

= Interactions (The Spectacular Spider @-@ Man) =

" Interactions " is the second episode of the animated television series The Spectacular Spider @-@ Man , based on the comic book character Spider @-@ Man created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko . The episode sees Spider @-@ Man confronting the supervillain Electro , whose body was corrupted with electricity after a freak lab accident .

Directed by Troy Adomitis , " Interactions " was written by Kevin Hopps , who researched all the available comic books he had that featured Electro . The character 's appearance in the episode draws on his traditional comic book style , though designer Victor Cook emphasized the color green and removed the character 's customary star @-@ shaped mask . His voice actor , Crispin Freeman , sought to reflect the character 's declining sanity in his vocal style .

" Interactions " first aired March 8 , 2008 , on the Kids ' WB block of The CW network , following the first episode . Its 1 @. @ 4 / 4 Nielsen rating was higher than that of the pilot , " Survival of the Fittest " . The episode received mixed reviews ; IGN commented that " [w] hile not as strong as the pilot , the episode had some notable moments " .

= = Plot summary = =

The episode opens in Dr. Connors 's laboratory , where Connors demonstrates to his interns Peter , Gwen , and Eddie a new potential source of clean energy : genetically modified eels . After Gwen and Peter leave , an electrician , Max Dillon , attempts to upgrade the lab 's electrical filters , but gets electricuted and is sent to the hospital . There , he is found to be emitting strong electrical fields and is placed in quarantine . Max is further angered when a doctor explains that , although he is stable , he must wear a special suit to contain this emitted bioelectricity .

Peter , meanwhile , is assigned to tutor a popular girl named Liz Allan . He is attempting to teach her science in a café when an angry Max enters and accidentally short circuits the power . Max leaves ; Peter , believing him to be dangerous , pursues him as Spider @-@ Man . Peter manages to photograph Max and remove his mask ; Max , enraged , attacks , but flees while Peter is distracted by a phone call from Aunt May .

The following day Peter discovers that his photographs have not developed properly , but is still able to identify the man he fought as Max . He meets with Dr. Connors , Eddie , and Gwen to seek a way to contain Max , who has meanwhile been attacked by the police and has decided to seek help from the lab . On arrival , though , Max becomes aggressive and threatens Connors 's wife , Martha . Eddie distracts him long enough for Peter to lead the girls to safety and return as Spider @-@ Man : Max , declaring himself " Electro , " begins to fight with Spider @-@ Man . The battle leads the pair out from the lab into the rain , where Spider @-@ Man spots a radio tower beside a pool : he knocks Electro into the water , causing him to short circuit into unconsciousness .

At school the next day Peter talks to Liz in the hall ; she is complimenting his tutoring when the popular students approach , making her change her attitude , act rudely , and walk away . In the lab , Dr. Connors picks up a vial of lizard DNA that Electro had electrified , and leaves with his wife .

= = Production = =

" Interactions " was written by Kevin Hopps and directed by Troy Adomitis . Hopps , who had previously written for animated series such as Buzz Lightyear of Star Command , Justice League , and Darkwing Duck , researched for the episode by re @-@ reading every available comic book that featured Electro . Hopps notes that he " like [s] the humanity " of Electro : " Here 's a person who didn 't ask to be a villain , but found himself thrust into that role . "

The radio tower scene initially called for Electro to climb to the very top of the structure , a concept the crew found " clunky " throughout the storyboarding and directing process . Victor Cook , a producer and developer for The Spectacular Spider @-@ Man , observed " He 's gonna climb the whole tower ? It just seems kind of weird . " Before release , the scene was altered to have Electro gradually propel himself up the tower with several electrical blasts .

Cook retained the " classic silhouette " of Electro 's suit from the original comics , but removed his star @-@ shaped mask . Cook made green the key color in the Electro design , noting that " In the 1960s it seems like the majority of Spider @-@ man 's rogues gallery had green as part of their costumes . " In Cook 's broader color scheme for the cartoon green is used to symbolize negative situations in Peter 's life , while positive settings and occurrences , such as Peter 's biology class , feature other key colors like yellow .

Electro was voiced by Crispin Freeman , who sought to reflect in his vocal style the psychological decline brought on by the character 's new powers : " It never occurred to me before how that would have an effect on his character ? to be dealing with that curse and blessing . And when you think about it , that 's also Peter Parker 's core issue . " The episode 's title , " Interactions , " expands the series theme " The Education of Peter Parker " chosen by developer Greg Weisman . Episodes in the early season one arc all shared a naming scheme based on the biological sciences .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Interactions " originally aired on March 8 , 2008 , on the Kids ' WB block of The CW Network , following the show 's pilot , " Survival of the Fittest . " Disney XD aired the episode on March 23 , 2009 , between " Survival of the Fittest " and " Natural Selection " . The episode 's initial broadcast garnered a Nielsen rating of 1 @.@ 4 / 4 , which is considered high for American television and was the network 's 2007 ? 08 highest rating for the 10 : 30 a.m. timeslot . It beat the previous episode 's rating of 1 @.@ 2 / 3 (the highest for the 10 : 00 a.m. timeslot for the same season) and represented a 75 % increase in the share of viewers aged 2 to 11 and a 200 % increase in viewers aged 2 to 5 . " Interactions " rated the highest of the season for kids and boys aged 9 to 14 .

The episode received mixed reviews from television critics . Eric Goldman of IGN thought the episode " wasn 't as strong as the pilot " and rated it at 7 @.@ 4 (" Decent ") . Goldman wrote that Electro 's redesigned costume retained " some nice visual nods to the Electro many of us grew up with . " Liz Allan 's characterization , though , he found confusing , with the character 's accent and background unclear , and the scene where Peter fought Electro while conducting a phonecall with Aunt May " just a bit too much " : " Come on , Aunt May isn 't freaking out hearing [that] ? " Nonetheless , Goldman praised the episode 's humorous scenes and the introduction of Dr. Conner 's limb regeneration experiments .

Rob M. Worley of the entertainment website Mania said that Freeman " charges up " the series with his role , writing that he " steps away from his luminary status in the world of anime and video game voiceovers . " Ultimate Disney reviewer Luke Bonanno did not include the episode among his top five episodes of The Spectacular Spider @-@ Man 's first season , but " feel [s] obligated to point out that the uniform excellence of the lot [makes] this a challenging task . " DVD Talk reviewer Todd Douglass Jr. described Electro 's design as " [incorporating] some sharp edges and dynamic plays " to an " old " character .