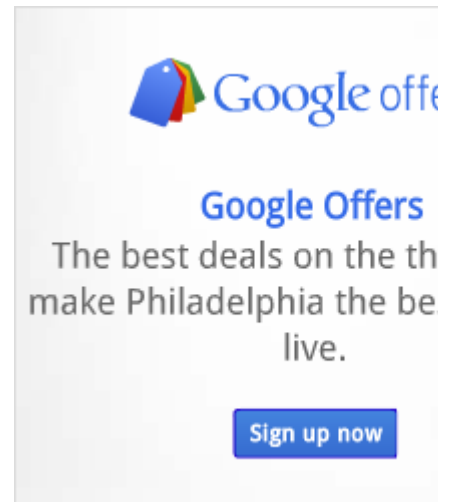


(Belinda Mayne, 'Krull') -- our sexy blonde heroine of the story who enjoys bowling, spelunking, and long walks on the beach. Thelma is also telepathic, but her psychic ability is more of a curse than a blessing. Whenever these "monsters" inside her--as she calls them--decide to rear their ugly heads, she's overcome with a sudden wave of unbearable pain, not to mention those wind machines really do a number on her hair. And Thelma forebodingly has such an experience right around the same time the space capsule splashes down from orbit.



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A short time later, a freshly recovered Thelma is off cave exploring boyfriend and a few of her other serious speleologist friends. We're serious because they've got fluorescent-colored jumpsuits and are equipped with all sorts of caving gear, including a full-size typewriter one of which hauls deep down into the bowels of the cavern to type up his report.

Meanwhile, the space module is recovered with no sign of the astronaut. But elsewhere, mysterious funky-looking rocks begin appearing all over the space -- one of which finds its way into Thelma's backpack.

'Alien 2 on Earth' is a terrible movie, but I guess that's to be expected whose sole existence is to take advantage of a trademark loophole and any semblance of a plot here, and due to the extreme low-budget production the movie is padded with loads of stock footage and friends people taking their sweet time transporting themselves from one place to another. In fact, it takes a good thirty minutes or so before we even get out of the cave. The acting is awful, the dialog is atrocious, and both are made even more horrible by a terrible dubbing (though the voice dub of the African American duelist is so stereotypically over-the-top that it's both offensive and riotous at the same time).

Things do improve once we finally get to the caves, though not by much. Unfortunately, after some cringe-inducing jazzy rappelling music and the explorers' initial descent into the cavern (which completely goes against the scene), the score by Guido and Maurizio De Angelis (credited as the best part of the entire movie). Ippolito also teases gorehounds with a large amount of bloodshed and some mutilation, such as an eye-gouging, beheading, but truthfully it isn't anything we haven't seen countless times and executed much better (like from Fulci).

Plus, you know a movie has to be bad when its lackluster ending is more infamous than its borderline-infringing title. I'm treading down here so be warned, but after witnessing most of her friends being killed in an alien monstrosity and narrowly escaping with her own life, the very thing Thelma goes to the *bowling alley* for her final confrontation. It really is all anti-climactic climaxes.

At any rate, 'Alien 2 on Earth' is a bizarre and often logic-defying piece of horror pretty well running on empty in terms of B-movie monster movies. Ippolito is no Dario Argento or even Lucio Fulci for that matter, and

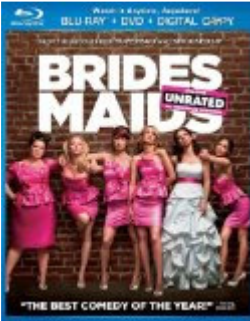


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even come close to other more entertaining 'Alien' rip-offs like Rog 'Forbidden World' or 'Galaxy of Terror.' But the sheer absurdity on certainly something to see for curious fans of cult cinema, and ma hearty laugh or two along this ridiculous journey.

The Blu-ray: Vital Disc Stats

Midnight Legacy makes their home video debut with 'Alien 2 on Ea (similar to The Criterion Collection) and a limited edition of 30,000 worldwide. Although early press reports indicated that the Blu-ray housed in a red keeprcase, my review copy arrived in a standard bl slipcover. There are no annoying pre-menu trailers or promos and ray disc is reported to be region-free.



