

The Amazing Colossal James Whitmore

Cast

Narrator

Professor Drake

Professor Cummings

Professor Blaine

Professor Stanley

Professor Shelia Morgan

Dr. Melissa Hart

Aide to Colonel Stone

Colonel Frank Stone

Nancy, reporter at Daily Snooper

Timmy

Spotters

Chief of Daily Snooper

Police Dispatcher

O'Reilly

Clancy

Mayor

Crony #1

Crony #2

Narrator

Welcome to another episode of Science Mystery Madness. Tonight's episode – The Amazing Colossal James Whitmore!

It was a dark and stormy night! High atop the ivory tower at Brainin University a team of research scientists are hard at work on their latest project. A project that will lead to mystery... and madness!!

Drake

Professor Cummings, this is madness, madness I tell you!!

Cummings

Just what do you mean, Professor Drake?

Drake

You can't expect me to stand here while you continue to make coffee in that dirty container! It's madness, I tell you. Just wash it out once, for goodness sake!

Cummings

All right. But I think you're being a baby. (Sounds of washing) Are you happy?

Drake

Well, it makes me happy about the coffee, but I'm afraid our experiment has come up against a dead end. Three years and 100 million dollars of taxpayer's money and all we have to show for it are a number of trips to Hawaii and the Virgin Islands and all this expensive glassware scientific stuff. And I'm afraid we're no closer to an answer than we were when we started.

Cummings

I'm sorry – I've forgotten the question.

Drake

The question is, can we do something about the growing possibility of not enough food to eat at the campus buffets. What with all the cutbacks at the University it's getting to be a real problem.

Cummings

Well, as long as they don't cut the travel budget...

Drake

I'm serious, man! We're facing the very real possibility that we may have to start **paying** for our food!

Cummings

Watch your mouth, Drake!

Drake

Well, I for one am not going to stand by and watch as college professors here and elsewhere are forced to do with less. It's hard enough now that we have to show up for class once a semester, but this...

(Knock on the door)

Cummings

Who could that be?

Drake

I've invited some folks from the other departments to help.

Cummings

From the other departments? But what help could they be to us, the Professors of the Science Department?

Drake

We've got to learn to think outside the box, and I think these folks are just the ticket. Ah, come on in. Professor Cummings, I don't think you know them. This is Professor Blaine, from the Arts and Crafts Department.

Cummings

(To Blaine) Professor.

Blaine

(To Cummings) Professor

Drake

And this is Professor Stanley, from the Tool and Die Department. Professor Stanley, this is Professor Cummings and Professor Blaine.

Stanley

(To Blaine) Professor. (To Cummings) Professor

Blaine

(To Cummings) Professor. (To Stanley) Professor

Cummings

Professor. Professor.

Drake

And this is Shelia Morgan, Professor of the Gardening Department.

Morgan

Professor. Professor. Professor.

Blaine

Professor.

Cummings

Professor.

Drake

And finally, Dr. Melissa Hart, from the Medical Department.

Hart

Professor. Professor. Professor. Professor

Morgan

Dr.

Cummings.

Dr.

Stanley

Dr.

Drake

Well, I think that's done it with the introductions. Anyone want to take a break?

Cummings

Man, we're running out of time! Every second counts.

Drake

You're right. So, we all agreed to take a break and reconvene in, say, fifteen minutes?

(General hubbub as they try and figure out if that's okay and finally agree up on it and break up).

Narrator

Meanwhile, across town at the White Sands Naval Base, Colonel Frank Stone is in his office on the phone. As usual, this military expert is giving official orders...

Stone

And I want two toppings – with the anchovies on both. That’s right, I said anchovies on both, Damnit! I know what I’m doing! I’m a Colonel!!

Aide

Your fiancé is here to see you, Colonel Stone.

Stone

Oh. Okay, send her in. (Back to phone) And it had better be here by 0900 or it’s free, right!? Nancy, how good to see you!

