot dog stand. What sort of accent/dialect IS that?

8:20 – I literally lol’d at the vacuum bag filling up with bills and coins like in a Daffy Duck cartoon.

8:28 – That janitor woman is REALLY terrified of ghost vacuums.

9:28 – The MASTER SWITCH ROOM, in a well-lit, public hallway, behind an unlocked door. Makes sense.

10:00 – I notice this machine of PG’s has a lot of toggles on it, but he only ever flips the one switch.

10:48 – extended on-screen time for Robbie this week, he is getting some more development as a character an ally of Spidey. Nice.

11:39 – I don’t understand why there’s a parade. Did PG ask for a parade?

11:45 – The Spidey balloon is going to gas everybody, and now we know where Tim Burton got the idea for his Batman movie.

13:55 – Dicky-boy? LOL. “Noooo, Gizmo!!” No, don’t send a slow-moving obsolete remote-controlled robot after me!

15:47 – I’m sorry, his camera is waterproof?

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16:24 – The web-shooters have failed basically every time they were NEAR water in previous episodes. He had a major equipment upgrade, or this is just sloppy writing.

17:37 – No, not Spider-Man. This is clearly Namor the Sub-Mariner.

18:15 – of course there’s also a shark.

19:19 – and now he’s out-swimming a shark.

20:26 – shark pulling PG away as though on busted old skis is funny. Again, in a Daffy Duck sort of way.

20:55 – what whirlpool??

[21:30 – JJ pulls up the Spidey. Wow.](#)