

## Film Review

### Alien

15 | 1979 | 117 Mins | Film

**Director:** Ridley Scott

**Story:** Dan O'Bannon

**Special Effects:** Brian Johnson and H.R. Giger

### Synopsis

After a space merchant vessel perceives an unknown transmission as distress call, their landing on the source planet finds one of the crew attacked by a mysterious life form. Continuing their journey back to Earth with the attacked crew having recovered and the critter deceased, they soon realize that its life cycle has merely begun.

### You need

Access to film Online or on DVD. We used the Directors Cut for our timings.

\*We always recommend watching films on the largest screen possible with quality speakers. DVD and BluRays also tend to offer great resources such as Director commentary and featurettes about the making of the film which we always recommend..



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### Background

Wailed as one of the most groundbreaking films of its time, Alien has it all. A strong script, original highly detailed sets coupled with H.R. Giger's vision of the Alien makes for a high tension beautifully crafted film that is hard to forget almost 40 years later. A well deserved Oscar for its Effects.

### Watch out for

- Alien craft (00:25:50)  
First glimpses of the Alien craft distorted through communications glitches, adds to the feeling of unrest and heightens tension.
- Where's it gone? (00:47:00)  
When the alien disappears from its hosts face the scene uses the mundane to raise tension and then disperse it.
- Alien Appears (00:55:00)  
This is arguably the most famous scene in the film and for just reasons.
- Escape (01:46:00)  
Ripley settles into the journey home after destroying the Mother ship and the Alien. A great twist to keep the suspense going to the very end.

### Take from the film...

#### Editing

- ✓ The pace of the edit is deliberately kept slow in order to enhance the shocking scenes in the film.

#### Script

- ✓ The script is heavily detailed and makes the characters more believable in every mundane way.

#### Direction

- ✓ The direction here is second to none. Scott directs the external scenes with as much detail as he directs the characters to give the film its style and look.

### Try...

Try and use the mundane and obvious to hide unexpected outcomes or to enhance moods and heighten tension.