Nancy

Oh, Frank, are you ordering pizza for us?

Stone

Nancy, this is official business. We’re having the pizza for a staff meeting.

Nancy

We don’t have staff meetings anymore.

Stone

I’m not even sure what that means. Look, Nancy, I’m sorry I haven’t had time for you lately. But with all the budget cuts now that peace has broken out... Well, it’s getting tough here. I’m losing men left and right and not in a good way – they’re getting laid off, not dying in battle.

Nancy

We never get laid off...

Stone

As usual you aren’t making much sense. (Softer) But that’s what I love about you.

Nancy

Oh, Frank! We never lo...

Aide

Colonel! Sorry to interrupt, but there's more bad news!

Stone

What is it?

Aide

I'm afraid it's the battlegroup cruiser – it's going to be decommissioned!

Stone

We lost another ship?! And all those good men... I can't take much more of this. If we don't get a war soon...

Nancy

Oh, Frank – there's hope yet! I was preparing my lead story for the newspaper and I heard talk. It's early but... they're saying perhaps Lithuania will attack Switzerland.

Stone

Lithuania and the Swiss, eh? Well, it's not much, and they're both landlocked countries, but it's a start. Maybe, just maybe we can find a way to get our ships in there and then...

Nancy

And then?

Stone

And then you and I will finally have time to tie the knot!

Nancy

Oh, Frank!!! After all these decades...

Narrator

While Frank and Nancy steal what time they can together, not knowing the horrible thing that will soon test both of them and their relationship to the breaking point, we find little Timmy in his front yard on Main Street, playing with his dog, Spotters.

Timmy

Oh, Spotters! What a wonderful day it is! The sun is shining, the air is clean and wonderful, and I still have six weeks left before I have to go back to school.

(Dog barks)

That's right, Spotters. It can't get much better than this. I have so much to live for, my entire life ahead of me.

(Dog barks)

Yep, Spotters. There couldn't be anything that could possibly go wrong in our little town.

(Dog barks)

Yes, life is good for you, too, Spotters. You have lots of food, plenty of cats to chase, and a wonderful little boy to play with you and love. You're healthy and in the prime of your life.

(Dog barks contentedly)

Which reminds me – Mom and Dad are going to take you to the vet today.

(Dog barks worried)

Oh, it's okay. It's just a checkup, to make sure you don't have fleas or worms or things.

(Dog barks kind of embarrassed)

And they mentioned some kind of procedure.

(Dog barks more worried)

Let's see – what was it? Something about stealing?

(Dog curious)

Hmmmm. It was like those guys in the riots. Oh, yes, looters! They want you to be a looter.

(Dog really worried – barks excitedly)

Oh, you're right. It wasn't looters. It was tooters... no, neuters. Yes, that's it! I guess you're going to be a neuter! Isn't that exciting?!

(Dog barks whiningly)

Narrator

Back at the university, the professors and one doctor are hard at work on their project, never suspecting that they are on a collision course with... destiny!!

Drake

I keep getting the feeling we are on a collision course with something, but I just don't know what. Oh – I've got it! With success!!

Cummings

I know – it seems so easy now that the other Professors have contributed. Oh, what do you have for us, Professor Morgan?

Morgan

Well, we think we might have it solved. We took some fruits and vegetables from my garden, and Professor Stanley was able to hook them up to all the expensive glassware scientific stuff you have here...

Drake

It looks very pretty...

Morgan

You should thank Professor Blaine, from the arts and crafts department, for that. It was his idea to have all the colored lights blinking on and off.

Cummings

Pretty neat...

Drake

And I saw you doing something earlier, putting something in the water that goes to the plants.

Stanley

Shelia... I mean, Professor Morgan, is too modest to tell you this herself but it was her idea. You see, we're using a direct application of Miracle Grow here.

Cummings

Miracle Grow?

Morgan

It's that stuff that James Whitmore advertises on TV.

Drake

James Whitmore?

