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"So Bad, It's Good?" Review: Alien 2: On Earth



David Voigt

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Little did they know...how bad this would be... Credits: exclaim.ca



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Occasionally in the due course of being a critic, a movie comes across my desk that actually begs the question. Is this movie so bad, it's actually good? This installment of "So Bad, It's Good?" brings us an Italian film all the way back from 1980, let's take a look at *Alien 2: On Earth*

Alien 2: On Earth is directed by Ciro Ippolito (Sam Cromwell). Starring Belinda Mayne, Mark Bodin, Roberto Barrese, Michele Soavi and Judy Perrin. A group of cave explorers are confronted in an underground cavern by a mysterious living rock. Little do they know that it bears home to deadly, flesheating creatures, intent on wiping out the entire human population. Can they survive and ultimately prevent Earth's total annihilation?

Never released in the US, and transferred from the original 35 mm print, this film is now available in its definitive form is a low

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budget splatter fest meant to capitalize on Ridley Scott's Alien released the previous year and has nothing to do with the original Ridley Scott classic.

From a "Grindhouse" perspective; *Alien 2: On Earth* is probably as pure as it gets. There is little to no character development with a threadbare plot that makes little if any sense at all. The cast are mostly set pieces as the script tries to get them into the cave with the 'aliens'. Once they get there the Sam Raimi level splatter and absurdity takes over and ultimately this film has some limited charms since it works as what it is. There is a certain amount of historical note to this film as it was obviously an inspiration for Neil Marshall's The Descent.



The first release in the "Midnight Legacy" series and restored quite well, *Alien 2: On Earth* is worthy of a night on the couch, yelling jokes at the TV and making fun of it in the vein of the boys at Mystery Science Theater 3000.

0 out of 5 stars if you want an actual story, but 5 out of 5 stars for your next MSTK3000 themed party.

You can try here, for a list of Toronto's finer indie video stores to see if it is available for rent, but I would try an online retailer like seeofsound.com.

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Page 3 of 3

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By David Voigt

Toronto Independent Film Examiner

David Voigt, a regular contributor to the Examiner.com, was a content manager in video distribution industry. His 12 years of experience have...

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