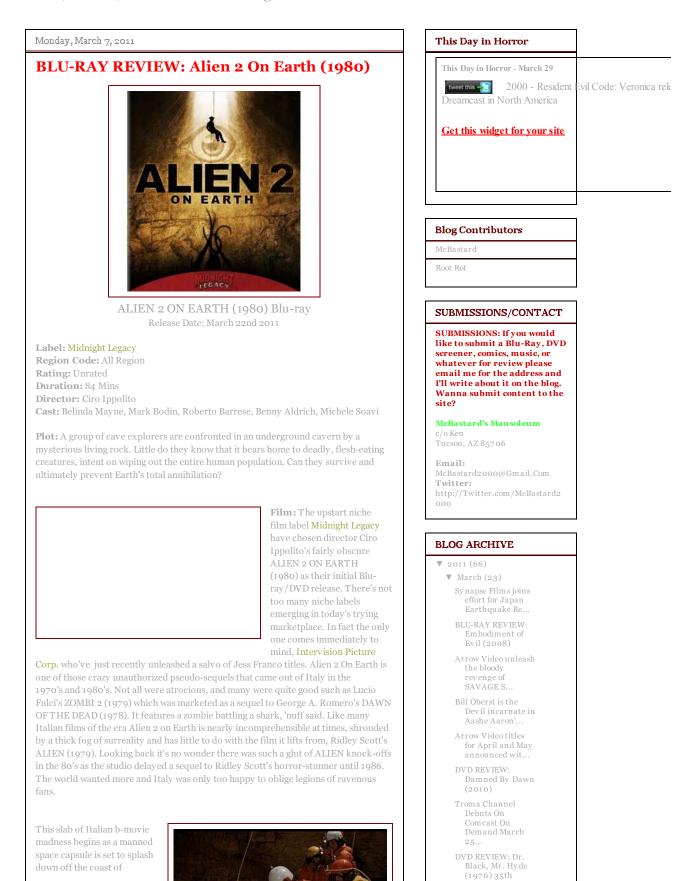
McBASTARD'S MAUSOLEUM

indie, horror, and cult cinema blog.

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California. The Navy have assembled a recovery team and we are treated to a confusing montage of grainy 8mm stock footage of space capsules and Navy



fleet maneuvers - it's nearly unwatchable but it does set-up that the spacecraft was mysteriously found to be empty upon splashdown. We are then introduced to Thelma (Belinda Mayne, of KRULL) the leader of a team of spelunking speleologists and her boyfriend Roy (Mark Bodin of ANTHROPOPHAGUS) as she make an appearance on a television program to comment on the returning space mission. What qualifies her for such commentary eludes me, but I'll allow it. While on air Thelma suffers a psychic breakdown of sorts which renders her unable to carry-on the interview. It's an odd occurrence and not explained to my satisfaction but throw reason to the wind for it will not be needed here or elsewhere in this film. Next thing we know Thelma and her team are gearingup for a weekend of cave exploration when Burt (played by actor turned director Michelle Soavi, CEMETERY MAN) discovers a peculiar blue rock and promptly tosses it in his backpack for examination later. Turns out this is no rock at all but the egg of a parasitic alien organism that was somehow scattered throughout the coastal during the arrival of the unmanned space capsule. Again, no explanation, just go with it. Once below ground things are what some might generously call deliberately paced, not that the first 20 minutes were screaming with action though. Adding to the sleepy time hypnotic pace of the film is an alternately sleepy and creepy score from Guido and Maurizo De Angelis. Mercifully at about the forty-five minute mark the blue meteorite/alien egg shows signs of life. It begins to pulsate and hatches a beasty that looks like a bloody pile of loose meat. Entering through the mouth the parasite incubates and then explodes not from the chest, but from the victims head, completely decimating the face in a spew of bloody viscera. The facial eruptions are by the far the most enjoyable parts of the film and in true Fulci-gore style there are several instances of grotesque eyeball mutilation. Once the creature makes itself known the spelunkers are forced deeper into the cave looking for an alternate exit.