Morgan

I believe that Professor Blaine can be of more help here.

Blaine

James Whitmore is an actor born in 1921. He has appeared in hundreds of television episodes, and dozens of movies, such as "Black Like Me", "Face of Fire" and "Them!"

Drake

Them?

Blaine

A movie about giant ants created by nuclear testing.

Cummings

(Laughing) Oh, yes, people used to believe all sorts of crazy things back in the 50's. They were so gullible! (General laughter among all). But, back to science – this Miracle Grow stuff. I assume there is some sort of miraculous growth process involved here, correct?

Morgan

There have been reports of 800 pound pumpkins grown using it.

Drake

800 pound pumpkins? Where could you put an 800 pound pumpkin?

Cummings

Anywhere it wants! (Both men laugh manically. Then, soberly) But, seriously, this stuff really works?

Blaine

They couldn't advertise it on TV unless it were true.

Drake

Yes, of course. I didn't think about that.

Morgan

And I've gone one step further – rather than using a dilute mixture of the stuff, as recommended, I'm using it straight out of the bottle.

Cummings

So we should see results pretty soon? Where, exactly, are the fruits and vegetables now? Are they behind that huge orange refrigerator?

Morgan

That isn't a refrigerator.

Drake

You mean?

Morgan

It's a giant kumquat!

Cummings

Good heavens! Then the experiment is working!

Drake

But why is it pulsating like that?

Morgan

Mmmmm, perhaps I had better let Dr. Melissa Hart, from the medical department, explain that. Dr.?

Hart

Well, you see, in order to support the vastly increased circulatory system of this fruit, I thought it would be best if we gave it some internal organs, like a heart and lungs.

Cummings

Ah, that makes perfect sense! (All the professors agree) And I assume that for the sake of balance you also gave it those legs and arms?

Hart

(Uncomfortable) No, ah... it grew those on its own.

Drake

On its own?

Hart

We're not quite sure why, but if I were you I wouldn't get too close to it. Earlier this morning it gave Professor Stanley quite the goose.

Cummings

(Trying to make a joke) Well, as long as it doesn't try walking out of the lab (laughs). (Realizes no one else is laughing) It won't do that, will it? (Silence) I mean, it's hooked up to all the expensive glassware scientific stuff.

Morgan

We really don't know **what** it's capable of, Professor. (Very serious) We only know that we're going to keep feeding it gallons and gallons of this growing solution until we find out.

Drake

Well, that seems reasonable. (All agree)

Narrator

Across town, at the Daily Snooper, Nancy is conferring with her Editor-in-Chief...

Chief

Nancy, I get the feeling there is something fishy going on at the University.

Nancy

What makes you say, Chief?

Chief

I have an invoice here for one million gallons of Miracle Grow, 10 pounds of potting soil, and some very expensive glassware scientific stuff. All charged to the University's Science Department.

Nancy

But why is that so unusual?

Chief

In and of itself it wouldn't be. But I have a fairly reliable source inside Pizzeria that says they also ordered 10 pizzas to go last night... and they paid cash!

Nancy

Cash?! On a University's Professor's salary?

Chief

Exactly. Why order pizza when they could eat at the school cafeteria? Unless they had a whole bunch of Professors and one Doctor there together to perform some kind of crazy experiment!

Nancy

There's no other explanation!

Chief

I want you to hightail it down there and snoop around and find out what's up. But don't let them know you're on to them – they're Professors at a University that's getting budget cuts, and that makes them extremely dangerous.

Narrator

So Nancy travels out to the University on yet another dark and stormy night. As she makes her way onto the campus, wandering close to the science labs, she hears a blood-curdling scream...

Nancy

Oh my gosh! What was that?

Drake

I'm sorry – it was me.

Nancy

But why did you scream like that?

Drake

It's the only way I know how.

(Another Scream)

Drake

Sorry, me again.

Nancy

But there's nothing in here. The lab is entirely empty. Nothing but a lot of broken pieces of expensive glassware scientific stuff.

