

= Graveyard Shift (SpongeBob SquarePants) =

" Graveyard Shift " is the 16th episode of the second season , and the 36th episode overall , of the American animated television series SpongeBob SquarePants . The episode was written by Mr. Lawrence , Jay Lender , and Dan Povenmire , and was directed by Sean Dempsey . Lender and Povenmire also served as storyboard directors . It originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on September 6 , 2002 .

The series follows the adventures and endeavours of the title character and his various friends in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom . In this episode , Squidward and SpongeBob are forced to work 24 hours a day by Mr. Krabs , so that he can get more money . Squidward soon gets bored , and tells SpongeBob a scary story to have some fun with him . After scaring SpongeBob , Squidward tells him that the story is fictional . However , when Squidward and SpongeBob are alone , the events in Squidward 's story begin to occur .

The episode featured Max Schreck as Count Orlok , of the 1922 silent film Nosferatu , via stock footage . Episode writer Lender proposed the idea as a gag at the end of the episode , which series creator Stephen Hillenburg accepted . Before the idea of Count Orlok , Lender thought of " Floorboard Harry " , an idea that was deleted . The episode received glowing positive reviews upon release .

= = Plot summary = =

Mr. Krabs is inspired by a group of interested customers to create a night shift for the Krusty Krab , leaving an anticipating SpongeBob and a chagrined , irritated Squidward to work all day . Exasperated with his boss 's demands , Squidward attempts to scare SpongeBob into disliking the night shift by creating the legend of the " Hash @-@ Slinging Slasher " , a former fry cook employed by the restaurant during the night shift , who accidentally sliced off his own arm and was killed by a transportation bus late one night . He cautions SpongeBob about the multiple warning indications signaling the ghost 's impending arrival : lights flickering on and off , the phone ringing and nobody being on the other line , and the ghost of the bus arriving to deliver the slasher .

Although Squidward manages to reassure a petrified SpongeBob that his story is fiction , the two employees are alarmed by the strange , coincidental occurrences paralleling the fictitious omens surrounding the murderous Hash @-@ Slinging Slasher . SpongeBob insists that these are clear indications of paranormal activity , whereas a dubious Squidward dismisses them as meaningless , until the warning signs continue recurring and reappearing , matching those described in the ghost story .

Finally , a mysterious , dark silhouette appears at the road outside the Krusty Krab matching Squidward 's description of the Hash @-@ Slinging Slasher . Both horrified men immediately realize that they are experiencing genuine supernatural events . Panicking and screaming , they are relieved when the strange , unidentified figure enters turns out to be a kid applying for a job , revealing that he had tried contacting the establishment by telephone , but had hung up out of nervousness . The flickering lights were credited to the antics of Count Orlok of the 1922 silent film Nosferatu , with whom the characters are inexplicably familiar .

= = Production = =

" Graveyard Shift " was written by Mr. Lawrence , Jay Lender , and Dan Povenmire , with Sean Dempsey serving as animation director . Lender and Povenmire also served as storyboard directors . The episode originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on September 6 , 2002 , with a TV @-@ Y7 parental rating .

Episode writer Lender proposed to have Count Orlok of the 1922 silent film Nosferatu appear as a gag at the end of the episode . Series creator Stephen Hillenburg accepted Lender 's proposal and allowed him to do it . Lender said , " Steve gave you the opportunities to do things that would really be memorable , if you could sell him on it . " Lender then searched for books with scannable pictures

of Count Orlok . However , the image of Count Orlok used in the episode was taken from the Internet . He said , " I searched what little there was of the Web back then . " Nick Jennings Photoshopped the smile on Count Orlok to make sure it matched Lender 's board drawing . Lender said , " It was my baby , and I held its hand until we shipped it overseas [to Rough Draft Studios in South Korea] . " Before his idea of Count Orlok , Lender thought of " Floorboard Harry " , a deleted gag that concludes the broadcast episode , in which he initially flickers the lights .

" Graveyard Shift " was released on the DVD compilation titled *SpongeBob SquarePants : Nautical Nonsense and Sponge Buddies* on March 12 , 2002 . It was also included on the *SpongeBob SquarePants : The Complete 2nd Season DVD* released on October 19 , 2004 . On September 22 , 2009 , " Graveyard Shift " was released on the *SpongeBob SquarePants : The First 100 Episodes* , alongside all of the episodes of seasons one through five . On September 14 , 2010 , the *SpongeBob SquarePants : 10 Happiest Moments DVD* was released and included " Graveyard Shift " as one of its features .

= = Reception = =

" Graveyard Shift " received very positive reviews upon release . Emily Estep of *WeGotThisCovered.com* ranked the episode No. 4 on her " Top 10 Episodes of *SpongeBob SquarePants* " list , saying , " [It] is another scary episode of *SpongeBob* , and it 's my favorite one . " She added , " I love ' Graveyard Shift ' for a myriad of reasons , but mostly because it puts the two *SpongeBob SquarePants* characters with the best chemistry together : Squidward and *Spongebob* . The episode is kind of like a puzzle , and *SpongeBob* 's relentless cheer in the midst of likely doom is inspiring . "

In his review for the *DVD Talk* , Jason Bovberg praised the episode for its " spooky wonderfulness " , stating that the episode scared his daughter . Paul Mavis of *DVD Talk* said , " A fun , ' scary ' (for little kids) *SpongeBob* that adults will appreciate , ' Graveyard Shift ' uses the old standby of the headless / handless / legless (take your pick) killer @-@ seeking @-@ revenge stories we all told as kids , and cleverly grafts it onto a ' *SpongeBob* at work ' storyline . " Mavis added , " I always enjoy it when Rodger Bumpass , the voice actor for Squidward , gets quiet and manipulative when he 's shining *SpongeBob* on , and here 's one of the best examples of that . " He praised Count Orlok 's cameo , " especially when they animate the vampire 's face into a goofy , giddy smile . " Mike Jackson of *DVD Verdict* said the episode is one of his " personal faves . " He also said " [The episode] has everything that makes the show great : funny dialogue (the whole story of the Hash @-@ Slinging Slasher is hilarious) , clever sight gags (especially *Spongebob* 's regenerating limbs) , and that aforementioned outta @-@ nowhere ending that made me bust a gut . "