

There are aliens out there says Ridley Scott

PROMETHEUS



1
Release: 2012
Dir: Ridley Scott
Rotten Tomatoes: 72%
Global box office: \$403.4m
Set 30 years before events of original *Alien* movie, scientist **Elizabeth Shaw** (Noomi Rapace) discovers remains of archaeological star map on Earth. It points to same region of space first seen in *Alien*. She joins crew of "*Prometheus*", including synthetic human **David** (Michael Fassbender), and journeys to planet **LV-223**, in search of origins of humanity. Instead, she finds remains of ancient race who were developing biological weapons that could cause extinction of human race



2
Release: May 12, 2017 (UK)
Dir: Ridley Scott
Bound for remote planet on far side of galaxy, crew of colony ship "*Covenant*" find what they believe to be uncharted paradise. It soon reveals itself to be dark and dangerous world inhabited by synthetic **David**



6
Release: 1997
Dir: Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Rotten Tomatoes: 54%
Global box office: \$161.4m
Set 200 years after events in *Alien³*, experimental military clone **Ripley 8** (her DNA mixed with that of alien) and band of mercenaries, including synthetic human **Annalee Call** (Winona Ryder), must escape and destroy ailing **USM Auriga** spaceship before its cargo of lethal aliens reaches Earth

Alien movies chronology

Alien: Covenant, the sixth movie in the hugely successful *Alien* canon, sees original director Ridley Scott, take the series back to its horror film roots. Here's what's happened so far in the almost 40-year-old billion dollar franchise



3
Release: 1979
Dir: Ridley Scott
Rotten Tomatoes: 97%
Global box office: \$104.9m
U.S. commercial starship "*Nostramo*" is diverted to desolate planetoid after receiving distress signal from derelict alien spacecraft. While exploring alien ship, crewman **Kane** (John Hurt) finds chamber full of eggs, one of which releases alien creature that attaches to his face, rendering him unconscious. Parasite soon dies and Kane awakens, seemingly fine. Soon afterwards, alien organism bursts from his chest and grows rapidly into terrifying 2.5m-tall creature that begins killing helpless crew one-by-one, until only **Ellen Ripley** (Sigourney Weaver) remains

4
Release: 1986
Dir: James Cameron
Rotten Tomatoes: 98%
Global box office: \$131.1m
After 57 years in hypersleep, sole survivor of *Nostramo*, Ripley, awakens aboard Earth space station. Her story of alien monster that killed her crew is disbelieved, until contact is lost with planetoid (from original movie, known as **LV-426**) now home to terraforming human colony. Ripley, against her better judgement, accompanies squad of Colonial Marines, including **Corporal Dwayne Hicks** (Michael Biehn), aboard spaceship "*Sulaco*" to investigate. Once there, they discover colonists have been wiped out after finding derelict alien ship and its deadly cargo of eggs

ALIEN³



5
Release: 1992
Dir: David Fincher
Rotten Tomatoes: 44%
Global box office: \$159.8m
Escape pod carrying survivors of *Sulaco* is jettisoned onto ore refinery/prison planet **Fiorina "Fury" 161**. Ripley and damaged synthetic **Bishop** (Lance Henriksen) are only survivors. Unknown to them, alien facehuggers are also aboard and before long, new alien-dog hybrid is killing inmates and guards



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Dir: Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Rotten Tomatoes: 54%
Global box office: \$161.4m
Set 200 years after events in *Alien³*, experimental military clone **Ripley 8** (her DNA mixed with that of alien) and band of mercenaries, including synthetic human **Annalee Call** (Winona Ryder), must escape and destroy ailing **USM Auriga** spaceship before its cargo of lethal aliens reaches Earth

Spin-offs (merging two popular sci-fi franchises)