Drake

I know! That's the problem. It's escaped!!

(Scream again)

I'm sorry, I just don't seem to be able to help myself.

Nancy

Well, that's very annoying.

Drake

You'd scream too if you knew what had just happened!!

Nancy

(Investigating) And what **did** happen?

Drake

Well, it must have... Wait a minute. Just who are you?

Nancy

Me? Oh, I'm nobody...

Drake

No, I recognize you. You're that reporter from the Daily Snooper. Well, nothing has happened around here at all.

(Different scream)

Drake

Oh, Professor Cummings. I don't believe you're met the reporter from the Daily Snooper.

Nancy

I'm Nancy.

Cummings

Oh, nice to meet you.

Nancy

Why did you scream just now?

Cummings

Just now? Oh, I don't know, no reason, really. I just...

(Still yet a different scream. Then Drake and Cummings scream)

Drake

Oh, Professor Morgan. This is Nancy, a reporter from the Daily Snooper.

Morgan

I see. Glad to meet you.

Nancy

Why did you scream just now?

Morgan

Oh. Well, I was just surprised to see Professors Drake and Cummings, that's all. All alone. All by themselves in this lab.

Drake

And I just screamed again because she screamed.

Cummings

Well, I screamed because she screamed too. It scared me.

Nancy

But Professor Drake – you were screaming all by yourself when I came by. And you said something about it having escaped. What do you mean by “it escaped!”

Morgan and Cummings

It escaped!!?? (Both scream)

Nancy

Now stop that! Professors, I think you had better level with me, or my newspaper...

Drake

Oh, what's the use? It's too late now, anyway. (Sounds of very large footsteps coming closer). We should have cooked it when we had the chance.

Cummings

Ah, I think you'd better look out the window, Drake.

Drake

Professor Cummings, I don't think we should pretend any longer. If only we had boiled the kumquat when I said we should, we'd all be sitting around eating pie and chutney now...

(The footsteps are louder and then they stop)

Morgan

Um, Professor Drake, ixnay on the umquat-kay...

Drake

No, we should have mashed it up when we had our chance. And now... Just what are you all looking at in the window behind me? Oh, it's just a giant... Oh, nooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!

(Sound of broken glass and Drake being squashed)

(Morgan and Cummings scream)

Narrator

The kumquat, which was now 100 feet tall and very angry, smashed Professor Drake underfoot like a ripe tomato. Nancy and the other professors fled the facility while the rampaging fruit stomped the rest of the buildings. The police were alerted and raced into action.

Police Dispatcher

Calling all cars! Calling all cars!! Be on the lookout for a giant fruit about 100 feet tall. It might be mistaken for an orange, but it isn't. I repeat – do not confuse this with any giant orange you might see. It is a kumquat, and unlike an Orange the peel is very sweet tasting. It's also more oval than an orange. You should be able to tell it apart from this oval type shape. While it is not armed it should be considered dangerous.

O'Reilly

Ah, Clancy, it sounds like the dispatcher has been taking a wee bit of the grape, if you ask me.

Clancy

Are you be a'doubtin the dispatcher report, O'Reilly?

O'Reilly

Let's just say that if we hear about the little people a'roamin' the streets I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

(Sounds of huge footsteps approaching)

Clancy

Oh my saints and stars! Will you look at the size of that orange!!

O'Reilly

I don't be thinking that's any orange, Clancy! I think it's a giant kumquat and about to step right on our...

(sounds of smash)

Timmy

Gosh o' rooney, Spotters! It's so much fun to play with you here on the street after dinner.

(Dog sounds)

Are you still hungry, boy? I brought out some of my leftover dinner.

(Dog sounds)

Wow! Mom, Dad, Spotter just ate a tomato! Boy, you are hungry, aren't you? How about this?

(Dog sounds)

Mom, Dad, Spotter just ate a banana!

