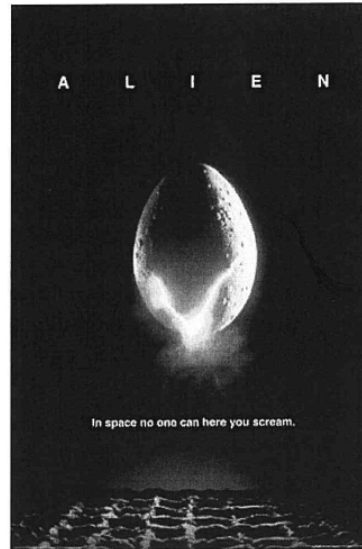


## *Alien* 1979

**Director:** Ridley Scott  
**Writers:** Dan O'Bannon & Ronald Shusett

### Cast

Sigourney Weaver: **Ripley**  
Tom Skerritt: **Dallas**  
Veronica Catwright: **Lambert**  
Harry Dean Stanton: **Brett**  
John Hurt: **Kane**  
Ian Holm: **Ash**



### Awards

Oscar Wins: Best Visual Effects  
Oscar Nomination: Best Art Direction – Set Direction

### Plot Synopsis

In the near future, during its return to the earth, a commercial spaceship Nostromo intercepts a distress SOS from a distant planet. The seven-member crew are woken up from the hyper sleep and the spaceship subsequently descends on the planet. While exploring the planet, a three-member team of the crew discovers a derelict spaceship and a huge chamber inside it containing thousands of eggs. When a curious team member goes too near the egg the parasite inside the egg attacks him, rendering him unconscious. He is brought back aboard, the spaceship takes off. After a little while the parasite dies and his host wakes up seemingly unruffled. Everything returns back to normal - but not for long.

### Tidbits and Trivia

- An early draft of the script had a male Ripley, making this one of at least three films where Sigourney Weaver played a character originally planned to be a man.
- Much of the dialogue was developed through improvisation.
- The front (face) part of the alien costume's head is made from a cast of a real human skull.

### ***ALIEN* – Tidbits and Trivia Contd.**

- Three aliens were made: a model; a suit for seven-foot actor Bolaji Badejo; and another suit for a trained stunt man.
- Many of the interior features of the Nostromo came from airplane graveyards.
- The chest bursting scene was filmed in one take with four cameras.
- It was conceptual artist 'Ron Cobb (I)' who came up with the idea that the Alien should bleed acid. This came about when Dan O'Bannon couldn't find a reason why the Nostromo crew just wouldn't shoot the Alien with a gun.
  
- Ridley Scott did all the hand-held camera-work himself.
- The blue laser lights that were used in the alien ship's egg chamber were borrowed from The Who. The band was testing out the lasers for their stage show in the soundstage next door.
- The embryonic movements of the face-hugger, prior to bursting out of its egg, were created by Ridley Scott using both his rubber-gloved hands.

### **The Character of Ellen Ripley**

“Ellen Ripley”, the main protagonist of the *Alien* film series played by American actress Sigourney Weaver, and the only character to appear in every film of the franchise. The character is often considered as one of the bests of all time: it was heralded as a seminal role for challenging gender roles, particularly in the science fiction, action and horror genres, gave world recognition to Weaver and remains her most famous role to date.

*Alien* gave Sigourney Weaver worldwide recognition, yet it was her involvement in the second installment of the franchise, *Aliens* (directed by James Cameron this time) that garnered her most praise. She was the second horror actress in history (after Ellen Burstyn for *The Exorcist*) to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress. She also received a nomination for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Motion Picture Drama, and won the Saturn Award for Best Actress, the first award in her career.

“Ellen Ripley” has been included in many best characters lists:

- In 2011, *Total Film* ranked her first of their top of the 100 Greatest Female Characters.
- Been selected as the eighth greatest hero in American cinema history by the *American Film Institute*
- The 5th coolest hero in pop culture by *Entertainment Weekly*
- The 9th greatest movie character ever by *Empire* (the highest-placing female of the list)
- The 8<sup>th</sup> best movie character of all time by *Premiere*