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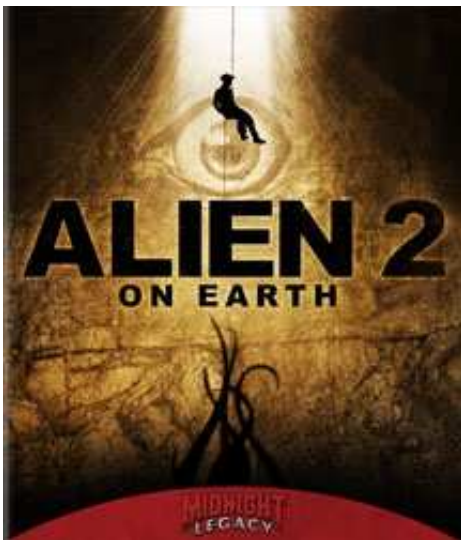
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Friday Night Frights: Alien 2 On Earth Blu Ray Review

March 18, 2011 2 Comments



On their way to a research trip in the caves of California, a group of spelunkers find a unique stone at a rest stop. They take the stone and continue down into the caves, unaware that the stone is really an alien form that has arrived as part of an invasion of Earth. Once in the caves, things go fine as they explore, bond and type up their findings by candlelight (seriously!) Things go incredibly bad when the rock begins to pulsate and a creature springs out, attacking one of the female spelunkers. As the creature begins to pick off the trapped scientists one by one, they rush to find a way out of the caves to safety.

Long before The Asylum was banging out Mockbusters like Transmorphers and Battle of Los Angeles the Italian movie community had a similar method to their movies. They would take popular (and sometimes unpopular even!) movies and make an unofficial “sequel” to the movie. This is how we got classic moments in Italian Cinema such as Troll 2 and Zombie 2. Well, after the success of Alien, Italian Ciro Ippolito traveled to California to shoot a follow up that had absolutely nothing to do with the original. In fact Alien 2 bears more of a resemblance to Invasion of the Body Snatchers if you ask me.

The movie starts out extremely slow, with the first 20 minutes highlighted by a rousing extreme action shot of a bowling match. After that, things ramp up quickly but you can legitimately watch the first 5 minutes and then fast

forward past all of the stock footage to the 20 minute mark where the little girl goes wandering down the beach and not miss anything at all.

Director Ciro Ippolito utilizes a cutaway shot followed by a 3D like follow up shot several times during the movie. For example, we are watching some people on the beach when it appears the action will pick up and then, Wham! You are at the bowling alley standing behind the pin setter watching a bowling ball roll toward you. This was an interesting effect that was fun. We see it throughout the film, as later we get views through the alien's mouth as well. Speaking of bowling alleys, we get a ton of footage from the alley, especially behind the scenes as we tour the pin setting machines, shoe rooms and various other behind the scenes spots. His choice to shoot in the caves seems even better after watching this Blu Ray. The background detail is intricate and very effective in setting the tone of the movie.

The plot is pretty straightforward, as the majority of the movie is the alien facing off against the spelunkers in the caves. The ending for some reason caught me off guard and I really liked it. Now I won't just blurt it out for those who will be checking out Alien 2 but there were two aspects that I really liked, one of which has to do with the bowling ally.

Wow Midnight Legacy! What a way to introduce yourself to the Blu Ray market. I cannot believe how good Alien 2 On Earth looks in High Definition! Colors are natural and the brightly colored slickers when in the caves look fantastic. You can see the textures perfectly and the 80s facial scruff on certain characters are highly detailed. Blacks are very deep, better than many recently released movies. This is crucial given the amount of the movie that takes place in the caverns. There is a light layer of grain present but nothing like one would expect from a movie like this. The distinctive 80s practical effects are beautifully delivered and I could not be happier with this transfer which is taken from the original 35mm negative print. Did I mention I cannot wait to see what Midnight Legacy releases next?

The audio is provided on a DTS HD 2.0 audio track. Honestly the grating noises in the caves and the 80s synth score are fine in the 2.0 format. Having a 5.1 mix would be too much noise. There is a slight bit of noise on this audio transfer; however, they are fleeting and do not affect the presentation. Overall it is a very solid audio track as well.

