



Michael Dunne makes his debut as the series popular villain Dr. Miguelito Loveless in first season's "The Night the Wizard Shook the Earth."

WILD WILD WEST EPISODE GUIDE

By Craig Reid

Together, the natty and nervy James T. West and the resourceful master of disguises Artemus Gordon adventurously and bravely prevented dastardly villains and intellectual madmen from taking over America or the world in 104 episodes from 1965-1969. Here's a survey of some of the best episodes.

"No one would ever expect a fat Chinese of being a revolutionary."

—A dying Wing Fat (aka Juan Manolo) (to West)

THE NIGHT OF THE INFERNO (PILOT)

1965. B&W. Produced by Michael Garrison. Directed by Richard Sarafian. Written by Gilbert Ralston.

Washington's best Secret Service agent Captain James T. West is asked to pose as an Army deserter in order to secretly meet President Grant (James Gregory). He's told that Mexican revolutionary Juan Manolo is creating havoc in the Southwest Territories and he must be stopped. Travelling aboard his newly acquired, souped up train, *The Wanderer*, West arrives in the recently raided town of Quemeda, New Mexico and is greeted by his assigned partner Artemus Gordon. Victor Buono plays Manolo, disguised as fat Chinaman Wing Fat, with Suzanne Pleshette as his casino partner Lydia Montreno.

Director Sarafian humorously recalled, "When Bob threw that sort of spear at Buono, rather than ejaculate a shout of pain, he let out with the tinniest, little whimper. It was like 'ooo.' That was funny."

Victor Buono plays Manolo, a Mexican revolutionary disguised as Chinaman Wing Fat in the 1965 series pilot "The Night of the Inferno."



"You meddler, interfering meddler. You vile, egregious Secret Service man."
—Loveless (to West)

THE NIGHT THE WIZARD SHOOK THE EARTH

1965. B&W. Produced by Fred Freiberger. Directed by Bernie Kowalski. Written by John Kneubuhl.

Michael Dunn makes his debut as the deranged dwarf Dr. Miguelito Loveless, with giant gofer Voltaire (Richard Kiel). Dunn sings a duet with his henchwoman sidekick Antoinette (Phoebe Dorin). Holding 5000 settlers hostage with a clock tower rigged with dynamite, Loveless demands the state of California, which belonged to his ancestors. With Leslie Parish as Loveless cohort Greta.

Producer Freiberger remembered, "We had Michael [Dunn] jump onto this swinging pendulum on the clock. When he landed he hit himself in the balls and, boy, was he in pain. That ended him wanting to do all his own stunts from then on."



Conrad's West tries karate on Charles Horvath as Iron Foot in "Night of the Glowing Corpse," like all first season shows, filmed in black & white.

"Le Yankee. Formee-dah-bull."

—Consul-General Potez on West and Gordon leaving a meeting with beautiful women

THE NIGHT OF THE GLOWING CORPSE

1965. B&W. Produced by Fred Freiberger. Directed Irving J. Moore. Written by Henry Sharp.

When an intelligent Frankenstein-like man (Charles Horvath) karate-kicks down metal bars to help Frenchwoman Amelie (Marion Thompson) steal the powerful, French-invented, radiating substance called "franconium," West is blamed.

This was the first of 25 episodes that the late Irving J. Moore directed. Said Conrad, "I worked with Irv on an earlier show I did called *HAWAIIAN EYE* and I was happy to have him onboard the show." Iron-foot Horvath returns as the sword-swinging Sultan guard Gombal in the second season's "The Night of the Gypsy Peril."

"There should be a law against educated women."

—Gordon (to West)

THE NIGHT OF THE STEEL ASSASSIN

1966. B&W. Produced by John Mantley. Directed by Lee H. Katzin. Written by Calvin Clements.

As West enters a sailor shop on the wharf, he witnesses the death of a man named Gilbert at the hands of an assassin named Torres (John Dehner), who is part steel and part human. West's attacks are futile as bullets harmlessly bounce off his body. With Roy Engel as President Grant.

"It was my first stunt on this show," said future stunt coordinator Whitey Hughes. "I dreamed up this gag and I didn't know Bobby at that time, so I said, 'Mr. Conrad, I'll be up on top and dive down at you.' Bobby said, 'You mean jump, don't you?' I said, 'No, I'll dive at you. When I call "Bob" put



John Dehner as Torres, the Steel Assassin, in first season's "The Night of the Steel Assassin," a show that set the tenor for outrageous stunt falls.

your hands up and I'll be there." He looked at me and said, 'You're kidding.' I said no and we did it." Conrad was so impressed with Hughes he asked him to be the show's stunt coordinator. It laid the groundwork for thousands of outrageous stunt falls which would become part of the show's signature.

"Come back. Oh, come back. Oh, you, fraidy cat."
—Loveless (to his "just needed by West" cat)

THE NIGHT OF THE RAVEN

1966. Color. Produced by Michael Garrison. Directed by Irving Moore. Written by Ed Di Lorenzo.

West and Gordon are given three days to find War Eagle's daughter Wanabee (Phyllis Newman) or there will be an Indian uprising. Our heroes learn that the Voltaire-less Dr. Loveless kidnapped her as a ruse to capture them. After smoking one of Loveless' mickey finn cigars, West awakens to realize he and Wanabee are only six inches tall and for the first time he must look up to Loveless.

This episode obviously pays homage to *THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN*. Apparently, Garrison originally wanted Sonny and Cher to play the parts of Wanabee and her mate.