(Sounds of large footsteps and then swallowing noises)

Mom, Dad!! A kumquat just ate Spotter!!

Narrator

As the giant behemoth rampages, Nancy finds herself reporting to her fiancé, Colonel Stone.

Nancy

Oh, Frank! It was just terrible! Awful!! It was the worse experience of my life!! I can't believe something like that could exist in this world!!

Stone

Now, now, Nancy, I know riding a bus is pretty horrifying.

Nancy

If only I had had enough money for a cab.

Stone

Well, next time I'll make sure. Now, what's all this I hear about a giant fruit?

Nancy

Oh, that. Well, it's very big, orange, and angry.

Stone

What is a kumquat with an attitude? (The both laugh)

Nancy

But seriously, Frank, you need to do something about this before more people are trampled.

Stone

This is just the opportunity the Navy has been waiting for. Now we can show those penny pinchers at Congress that it was a big mistake to cut our budget. Okay, so where is the thing right now?

Nancy

It's heading towards the center of the town.

Stone

(Distressed) Umm, no chance it will make it's way to the coast?

Nancy

Frank, it's crushing the downtown even as we speak.

Stone

Do you suppose it have to return to the sea after it feeds?

Nancy

It's not a turtle, Frank! It's a huge honking fruit!

Stone

(Depressed) Then I guess we can't do much about it. (Brightening)
But if any sea based lemons or limes come to its aid, we can
blockade!!

Nancy

What about your planes?

Stone

All the pilots were laid off.

Nancy

And you don't have any ground troops?

Stone

Nancy, honey, this is the Navy. All we have are swabbies and
mateys. With a few bootlicks thrown in for good measure.

Nancy

Well, I'm not going to stand here and do nothing!

Stone

Where are you going?

Nancy

To City Hall!!! Someone has got to warn the Mayor and his cronies!!
(Pause) Oh, Frank!!

Stone

Yes, Darling!!

Nancy

Can you give me some cab fare?!

Narrator

Our heroine races the vicious fruit to the city offices, where the Mayor and his cronies are meeting, unaware of their fate.

Mayor

Well, it seems like we have a lot of money in our coffers to do with what we will, eh boys and girls?

(Cronies agree)

Crony #1

Boss, just how did we get all this money?

Mayor

Well, first we cut back personnel at the Naval base. Then we saved tons of money by closing the buffets at the University.

Crony #2

Um, you realize, Boss, that we don't exactly have jurisdiction over the Navy and University?

Mayor

That's what makes the plan so foolproof! They'll never suspect us!

(General agreement and joy over this)

Mayor

So let's plan ourselves a really nice vacation. Somewhere sweet, where the citrus grows really, really big! And as long as no snoopy nose reporter comes around we'll be sitting pretty.

Mayor's Aide

There's a reporter from the Daily Snooper to see you Mayor!

Mayor

What? Send her away!

Mayor's Aide

She's very insistent. Oh, and there's a giant kumquat coming up the street so I'll be leaving early today.

Mayor

(Sighs) She always finds some excuse to leave early.

Nancy

Mayor!! I hate to come bursting in like this but... What the heck is that pirate's chest full of gold coins doing on the floor?

(Sound of box closing)

Mayor

Ahem!! Young lady! You can't just come bursting in here accusing us of closing down the University's buffets and laying off Naval personnel just to use the money for ourselves without proof that you can wrestle away from two or three strong men.

Nancy

Mayor – I came to warn you. You are all in grave danger!!

Mayor

Danger? Nonsense. Just what kind of danger would we be in?

Nancy

Can't you see for yourselves? Take a look out the window down main street!!

(Sound of scream)

Mayor

Sorry – I couldn't help screaming like that. Good heavens, there's a giant orange coming straight at us.

Crony #1

Actually, I think it's a pomegranate.

Crony #2

Aren't pomegranates red?

Crony #1

No, you're thinking of plums.

Mayor

I thought plums were purple.