While most of the remaining team have their faces popped like blood filled zits Thelma and Roy escape the cave and the finale of the film plays out in a bowling alley, WTF right? There they are confronted by the barelyseen and apparently much larger creature. Unfortunately the films seemingly meager

budget seems to have been spent on the face decimating eruptions and what we get here are rather disappointing POV shots from inside the creatures mouth, again looking like a pile of bloody shredded meat. Thelma again escapes the creature and runs through the now abandoned streets of San Diego implying an apocalyptic ending wherein that the creatures have taken over the city, perhaps even the world.

DVD: Midnight Legacy's inaugural release of Alien 2 On Earth is surely the definitive version of film, transferred from the original 35mm negative, its uncut and runs longer than any other version available. This perfectly compliments Midnight Legacy's Mission Statement of releasing films uncut in their original aspect ratios/audio in spine-numbered, limited edition collectible pressings. The film is presented in a 16:9 enhanced 1.85:1 aspect ratio in wonderful 1080p and looks surprising good, it's crisp, clear and offers a good amount of fine detail. The colors are vibrant and the natural grain is not overwhelming. The depth of the black levels are quite good, inky and deep. The image is a bit soft but after watching a unrestored trailer from the film's Dutch VHS release it's quite clear how stunning the blu-ray truly is, great job on Midnight Legacy's part for the brilliant transfer. I would have to assume this is far superior to even the initial theatrical release of the film. Audio options consist solely of a DTS-MA 2.0 stereo mix, there are some occasional hiss and pops but nothing overly distracting. Far more concerning is the fact that the film was entirely dubbed in post-production as most Italian films of era were but this is no fault of Midnight Legacy. No subtitle options are included. The special features are kept to a minimum with only the aforementioned Dutch trailer and a 11 minute special effects outtake reel, not outstanding but given the obscure nature of the film there's probably not much available. I would've loved subtitles and a Ippolito commentary or a brief featurette speaking to the many ALIEN knock-offs of the era but the fine transfer is

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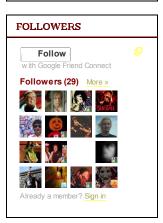
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LABELS	
1940's(1)	
1950's (1)	
1960's(1)	
1970's (12)	
1980's (16)	
1990's (4)	
2000's (24)	
2010(1)	
3D(3)	
Aaron Eckhart (1)	
Aashe Aaron (1)	
Action (2)	
Adam Green (1)	
Adam West (1)	
Adaptation (1)	
Adrian Santiago(1)	
Adriano Stuart (1)	
Adrienne Corri (1)	
Aldo Ray (1)	
Alejandro Jodorowsky (L)
Alex Aja (1)	
Alex Aldridge (1)	
Alfred Hitchcock (1)	
Alien (4)	
Aliens(2)	
Aliens Resident Evil (1)	
Amicus Films (1)	

Andrew Divoff(1)
Andrew Prine (1)
Andy Milligan (1)
Angus Scrim (1)
Anthony Fankhauser (1)
Anthony Higgins (1)
Anthony Hopkins (1)
Antony L. Ginnane (1)
Apocaly pse (1)
April Monique Burril (1)
Armstrong (1)
Arrow Acedemy (2)
Arrow Video (16)
Asian Cinema (2)
Australian Cinema (4)
Australian Horror (2)
Award(1)
B-movie(1)
Backwoods (1)
Banshees (1)
Barry Humphries (1)
Barry Ocker (1)
Battle Epic (1)
BBFC (1)
Belinda Mayne (1)
Ben Johnson (1)
Benny Aldrich (1)
Bernie Casey (1)
Bestiality (1)
Bikini (1)
Bill Curtis (1)
Bill Oberst (1)
Bill Obrst. Horror (1)
Bill Zebub (1)
Black Comedy (4)
Blag Dahlia (1)
Blaxploitation (2)
Blu-Ray (5)
Blue Underground (2)
Bob Behling (1)
Bobbie Bresee (1)
Bobcat Goldthwait (1)
Bong Joon-Ho (1)
Book (1)
Boxset (1)
Brandon Slagle (1)
Breaking Glass Pictures (2)
Brett Anstey (1)
Brett Newton (1)
Brian Cox (1)
Brian McLaughlin (1)
Brian Trenchard-Smith (1)

