

Alien 2: On Earth tests the patience of even the heartiest Italian horror fans

By [George Pacheco](#), Cape Cod Movie Examiner

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Alien 2: Sulla Terra is a difficult film to sit through, even for diehard fans of Italian film genre swiping during the glorious 1970s.

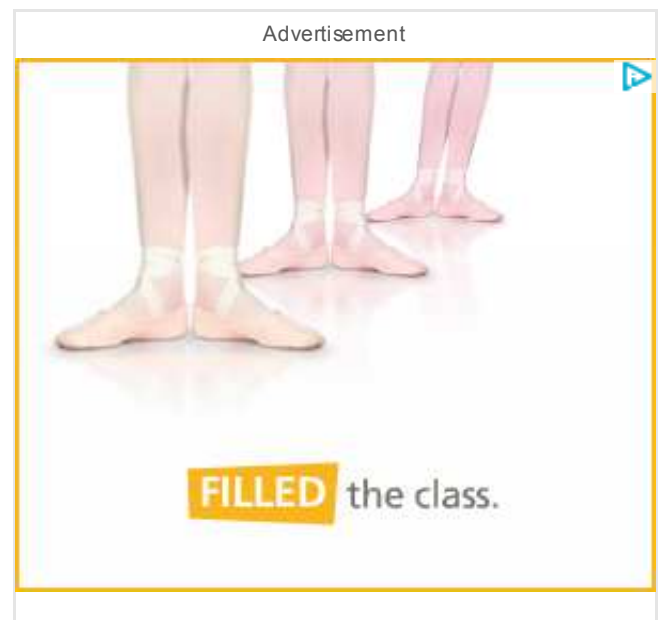
Basically serving as director Ciro Ippolito's 'unofficial sequel' to Ridley Scott's sci-fi/horror masterpiece *Alien*, Ippolito's-here credited as 'Sam Cromwell'-*Alien* is subtitled 'On Earth,' and basically has nothing to do with the Scott/James Cameron universe of chestbursters, face huggers and alien queens.

Instead, what we have here is a tedious exercise of stock NASA footage, impossibly wooden acting and a molasses-like pacing which seems to dwell upon every unnecessary camera shot in the world, rather than utilizing any cinematography to, I don't know...*move the plot along*.

When there *is* action happening on the screen, it doesn't last for very long. However, there are a few choice scenes of interest for the Italian gorehounds which make *Alien 2: On Earth* borderline watchable...at least for a few moments at a time. Ippolito sets up a small handful of visceral 'n bloody pieces which are appealing, but all too brief. If *Alien 2* chose to venture down this path, there might have been the potential of salvation here, similar to that of Italy's **other** *Alien* rip off from *Starcrash* director Luigi Cozzi's, 1980's far superior *Contamination*.

One glaringly positive aspect of *Alien 2* is the score, delivered by the always exceptional Guido & Maurizio de Angelis, here under the shameful pseudonym of 'Oliver Onions.' *Riiiiigggh*.

Alien 2: Sulla Terra is an admittedly rare film, however, previously available-with good reason-only via shoddy, Dutch VHS transfers. In this department, Midnight Legacy have done a great job a restoring and reissuing this film to those masochists and/or insomniacs who are indeed interested in Cippolito's labor of love; a careful presentation for a film which, although an utter and complete train wreck, should probably be viewed at least once by connoisseurs of fine Italian cheese.



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