

List of films featuring extraterrestrials wikipedia

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Alien is a science fiction horror and action media franchise centered on the original film series which depicts warrant officer Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) and her battles with an extraterrestrial lifeform, commonly referred to as the Alien ("Xenomorph"), and the prequel series following the exploits of the David 8 android (Michael Fassbender) and the aliens referred to as the "Engineers".

Produced and distributed by 20th Century Studios, the series began with *Alien* (1979), directed by Ridley Scott, and was followed by three sequels: *Aliens* (1986), directed by James Cameron; *Alien 3* (1992), directed by David Fincher; and *Alien Resurrection* (1997), directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Scott also directed the prequel series films *Prometheus* (2012) and *Alien: Covenant* (2017). This was followed by *Alien: Romulus* (2024), which is set between the first two films and was directed by Fede Alvarez.

The series has led to numerous novels, comics, video games and an upcoming television series also titled *Alien: Earth*, developed by Scott for FX on Hulu, with Noah Hawley. It has inspired a number of spin-offs - most notably the *Alien vs. Predator* series, which combines the continuities of the *Alien* franchise with the *Predator* franchise and consists of two films as well as various series of comics, books, and video games.

Writer Dan O'Bannon, wanting to write a science-fiction action film, collaborated with screenwriter Ronald Shusett on a script, initially titled *Star Beast*, but eventually changed to *Alien*. Brandywine Productions, a company which had a distribution deal with 20th Century Fox, bought the script. The writers expected it to be a low-budget film, but the success of *Star Wars* inclined Fox to invest millions.[5]

In the original script, the ship had an all-male crew, though it noted that all roles could be played by men or women without major changes to the film. The Ripley character was initially to be played by Tom Skerritt, but when Fox president Alan Ladd Jr. and the producers at Brandywine heard rumors of Fox working on other titles with strong female leads, it was decided to cast a female as Ripley and Skerritt became Captain Dallas. Ridley Scott came on as director.

Swiss painter and sculptor H. R. Giger designed the alien creature's adult form and the derelict ship, while French artist Moebius created the look of the spacesuits and Ron Cobb provided most of the industrial design for the sets.[6][7][8]

Immediately following the events of *Aliens*, the military ship *USS Sulaco*, carrying the survivors, catches fire. The occupants are ejected in an escape pod, which crash-lands on the refinery/prison planet Fiorina "Fury" 161. All on board except Ripley are killed. An alien facehugger is also aboard, and impregnates an animal with an alien, which soon begins killing inmates and wardens. Ripley discovers an alien queen is growing inside her, and is determined to kill both herself and the creature before Weyland Yutani can exploit them.

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Two hundred years after the events of Alien 3, several clones of Ripley, including the alien queen she was carrying, are grown by the military aboard the USM Auriga. The military intends to exploit the aliens, and uses humans kidnapped and delivered to them by a group of mercenaries as hosts for the queen's eggs. The Aliens escape, and Ripley 8 (a clone mixed with Alien DNA) and the mercenaries attempt to escape and destroy the Auriga before it reaches Earth.

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