Prior Vynge (1)
Brian Yunza (1)
Brian Yuzna (1)
British Cinema (1)
British Horror (7)
Bruce Bedeford (1)
Bruce Breseford (1)
Calvin Culver (1)
Camp (1)
Cannibal (2)
Cannibals (1)
Carl Parker (1)
Carol Carr (1)
Carol Reed (1)
Carrel Strucken (1)
Casino (1)
Catriona MacColl (1)
Chad Ferrin (2)
Chainsaw Sally (1)
Charles A. Pierce (1)
Charles Band (7)
Charles Casillo (1)
Charles Durning (2)
Chloe Moretz (1)
Chris Jones (1)
Chris Milne (1)
Chris Potter (1)
Christine Tremarco (1)
Cinema Epoch (6)
Cinzia Monreale (1)
Ciro Ippolito (2)
Claire Wilbur (1)
Clive Barker (2)
Clowns (1)
Code Red DVD (1)
Coffin Joe (3)
Combs(1)
Comcast (1)
Comedy (11)
Comparison (1)
Contest (1)
Creature (2)
Crime (2)
Crook Brothers (1)
Crown Internation Pictures (1)
Cult (5)
Cult Labs (1)
Dagur Kar (1)
Daniel Emilfork (1)
Daniel Morgan (1)
Danielle Harris (1)
Danny Dyer (1)
Danny Steinmann (1)

Daphne Zuniga (1)
Daria NIcolodi (4)
Dario Argeneto (2)
Dario Argento (7)
Dark Comedy (1)
Dark Night of the Scarecrow (1)
David A. Priot (1)
David Allen (2)
David Argue (1)
David Blythe (1)
David DeCocteau (2)
David Hemmings (1)
David Schmoeller (1)
David Snow (1)
David Warbeck (1)
Demons (3)
Dennis Gulpilil (2)
Dennis Hopper (2)
Dennis Van Zak (1)
Docmentary (1)
Docudrama (1)
Documentary (2)
Dolls (2)
Dominic Monaghan (1)
Dominic West (1)
Don Henderson (1)
Donald Farmer (1)
Donald Pleasance (3)
Drama (2)
Drew Daywalt (1)
Drugs(1)
DVD (22)
Echo Bridge Entertainment (3)
Edmund Purdom (1)
Edwige Fenech (1)
Elias Koteas (1)
Elsa Pataky (1)
Embodiment of Evil (1)
Empire International Pictures (1)
Eroka Blanc (1)
Erotica (1)
Erotoca (1)
Euro-Horror (1)
Eurosleaze (1)
Exploitation (17)
Explotation (1)
Fantasy (1)
Film Posters (1)
Fiona Horsey (1)
Foreign (1)
Foreign Horror (2)
Frank De Felitta (1)

Frank Thring (1)	
Frank Vestiel (1)	
Frank Zappa (1)	
Fred Vogel (1)	
French Horror (1)	
Friedrich Gulda (1)	
Full Moon Features (7)	
Gamera (1)	
Gangster (1)	
Gareth Edwards (1)	
Gary King (1)	
Gary Sherman (1)	
Gary Slayton (1)	
Gay Cinema (1)	
George A. Romero (3)	
George Miller (1)	
George Takei (1)	
Gerald Grant (1)	
Gerard Gonalons (1)	
Gerrit Graham (1)	
Ghost (2)	
Ghosts (5)	
Giallo (4)	
Gianetto Di Rossi (1)	
Ginevra Colunna (1)	
Glenn Ford (1)	
Glenn McQuaid (1)	
Glory Annen (2)	
Godzilla (1)	
Golden Showers (1)	
Grace Jones (1)	
Great White (1)	
Greg Connors(1)	
Grindhouse (4)	
Guest Review (3)	
Guillermo del Toro (1)	
Guy Rolfe (1)	
Hal Holbrook (1)	
Hammer Films (3)	
Hanna Stanbridge (1)	
Harriet Robinson (1)	
Harry Kerwin (1)	
Harry Kumel (1)	
Haunted House (1)	
Henri-George Clouzot (1)	
Henri-Georges Clouzot (1)	
Herschell Gordon Lewis (2)	
Historical (1)	
Holly Hunter (1)	
Horror (51)	
Incest (1)	
India Allen (1)	

