

SPIDER-MAN

screenplay by

JOHN BRANCATO and TED NEMSON

and **BARNEY COHEN**

based on characters created by

STAN LEE

2nd REVISE

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INSERT: A DIAL marked "ELECTRONIC SURGE" is going into the red zone with nary a peep.

OCK looks back into the EXPERIMENTAL CHAMBER. The LIGHT is crazy now. The WHINE pitch is shattering.

End opening credits.

OCK

Okey...dokey!

INT EXPERIMENTAL CHAMBER - DAY

Contrasting with the peely-paint basement lab, this ultra high-tech chamber built beneath the donut of the cyclotron looks like a NASA "clean room." We can see OCK on the other side of the WINDOW raise his hands like a surgeon and then plunge them into action beneath our view.

Two "WALDOS" (three-fingered mechanical arms) suddenly thrust themselves into the chamber. One latches onto a strong BOX. The other, its telescoping arm extending in an arc, lifts a LEAD CANNISTER from the box. Now, a third WALDO unscrews the CANNISTER and pulls out a VIAL of COBALT BLUE fluid. A fourth WALDO lifts a standard GRAM WEIGHT off a shelf and places it on a round PAD. The WALDO with the FLUID telescopes upward and pours the FLUID into a receptacle atop a large CRYSTAL FOCUSING CONE high in the chamber. Then all the WALDOS retract to a PANEL in the wall beneath the WINDOW.

OCK peers in. He nods. There is a KNOCK at the DOOR. OCK ignores it. He reaches out to flick on a SWITCH.

An eye-searing BLUE WHITE BEAM lances down from the CONE to the GRAM WEIGHT, illuminating it and filling our ears with a splitting BUZZ TONE. More KNOCKING at the DOOR is drowned out by the TONE.

INSERT: DIALS go crazy. We feature one which is marked, "Relative Gravity Weight." It reads 1.000000 for several beats and then, suddenly, it snaps to .999999

OCK (VO)

Okey! Dokey!

The GRAM WEIGHT jiggles and for a nano-second appears to lift ever so slightly. The whine is deafening.

INT BASEMENT HALLWAY - DAY

DR. ALEXANDER THORKEL, a 40-ish, Waspish school administrator, KNOCKS furiously at a door marked, "Cyclotron Room--Authorized Personnel Only." This door is locked with a high-wiz, techno-cryptic locking DEVICE.

THORKEL

Dr. Octavius, you have a lecture in five minutes! Dr. Octavius!

None of the dozen or so STUDENTS using the LOCKERS around THORKEL pay him any mind. Through this assemblage, moving with a purpose, come FLASH, a school jock, and his friends CHIP, the little wise guy, and NORB the big booby. They speak loudly to be heard above the ever increasing WHINE of the cyclotron.

NORB

I don't know about registering for aerobics, Flash, isn't that a girl's class?

BETTY

There's a message for you on my desk from your Aunt May. She wants you for dinner. She called a 'few' times.

PETER

Oh, thanks Betty. I'm sorry to bother you with...

JAMESON

Save the chit chat for the singles bar. Getout!

20A EXT PETER PARKER'S TENEMENT - DAY

A WINO sits on the steps. He holds out a hand silently.

PETER

How you doing?

PETER takes out his KEYS and lets himself in.

21 INT PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT - DAY

As PETER lets himself in, a note that was jammed in the door flutters to the floor. PETER picks it up.

PETER

(reading)

Rent. Rent, rent, rent.

PETER crosses through his one room flat. It is bare. A few of his photos are on the wall. Some photo equipment lays about. But this has eaten PETER'S meager dough. So, there's an unmade MATTRESS on the floor. There's a TOWEL pressed into service as a curtain.

PETER crosses to a CORKBOARD and pins up the RENT NOTICE under two more that are already there.

Then he throws himself down on the MATTRESS and turns on his rabbit-eared, B & W TV. An MTV logo blares. PETER lays back and covers his eyes. We hear a now familiar WHINE.

22 INT BASEMENT HALLWAY - DAY

The WHINE fills it. THORKEL and SOLOMON ROSSOMDRF walk by the "Cyclotron" sign. ROSSOMDRF (ROZ) is 70-ish, bespectacled and tweedy. The HALL is darkly lit with emergency LAMPS.

ROZ

Be careful how you talk to him.
The man is a genius.

THORKEL

The man is impossible.

ROZ takes out a KEY CARD and inserts it in the high-whiz door lock. The door opens.

PETER slides down to the street on a CABLE that attaches to a LAMP POST. Then he swirls down the LAMP POST to the open PHONE BOOTH beneath it.

57 EXT PHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

PETER rings up a number.

PETER

Hello? Aunt May?

AUNT MAY (VO)

(filtered)

Peter? What time is it? Are you alright?

PETER

Well, no, I mean yeah I'm fine, but listen the craziest thing happened tonight.

AUNT MAY (VO)

(loving)

Does this have something to do with a certain girl we've talked about?

PETER

No, no, look there was a radioactive experiment...

AUNT MAY (VO)

Peter, did you at least talk to her?

PETER

Aunt May, listen to me. I got bitten on the hand...

AUNT MAY (VO)

She bit you?

PETER

No. I was in the bathroom and...

AUNT MAY (VO)

Who bit you in the bathroom? Peter this is craziness. You're up all night. You're in the labs, you never take time to eat or sleep, am I right?

PETER

Yes Aunt May.

AUNT MAY (VO)

Did you eat?

PETER

Yes Aunt May.

AUNT MAY (VO)

Okay, Peter, get some sleep. We love you.