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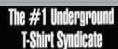
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## ALIEN 2: ON EARTH (BLU RAY) (1980)

Published by [David Carter](#) on 2011/7/7 (81 reads)

Directed by [Ciro Ippolito](#)  
Review by [David Carter](#)



Released by [Midnight Legacy](#)  
 Running Time: 84 minutes  
 Rating: Not Rated  
 Color format: Color  
 Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 DTS-MA English  
 Region Code: 1, NTSC  
 Aspect Ratio: Widescreen 1.85:1  
 16:9 Enhanced: Yes  
 Special Features: Special effects outtakes  
 Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



*Short Version:* Incredible release of a "lost" film

Nothing is more enticing to discerning cinephiles than the phrase, "never released in the United States." Sure, there are many of us that have scoured the globe for films we've wanted to see, but invariably these finds are inferior when compare to official releases. That's why ambitious DVD companies are so important and it is critical that we, the fans, support their releases. Midnight Legacy is a new kid on the block, but their first release is a big one. They've given us the previously unavailable ALIEN 2: ON EARTH, an Italian "faux sequel" to ALIEN, on DVD and Blu Ray. Italian fake sequels are among our favorite things here at FilmFanaddict, so we were very excited to get our hands on this title.

A television station takes a break from their coverage of a returning space mission to interview Thelma Joyce, a spelunker. Thelma is unable to finish the interview due to an overwhelming feeling of dread, and her boyfriend Roy apologizes to the crew for her, explaining to them that Thelma is telepathic. Everyone she knows is just fine, however, and she and Roy collect those friends and head off to explore a particularly deep cave outside of San Diego. A radio broadcast informs the group that the returning space capsule was found empty with no trace of the astronauts. Thelma temporarily believes this was the cause of her ominous feeling, but she soon finds out that there is much worse in store for her.

Thelma, Roy, and their friends make their initial descent into the cave and set up camp for the night. They split up and delve deeper into the cave and everything seems normal except for a strange rock they picked up by chance at a gas station. Thelma watches in horror as it begins to glow and throb, eventually bursting open and ripping off her companion's face. Terrified, she runs to find the rest of the group, only to return to see her friend unconscious, face intact. She's confused about the situation, but not for very long, as her "friend" explodes and kills another member of the group. Thelma and the others begin a frantic scramble to reach the surface before more of them die at the hands of a monster that can take on any form.

ALIEN 2's cave setting is the highlight of the film since it is the perfect setting: cramped, foreign, and dark. Some excellent cinematography gives the viewer a good idea about how massive the cave is, so when the group starts running for their lives, we're already aware of what an arduous task that will be. Also outstanding are the film's special effects. Gore is used sparingly, but when it comes it doesn't fail to impress. Particular effective is a scene where a caver suspended upside down has his head severed and a SCANNERS-esque head explosion.

Like most Italian fake sequels, ALIEN 2 deviates far from the source material. At no point is it explicitly stated or even implied that the monster (monsters?) is from space, and the word "alien" is never used. The fact that it is so very different isn't a bad thing, however, as the story it tells is pretty good in my opinion. To judge it against the standard set by ALIEN or ALIENS would be unfair, and there's a lot to like about this film that you'd likely miss if you get too hung up about its questionable lineage. It's well made (for an Italian exploitation film), has a unique plot, a decent amount of suspense, and kill scenes that will keep even diehard gorehounds glued to the screen. I'm not very familiar with director Ippolito, but I'm curious to see some of his other work now.

Midnight Legacy has done a great job on ALIEN 2: ON EARTH and fans are in for a treat if all of their future releases are made to this standard. The print of the film is excellent, comparing favorably to more well known films - a difficult task when working with something that has been "lost" for years. The extras are a little sparse, but that is to be expected given the rarity of the film. All in all a highly recommended release from Midnight Legacy and I'm looking forward to more from them in the future.



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4. The Change-Up	\$13.5 M
5. Captain America	\$13.0 M

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