

Alien 2: On Earth (1980) Review



A group of cave explorers stumble upon a hideous and somewhat nasty critter whilst on an expedition deep in a remote cavern. With no help from the surface, it's up to the group to find a new path when their initial route to the top is blocked off by the horrid alien organism.

A very rare 80's Italian gem this movie has previously only been available on VHS until the folks at newly created Midnight Legacy released a rather spiffing blu-ray/DVD limited edition recently. We thought we'd take the chance to see how well the movie lives up to it's reputation and i can thankfully say this movie is pretty much exactly what i expected. Let me explain...

80's Italian horror flicks usually tend to be adventures in the field of melancholy, of the best kind. Over the top cheeziness is rampant throughout the flick. The characters don't behave in any natural way you'd expect people to behave and the lines are almost cringe worthy at points. This is part of the movies charm however. I guess it's something you'll either love or hate but considering i grew up watching this kind of cinema it hits a chord with me and i dig it.

Clearly this movie has nothing to do with Ridley Scott's *Alien*, they've essentially called it Alien 2 looking to cash in on the popularity of the movie at that time (this was released before *Aliens*) but it's worlds away from being a part of that franchise. It's very low budget but surprisingly the special effects/gore are pretty good for a movie of it's budget and time. Some of the gore scenes, whilst tame and fake looking by modern standards are pretty nasty and I reckon they must have spent half their budget on red goo.

Sadly though it takes a while for the death count to roll up, in fact you have to get approx half way through the movie before things start to get exciting but once it gets going it keeps rolling right to the very end.

The one thing about this movie i did not expect was the image quality of blu-ray to be so clean. I really have to take my hat off to Midnight Legacy for what they've done here, to make a movie so old and so cheap look so... New, is definitely no trivial thing and if this is a sign of things to come, then i reckon we're in for a good time. The blu-ray/DVD releases are limited so if you want a copy best get it *now*.

In the end lovers of old skool, low budget, sci-fi horror will get their kicks from this without a doubt. For those who perhaps sitting on the fence i'd recommend a rental.

SCREENSHOTS
(Click to Enlarge)

Movie Details

Director: Sam Cromwell
Writer: Sam Cromwell
Actors: Belinda Mayne, Mark Bodin, Roberto Barrese, Judy Perrin
Release Year: 1980
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