

ARTS

'Rambo' brought to outer space with 'Aliens'

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Arts Editor

"Aliens," the sequel to the 1979 science-fiction horror flick "Alien," has been elected to the Rambo Institute of Guts and Glory.

Sigourney Weaver, reappearing in her role as Ripley, the starship wonderwoman in tank tops, has once again drawn the task to cleanse the universe of slimy, trap-jawed varmints.

The film commences with Ripley and her cat Jonesy being found after 57 years in a deep hypersleep. Ripley, after her ordeal in the first film, has recurring nightmares of the intestinally-gestated aliens that plague her endlessly until she is convinced by "The Company" (her former employer) to return to space and discover why a colony of workers are having problems transmitting signals to Earth.

Of course the audience knows as well as Ripley that the critters from the last film are the problem. Yet Ripley hops on a space ship, along with a protegee from "The Company" named Berke, played by Paul Reiser, and a crew of madcap Marines who are ready to blow some chunks out of anything that gets in their way in their mission to find out what happened to the colonists.

The crew of Marines consists of a cigar-chewing sergeant, a muscular bandanna-brandishing Chicano woman who makes Sly Stallone look like the Queen Mother at a tea party, an android named Bishop that looks like a mannequin at J.C. Penney's and a slew of other blonde leather-neck dullards that ridicule Ripley for her warnings of the aliens.

After landing on the planet in question, the crew finds that the colonists are all gone, but after a little ship-searching, discover the colonists

suspended in mucus webs waiting to hatch more aliens that have been implanted in their innards. The Marines then begin to take heed to Ripley's warnings.

Continuing farther into the colony, the Marines start to get picked off by the aliens one at a time. We are presented with a few obligatory blood-and-guts scenes until there are just two Marines, Bishop the android, Berke the conniving company man, and Ripley left to fend for themselves in the bowels of the colony.

Soon they stumble upon a little girl whose name, fittingly, is Newt. Since Newt's parents have been made into alien bait, Ripley's maternal instincts surface and she cares for Newt while simultaneously filling the space critters full of hot laser lead.

Newt shows Ripley the secret passages of the colony since she is the only human to survive on the planet. With the help of Bishop at the computer, the remainder of the

crew finally see that they have some hope of being rescued from this hellish planet chock-full of hungry aliens.

However, things are not as easy as they seem to be. As Ripley and the rest of the crew attempt their final escape, Newt gets whisked away in an air chute into a pool of sludge water, only to be kidnapped by the aliens and put into the mucus bank to be later implanted with an alien egg.

Protectively, Ripley knows in her heart that Newt is still alive even though she has been cocooned in goo. Ripley goes to rescue Newt from the clutches of peril armed with enough ammunition to put as many holes in the aliens as there are in a colander.

Ripley succeeds in destroying all the aliens in sight until she chances upon the head alien/egg-layer that has been perpetuating the species. The mother alien makes the others appear to be playful puppies in comparison. Ripley conquers the mother alien by blowing it out the

cargo chute.

The mother alien however has stuck to the outside of the escape ship (slightly similar flashback to the last film's ending). After the remaining crew thinks that they have arrived to safety, the alien pierces Bishop, the android, which showers white milky android slop everywhere on the landing pad. Ripley then takes things into her own hands and rids the universe of the mother alien in a heroic ending, while still protecting the little Newt.

For space buffs and sci-fi nuts, this flick will not be a disappointment, but there are some slight problems

with the plot and the characters. First, the characters consist of a group of Marines who are very similar to the other characters in the recent trend of flag-waving invincible fighters. There is absolutely no reason that Marines even have to be incorporated into the film. "The Company" is responsible for sending the colonists into a dangerous situation with the aliens — why does it need the Marines and/or the U.S. government to get them out? The only reason would probably be to cash in on the success of other films

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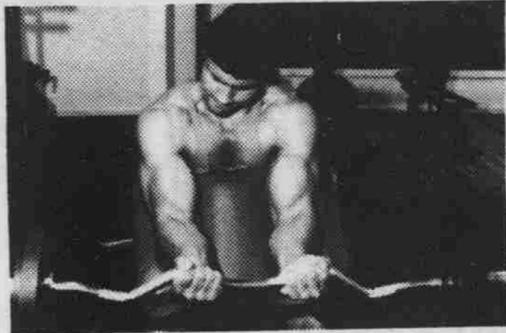
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