Alien vs. Predator (AvP)
Release: 2004
Dir: Paul W. S. Anderson
Rotten Tomatoes: 21%
Global box office: \$172.5m
Industrialist **Charles Bishop Weyland** (Lance Henriksen) discovers ancient Antarctic arena - proving grounds for *Alien* and *Predator** monsters

AvP: Requiem
Release: 2007
Dir: The Brothers Strause
Rotten Tomatoes: 12%
Global box office: \$128.9m
Set immediately after *AvP*, *Predalien* hybrid crashes spaceship into small town in Colorado. Veteran *Predator* arrives to clean up hybrid alien infestation

Kane (John Hurt) becoming a little too familiar with alien eggs in *Alien* (1979)

SPOILER WARNING

Paris

"*Alien*" creator Ridley Scott says he's convinced that there are aliens out there -- and one day they could come for us.

The veteran director said on Thursday he believed in higher beings as he prepared to release the sixth episode of the sci-fi horror series, "*Alien: Covenant*", next month.

"I believe in superior beings. I think it is certainly likely. An expert I was talking to at NASA said to me, 'Have you ever looked in the sky at night? You mean to tell me we are it?' That's ridiculous.

"The experts have now put a number on it having assessed what is out there. They say that there are between 100 and 200 entities that could be having a similar evolution to us right now.

"So when you see a big thing in the sky, run for it," he joked.

"Because they are a lot smarter than we are, and if you are stupid enough to challenge them you will be taken out in three seconds."

"*Alien: Covenant*", the second of the prequel films, is set in 2104 on board a spaceship carrying 2,000 cryogenically frozen colonists to a distant planet when they chance upon an uncharted paradise.

But their voyage soon turns into a gory nightmare that makes "*Alien*"'s original "chestbuster" scene seem tame in comparison.

'Hideous beyond belief'

The "neomorph" aliens in the new film are based on the goblin shark "which has a jaw which hinges in two ways. It's scary, hideous beyond belief actually," Scott said.

The 79-year-old British-born director -- who was also the brains behind "*Blade Runner*" -- said he never tired of scaring people out of their skins.

"When I did the first '*Alien*' I had to get a sense of responsibility because the reaction to the kitchen ("chestbuster") scene with John Hurt was beyond anything I expected -- and it was not good," he said.

"But the film was very successful because people are perverse."

He said he could not believe the terror he had created when he went to see people watching the film.

"Everybody was half underneath the seat watching by the time you get to the kitchen scene. There was a woman underneath the seat with her husband holding her. I said this is not healthy."

Scott, however, claimed that he was unshockable.

"Nothing scares me. I have a 9mm (pistol)," he said.

"If there is a problem I tend to close down into calm. When you walk in in the morning on a film and 600 people turn and all look at you, that is scary," he said.

"*Alien: Covenant*" has a religious subtext, the director insisted.

He said he was "agnostic", but this did not stop him making a film about Moses, "*Exodus: Gods and Kings*", in 2014.

"Either religion is the greatest trick played on mankind. Or it is not, and that poses some great questions, and this film is a great context for those," he said.

The film sees Irish actor Michael Fassbender return to his role as the cerebral android David which he played in the last prequel "*Prometheus*" in 2012.

But this time with a twist. Scott uses him to pose questions about the nature of humans.

"There is an artist in there somewhere," Fassbender said in an earlier interview.

"There's definitely an ego in there... So again these are very human things."

"We all want to leave something behind after we go. There's a legacy of some sort that we've left behind," he added.

Scott, who was knighted in 2003, is about to make a film about the Battle of Britain during World War II, when the Royal Air Force fought off the German Luftwaffe. (AFP)



Ridley Scott

*1987 sci-fi movie set in Central American jungle, follows band of soldiers (led by Arnold Schwarzenegger) who fight to survive being hunted by alien predator
Sources: Alien Vault (Aurum Press), Empire magazine, IMDB, Box Office Mojo, Rotten Tomatoes Pictures: © Twentieth Century Fox © GRAPHIC NEWS