Nancy

Mayor and his cronies!!! We don't have time for this now! Anyway, you'll all wrong, it's a kumquat.

(They are discuss this among themselves)

We must all get to higher ground. Quick, take the elevator to the top floor!!

Narrator

As Nancy and the men and women from the Mayor's office make their way to the observation tower high atop city hall, the murderous kumquat approaches ever closer...

Nancy

Look! There it is, at the base of the building!!

Mayor

There's no way it can take the elevator! The recommended load weight is only 1200 pounds. Besides, I don't think those hands of it have any fingers to push the buttons.

Crony #1

Oh no!!! It's starting to climb the side of the building. It's coming after us!!

Mayor

(Pleading) But why!??!! Why would it be coming up here!!!???

Hart

Perhaps I can answer that question.

Mayor

Who are you?!

Hart

I'm Dr. Melissa Hart, of the University Medical department.

Nancy

I recognize you. You were there at the lab when the creature escaped.

Hart

Yes. Unfortunately, it was my idea to give the beast a heart and lungs.

Crony #2

It's up to the third floor!!!!

Hart

You see, what we didn't realize when we provided it with internal organs is that there was a possibility it might also grow a brain. And in this case, that's exactly what happened!

Crony #1

It's up to the fifth floor!! Only four more floors to go!!

Mayor

You're telling me that that, that, giant fruit down there has a brain?!

Hart

A primitive one, yes, probably not capable enough of understanding that most reality TV isn't worth watching, but yes, a brain capable of thinking and reasoning. And in this case it knows that it was created because of the budget cutbacks at the University – budget cutbacks caused by you, Mayor!

Mayor

What??!! How could you think that?

Hart

Any giant fruit could figure it out. Only the Mayor of a town would be stupid enough to cutback the University's buffet budget at the same time he eliminated all the Naval Pilots: it's a recipe for disaster!

Mayor

(Contrite) Yes, yes, I see that now. It was inevitable. So it's coming after me?

Hart

For revenge. For the same reason it wants to get me – it never wanted to exist in this world. But we created it, together, and so we must be sacrificed!

Crony #1

It's nearly here! Excuse me, Mayor, but I need to leave early to pick up my kids. (jumps off side of building)

Crony #2

Oh, yes, I forgot about that meeting in the morning that I need to... oh, what the heck (jumps off side himself)

Nancy

Just like rats jumping off the side of a sinking ship, eh Mayor? Well, you only have yourself to blame for all this now. And I see by looking over the side that the kumquat is nearly here now, waiting to destroy us all.

Mayor

Is there no hope? Is there nothing we can do?

Narrator

At that moment there is a huge sound from the opposite side of the building. The three remaining people on the tower race over to take a look!

Nancy

Why, it's a giant man climbing the side of the building!

Blaine

That's no ordinary giant man.

Mayor

Who are you?

Blaine

Professor Blaine, of the Arts and Crafts Department at your service, Mayor. And that man you see below is James Whitmore.

Mayor

The guy who sells Miracle Grow?

Blaine

None other. People thought he had retired from television and movie work because he was too old but the simple truth is that for the last several years he's been using the very product he sells, with amazing results!

Nancy

But why is he here?

Blaine

To save us. And perhaps himself, as well.

Nancy

It looks like he's trying to say something...

Hart

No. He's opening his mouth, all right, but it isn't to speak. (Sounds of eating)

Mayor

He's eating the Kumquat!! Oh, my goodness, the humanity!!

Nancy

There's juice everywhere!!!

(Sounds of rushing juice cascading down)

Mayor

It's a miracle.

Hart

Yes. A miracle grow, I'd say

(They all laugh)

Nancy

He's trying to say something to us.

Hart

(With some dread) No – he’s opening his mouth again, but I don’t think he’s trying to speak!

Mayor

(With realization) Oh no!! Oh no!!! He’s still hungry!!!!

Everyone

Run!!!!

Narrator

The End – or is it The End?

(Music swells to end)