"Demis. What did I do to him? What did I do?"
—Senator Buckley holding his dead son

THE NIGHT OF THE SIMIAN TERROR

1968. Color. Produced by Bruce Lansbury. Directed by Michael Caffey. Written by Robert Dennis and Earl Barret.

West and Gordon arrive at Senator Buckley's (Dabbs Greer) home concerned about his absence from Washington. Grace Gaynor plays his beautiful daughter Naomi. Giant Richard Kiel plays Demis in ape costume, a sentient simian offspring of Buckley.

Noted actor Richard Kiel, who had dialogue as the gorilla, "What I really learned from the show was not wanting to play characters that don't speak. The guy that created the gorilla suit was actually a

continued on page 55

Robert Conrad as a miniaturized James West, fighting off Dr. Loveless' vicious feline pet in second season's "The Night of the Raven."





Richard Kiel in ape costume as Demis, the simian offspring of a Washington senator in third season's "The Night of the Simian Terror."

famous actor from all those swashbuckling swordsmen and pirate films."

"As Plutarch once said, 'To create harmony one must investigate discord.'"
—Gordon disguised as Mr. Ortuglo

THE NIGHT OF THE DOOMSDAY FORMULA

1968. Color. Produced by Bruce Lansbury. Directed by Irving J. Moore. Written by Samuel Newman.

West arrives at Dr. Crane's home to be told by his daughter Lorna (Melinda Plowman) he's already meeting a man named West. West and Gordon search Crane's home and find his Doomsday Formula. A mushroom cloud explosive test later, they realize the implications of the formula being in the wrong hands, namely General Kroll (Kevin McCarthy). Gordon creates a firework diversion, and with a "slide for life" stunt gag, West rescues Lorna and escapes Kroll's gatling gun target practice room.

Martin's disguise as Mr. Ortuglo, a foul, singing Arab, is one of his best. Noted stunt coordinator Whitey Hughes, "I was the stunt double for the lady standing on the pedestal. That was Jimmy George standing in for Bobby. You'll see me turn my head away from the camera so you can't tell it's me."

"By the way, where is Mr. West?"
—Baron Hinterstoisser
"He said something about showing the big dipper to the daughter of the Lithuanian Ambassador."
—Gordon

THE NIGHT OF THE BIG BLACKMAIL

1969. Color. Produced by Bruce Lansbury. Directed by Irving J. Moore. Written by David Mossinger.

While President Grant attends a fencing

Stuntman Jimmy George doubles for Conrad as West rescues the heroine (stuntman Whitey Hughes) in "Night of the Doomsday Formula."



VOLTAIRE

Richard Kiel on Conrad.

For three episodes, the 7ft. 2in. Richard Kiel played Voltaire, the infantile, body-crushing, pituitary giant assistant to Dr. Miguelito Loveless. Recalled Kiel, "It was just supposed to be a one-shot deal but they called me back to do a second one. I didn't speak in either one of those and so I had made my mind up not to do that again unless they included some dialogue. I was chagrined when I was told at casting that they had no intention of in-



Kiel as a senator's son who turns into a gorilla in 1968's "Night of the Simian Terror," also played Loveless' giant sidekick Voltaire.

cluding dialogue. I said that I couldn't do it anymore. I was doing some other show at the same studio and ran into Robert Conrad and he said, 'I guess I'll see you in a couple of weeks.' I mentioned that, because I asked them to include some dialogue and they said, 'Nothing doing,' I wouldn't be on the show. Conrad asked me how long I would be on the lot and what sound stage I would be on. By lunch time my agent told me they were writing the script to include dialogue. I really respected that guy. He was an understanding, unique man."

Keil said he got along fine with Michael Dunn. "He was in a lot of pain. For a little man he actually had a giant ego. But it was great being on set and hearing him sing with his cabaret partner Phoebe Dorin."

Craig Reid



Robert Conrad as West, holding open the lever to the steam-pressured vault in the German Embassy in "The Night of the Big Blackmail."

competition at the German Embassy, Baron Hinterstoisser (Harvey Corman) informs Grant he should be present at a special reception later because he has something very "interestink" for him to see, as West and Gordon foil plans to politically embarrass the president.

Director Irving J. Moore would laugh uncontrollably every time Corman made an entrance because he constantly thought about Corman snickering during the live comedy skits on the CAROL BURNETT SHOW. The kinetoscope featured in the plot is really a short piece of film less than 50 feet, and wasn't invented by George Eastman until 1888.

"How is Arte bearing up under his Washington assignment, Sir?"
—West
"The question is, how is Washington bearing up?"
—President Grant

THE NIGHT OF THE WINGED TERROR

1969. Color. Produced by Bruce Lansbury. Directed by Marvin Chomsky. Written by Ken Pettus.

West and his new partner Frank Harper (William Schallert) see a professor wreck his art collection and a sheriff release criminals under a trance induced by orange-tinted glasses. It's all a plot by the large bulbous-headed Tycho (Christopher Cary) to disrupt U.S./Mexican relations. Michelle Carey plays Tycho's cantina accomplice Laurette.

This was the only two-parter story in the four-year history of the show. It was also the fifth and sixth episode without Ross Martin, who was recovering from his first heart attack. Actor William Schallert recalled his stint as West's partner, "I think they thought of me for the part because I had already appeared in two previous episodes and they knew I could handle different characters." □

William Schallert as agent Frank Harper, taking over for the ailing Ross Martin in the final season's "The Night of the Winged Terror."