In	die (1)
In	tervision Picture Corp (1)
In	troduction (1)
Is	rael Luna (2)
	alian Cinema (2)
	alian Horror (4)
	an Reitman (1)
	anna Novak. Mill Creek
E	ntertainment (1)
J	Horror (2)
J	Horror (2)
J.	D. Feigelson (2)
Ja	ack Elam (1)
Ja	ack Sholder (2)
Ja	ake West (1)
Ja	ames Cosmo (1)
Ja	ames Nesbitt (1)
Ja	amie Winstone (1)
Ja	ane Ryall (1)
Ja	apan (2)
Ja	apan Earthquake Relief Fund (1)
Ja	apanese Horror (5)
Ja	ason Patrick (1)
Ja	aws (1)
Je	ece Valadão (1)
Je	eckyll and Hyde (1)
Je	effrey Combs(1)
Je	effrey Obrow (1)
Je	ennifer Connelly (1)
Je	ens Jorgen Thorsen (1)
Je	eremy Benson (1)
Je	ess Franco (2)
Je	essica Dublin (1)
Ji	-Tu Cumbuka (1)
Ji	im Lewis (1)
Ji	im Sturgess (1)
Ji	immyo Burril (1)
J	ody Hansen (1)
J	ohn Carpenter (1)
J	ohn D. Lamond (2)
J	bhn Harrison (1)
J	bhn Holmes (2)
J	ohn Lechago (1)
J	bhn Saxon (1)
J	onas(1)
J	oni Flynn (1)
J	ose MArins (1)
J	oseph Cotton (1)
J	oseph Guzman (2)
J	oseph Zito (1)
J	osé Mojica Marins (1)

T. I	ing CombaDaine Verse (c)
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Keit	th J. Crockerman (2)
Kev	in Gage (1)
Kev	in S. Tenney (1)
Kev	in Williamson (1)
Kill	er in a Bearsuit (1)
Kod	i Smit-McPhee (1)
Kor	ea (1)
Lan	nberto Bava (1)
Lar	ry Drake (3)
Lar	ry Fessenden (1)
Lau	rie Lapinski (1)
Lett	ter (1)
Leti	ter. Donald Farmer. Scream am (1)
	a Romay (1)
	da Blair (1)
	nea Quigley (1)
	io Fulci (6)
	nn Lowry (1)
Mag (1)	gnolia Home Entertainment
Mai	n Vs. Nature (1)
Mai	nny Coto (1)
Mai	rie O'Henry (1)
Mai	rijauna (1)
Mai	rio Bava (1)
Mai	rk Bodin (1)
Mai	ry Warnov (1)
Mas	safumi Yamada (1)
Mas	sh-Up (1)
Mat	thew Temple (1)
Mat	tt Dillon (1)
Mat	tt Reeves (1)
Mat	tthew Kohnen (1)
Mel	issa Deverian (1)
Mel	issa Moore (1)
Mei	na Suvari (1)
Mic	hael Berryman (1)
Mic	hael Fassbender (1)
Mic	hael Gaglio (1)
	hele Soavi (1)
	hele Soavi and Judy Perrin
(1)	
Mil	l Creek Entertainment (7)
Mil	t Kogan (1)
Mit	chell Reichler (1)

Moj	jiica Marins (1)
Mo	nster (1)
	setta Vander (1)
	tants (1)
	D Entertainment Group (1)
	D Visual (1)
	zi Exploitation (1)
	zisploitation (1)
	crophelia (1)
	l Marshall (1)
	p-Noir (1)
	w Zealnd (1)
	ll Bruton (1)
	o Mastorakis (2)
	cole Kidman (1)
-	tht of the Living Dead (1)
	r (1)
	scure (2)
	scure. DVD (1)
Occ	eult (1)
Olg	a Kurylenko (1)
On	-Demand (1)
On	e Sheets (1)
Ors	son Welles (1)
OZ]	ploitation (3)
Pac	eao Plaza (1)
Pac	co Plaza (1)
Par	nela Holland (1)
Pat	ricia Wymer (1)
Pau	ıl Dano (1)
Pau	ıl Le Mat (2)
Pau	ıl Naschy (1)
Pea	rry Tea (1)
Pet	er Firth (1)
Pet	er Jackson (1)
Pet	er Marshall (1)
Pey	ten Aldridge (1)
Phi	lip Ridley (1)
Phi	lippe Moira (1)
Phi	llipe Robert (1)
Por	n Chic (1)
Por	no(1)
Pos	t-War (1)
Pre	ss Release (2)
Psy	chological Thriller (1)
	olic Domain (1)
	ık (1)
	opet Master (2)
	opets (1)
	lley Metzher (1)
	ndy Aldridge (1)
Rar	