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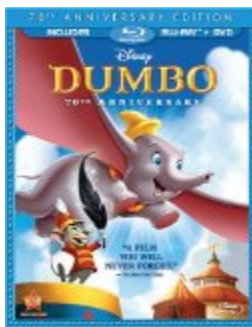
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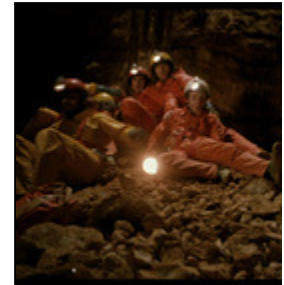
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The Video: Sizing Up the Picture

When Midnight Legacy officially announced that they were getting into the video market, they stressed that their main goal was to "give films the respect they deserve," which I must say they've definitely proven with their debut release. Working from the 35mm negative and using as little digital tampering as possible, the company not only presents 'Alien 2 on Earth' fully uncut with a beautiful 1080p/AVC MPEG-4 encoded transfer, the film is also presented in widescreen 1.85:1 aspect ratio for the first time ever.



First off, one thing that should be noted is that there's a fair amount of footage in the first act of the movie, and to be honest it is in pretty poor condition. These clips are tattered, extremely faded, and covered in dirt and grime, but rest assured -- what follows after this footage is a dramatic improvement.

Aside from a very thin layer of grain, the remainder of the picture is spotless. Most of the dirt and other age blemishes have been wiped away so that I had a hard time pinpointing any stragglers. Colors are more natural with only the occasional splash of brightness (such as the bright oranges of the caving expedition jumpsuits), while flesh tones appear more natural. Contrast seems appropriately balanced and provides a pleasing sense of depth. Blacks are nice and deep, with very little in terms of crushing. Detail is much better than expected, but what I found most impressive are the scenes that take place inside the underground caverns. The clarity and detail in these sequences even manage to outclass many modern releases.

The bottom line is 'Alien 2 on Earth' looks great on Blu-ray, and if they gave their catalog titles this sort of treatment the world would be a better place.

The Audio: Rating the Sound

Although the remastered audio of 'Alien 2 on Earth' isn't anywhere near as impressive as the video (most likely due to the quality of the source), I should still be happy to see the preservation of the original stereo mix and a lossless English DTS-HD Master Audio 2.0 mix.

Considering this is a dirt-cheap movie, it's not at all surprising that it has a weak dynamic range and rather bland fidelity. Dialogue reproduction is

and rarely drowned out by other sound effects or the music. Some may be put off that voices appear to be out-of-sync with lips, but in all fairness that's from the Italian actors being dubbed in post-production and not a fault with the recording. Bass activity is practically nonexistent except for a mere flutter of a station wagon engine in the third act of the film. There are sporadic crackles and hisses here and there, but fortunately they are relatively minor for the majority of the time. The only place that is really noticeable is during a particular tune on the soundtrack.



In the end, this is a serviceable presentation and nothing more, with the best 'Alien 2 on Earth' will ever get.

The Supplements: Digging Into the Good Stuff

- **Special Effects Outtakes** (HD, 11:27) – The first supplement found here is a few scraps of additional special effects footage from the cutting room floor. However, there is no sound provided for this feature.
- **Dutch VHS Trailer** (SD, 3:10) – The only other item is the ultra-rare 'Alien 2 on Earth' trailer from the Dutch



HD Bonus Content: Any Exclusive Goodies in There?

There aren't any high-definition exclusives.

Easter Eggs

No easter eggs reported for 'Alien 2 on Earth' yet. Found an egg? Fill out our [tips form](#) to let us know, and we'll credit you with the find.

Final Thoughts

Despite the title, 'Alien 2 on Earth' is *not* a sequel to Ridley Scott's masterpiece, and let's be honest -- isn't a very good film. It isn't even a very good rip-off as far as Eurotrash cinema is concerned. But the utterly baffling direction (of the sort that has to be seen to be believed) somehow manages to give this Italian horror cheese-fest a molecule of charm. The quality of Midnight Legacy's inaugural highly impressive, too, offering a couple of rare supplements (though some would have been nice) and a stellar video transfer that absolutely outshines most catalog titles on the format. In any case, it's tough to outright recommend this one to the masses, but for fans of the film or collectors of odd curiosities then this Blu-ray is the definitive disc of 'Alien 2 on Earth'.



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