



In caves, no one can hear you scream

**Credits:** Italian Theatrical Poster

## It came from Carlsbad! Alien 2:On Earth and on Blu-ray

By [Michael Felix](#), Mission Viejo DVD Examiner

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In the wake of the blockbuster success of Ridley Scott's *Alien* (1979) the world of exploitation film was quick to cash in with their own hastily written and shot "Alien" pictures, the film market was soon flooded with graphic tales of space explorers and gooey aliens exploding into or out of their bodies. Britain brought a twisted sexuality into their *Alien* cash-in with Norman J. Warren's *Inseminoid*, Roger "King of the B's" Corman chimed in with the sleazy and superlative *Galaxy of Terror*, and in Italy, and a very slimy entry in the sub-genre came in the form of Luigi Cozzi's *Contamination*.

Italy also gave us a perhaps more obscure entry into this sub-genre in the form of director [Ciro Ippolito's \*Alien 2: On Earth\*](#) (*Alien sulla terra* in its original Italian). The main change in this "in name only" sequel to *Alien* is that the film's action is moved from the confines of a space ship to, no joke, Carlsbad Caverns. It seems the producers happened upon the cost saving and hopefully fear heightening idea away from space to Earth, thereby saving the added expense of futuristic sets and costumes. The film's scenario has a space capsule returning to Earth, with a horrible creature in tow. The creature makes its way into the aforementioned Carlsbad Cavern, and it's up to a group of intrepid spelunkers and a roving reporter to find it.

If the plot synopsis above is a bit fuzzy and ill defined, it suits the film that generated it. Everything about this film is fuzzy and ill-defined. Long stretches of time pass with little or no action, and basics like how many scientists are on the expedition to find the creature are undefined. To its credit, the film is well shot, and utilizes its Technicolor frame well. When the creature attacks do come, they are satisfyingly gory, but these scenes are few and far between. *Alien 2: On Earth* does build to an effective and eerie ending, which makes good use of location work done in San Diego. If you ever wanted to see an Italian made rip off of *Alien* that climaxes in an abandoned bowling alley, let it be this one.

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