Day Winstone (1)	
Ray Winstone (1)	
Remake (1)	
Revenge (2)	
Review (38)	
Richard Franklin (1)	
Richard Franken (1)	
Richard Jenkins (1)	
Richard Wenk (2)	
Rob Zom bie (1)	
Rober R. Best (1)	
Robert Dryer (1)	
Robert Hall (1)	
Robert Helpmann (1)	
Robert Lyons (1)	
Robert Tayman (1)	
Robert Wise (1)	
Robert Young (1)	
Roberto Barrese (1)	
Robin Williams(1)	
Robot Chicken (1)	
Rock 'n' Roll Horror (1)	
Rock N' Roll (1)	
Roffe Kenefsky (1)	
Roger Corman (1)	
Roger Deutsch (1)	
Rolfe Kanefsky (1)	
Root Rot (1)	
Rosalind Cash (1)	
Rui Resende (1)	
Rutger Hauer (1)	
Ryan Andrews (1)	
Ry an Nicholson (1)	
Sacha Bennett (1)	
Salsher (1)	
Sam Irvin (1)	
Sam Whitney Abler (1) Schlock (1)	
Sci-Fi (15)	
Scott Kenmore (1) Sean Whalen (1)	
Sequel (4)	
Sergio Martino (1)	
Severin Films (1)	
Shameless Entertainmet (1)	
Shameless Screen Entertainment	
(2)	
Sharks (1)	
Shout Factory (1)	
Sid Haig (1)	
Sid Haig (1)	
Sid Haig (1) Simonio Caparrini (1)	

S	onny Chiba (1)
S	ophie Ward (1)
S	outh Africa (2)
S	OV (1)
S	panish Horror (2)
S	platter (1)
S	RS Cinema (1)
S	tephanie Rothman (1)
S	tephen Carpenter (1)
S	tephen Rhea (1)
S	tephen Sachs (1)
S	toner (1)
S	tuart Gordon (1)
S	ubway (1)
S	uicide (2)
S	uper 8mm (1)
S	upernatural (3)
S	usan Penhaligan (1)
S	ynapse Films (9)
Т	akashi Miike (1)
Т	akashi Shimizu (1)
Т	akashi Shumizu (1)
Т	eam America: World Police (1)
	ed Priot (1)
Т	ed V. Mikels (1)
	erry Levene (1)
Т	erry Stone (1)
Т	he Dwarves (1)
Т	horley Walters (1)
Т	hriller (9)
Т	imothy Muskatell (1)
Т	LACult (1)
Т	oetag Inc (1)
Т	om Savini (3)
Т	omoya Kainuma (1)
Т	ony Maylan (1)
	ony Todd (1)
	rannies (1)
	rent Haaga (1)
	roma (5)
	ucson (1)
Т	V (2)
	mbrella Entertainment (3)
	mbrella Entertauinment (2)
	indead (1)
	ampire (3)
	ampires (3)
	CI Entertainment (2)
	CX (1)
-V	
	HS (1)
V	HS (1) icious Circle Films (5)

Victo	ria De Mare (1)
Vitto	rio De Sica (2)
Weir	d (1)
Wes (Craven (1)
West	ern (1)
Wild	Eye Releasing (4)
	Eye Releasing. Mark stein (1)
Willia	am Berger (1)
Willia	am Crain (1)
Willia	am Hickey (1)
Willia	am Malone (1)
Willia	am Shatner (1)
Witel	n (1)
Wolfg	gang Buld (1)
WW2	(1)
Yaku	za (1)
Zomb	pie-Fiction (1)
Zomb	pies (11)

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