The original 1980's Dutch VHS trailer for Alien 2 On Earth is included and is a nice highlight reel of the best practical effects. I love old trailers and seeing foreign ones is a bonus. The other special feature is a roll of special effects footage that lasts a little over 10 minutes. Although there is no sound, it is still a lot of fun to watch the different tapings of the alien flying out of its victim's face and to see the handheld equipment being taped before the digital screen effects are added in. I would love to have seen a piece on Midnight Legacy given this is their initial offering but with a movie like this, any special features are a bonus. Much like a Criterion release, Alien 2 is spine numbered, which for a collector like myself, is cool. The print runs are limited and the company has said that after the original run of Blu Rays and DVDs are sold out there will not be a reissue.

I had no idea of what I was in store for when I popped Alien 2 into the Blu Ray player! This is just a fun horror movie night for drinking and hanging out with friends. The effects are great and the ending was actually good. Admittedly, this is not a movie for everyone, but if you enjoy cheesy 80s Italian cinema then this is a blind buy. I really had fun watching Alien 2 On Earth and I was impressed with the care put into this Blu Ray release by Midnight Legacy.

Recommended

Special Features:Original Dutch Trailer
Special Effects Footage

Alien 2 On Earth is available on Blu Ray as of March 22, 2011, courtesy of Midnight Legacy and MVD Releasing.



- [1980's Sci-Fi Alien 2 on Earth comes to Blu Ray on March 22nd](#) (0.506)
- [Friday Night Frights: Attack of the Multi Pack! Review and Mega Contest](#) (0.317)
- [From the Vaults: Friday the 13th Part 3 in 3D Blu Ray Review](#) (0.309)
- [Friday Night Frights: Harpoon: Whale Watching Massacre Blu Ray Review](#) (0.302)
- [Dirty Tricks DVD Review](#) (0.295)

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2 Comments to "Friday Night Frights: Alien 2 On Earth Blu Ray Review"

1.  *rock* says:

[March 19, 2011 at 2:20 am](#)

was looking more like a bowling film then a horror film by your review , but still would give this a trie , like big fan of horror films from the 80's , Also quite curious to see what Midnight Legacy will bring to the table

also i dont agree with them that their inst another releasing company like them . Their vision is quite welcome heres what they had to say about themselves on their site. Only thing i dont know , is what were they doing before doing a releasing company , since they seem to implice they already known in the film/dvd buisness

”About

MIDNIGHT LEGACY team:

Bill Knight ? Dolph Chiarino ? Chris Mantovi

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

For over 12 years, our worldwide customers have repeatedly asked when we would enter the realm of retail home video releases. We have entered...

After waiting patiently for a true leader to appear and properly represent these niche films, we realized that the wait would be endless. We have become tired of the disappointment – titles being cut, improperly framed, suffering from excessive digital manipulations, incompetently encoded, or mastered from

unacceptable sources. And then there are all the titles that have been overlooked. Everyone hoped somebody would emerge to break the cycle. We believe we are that pioneer. We have assembled a team with the experience and knowledge to finally, and faithfully, represent this genre.

Our venture is driven by a series of simple values that will not only distinguish us from “competitors,” but will also provide the measure for all our releases. Our collection is based on a similar series of fundamental principles that must be absolute in order to maintain high standards that consumers demand in properly preserving these films on Blu-Ray and DVD.

Every release will be fully uncut; no excuses, no rationalizations. Be it cut by ten seconds, or ten minutes, cut is cut.

Every release will be treated with respect, properly restored, and presented as the definitive version of that particular film. If a film cannot be done correctly, it will not be done at all.

All titles will be as originally intended, in their proper aspect ratio, and with lossless audio mixes that remain respectful of the original sound design; you will not find “creative re-imaginings” of ratios or 7.1 remixes of mono soundtracks.

Every transfer and encode will be personally supervised, and struck from the best original film elements. All titles will feature dual-layer encodes, ultra high bitrates, and without excessive digital manipulation, in order to get as close as possible to the look of the original film elements.

All titles will be spine-numbered, limited edition, single pressing, collectible releases. Once sold through, not another piece shall be replicated, ensuring the future value of each part of the collection.

We believe that by demanding and adhering to the rigorous standards above, we can proudly deliver genre films the way they were meant to be seen, and in a way that exceeds customer expectations. We look forward to continuing to serve the serious collector as we have done for nearly 23 years, and remaining the most trusted source in the industry because we know these films, understand these films, and acknowledge the effort that was put forth during the creation of these films. Respecting the original intentions of the filmmakers, preserving the legacy these films have created.

”

2.  *Bulin* says:

[March 19, 2011 at 10:07 am](#)

I know Bill Knight was involved in the company Midnight Video that released a lot of Eurohorror

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News

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