

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Alien</b>
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Film Subjects	Alien, Scott, Ridley, 1979

Director - Ridley Scott  
 Producers - Gordon Carroll, David Giler & Walter Hill  
 Executive Producer - Ronald Shusett  
 Screenplay - Dan O'Bannon  
 Director of Photography - Derek Vanlint  
 Art Directors - Les Dilley & Roger Chirstian  
 Set Design - Michael Seymour  
 Costumes - John Mollo  
 Editor - Terry Rawlings  
 Music - Jerry Goldsmith

Special Effects - Brian Johnson & Nick Alider  
 Assistant Director - Paul Ibbetson

CAST:

Dallas ..... Tom Skerritt  
 Ripley ..... Sigourney Weaver  
 Lambert ..... Veronica Cartwright  
 Brett ..... Harry Dean Stanton  
 Kane ..... John Hurt  
 Ash ..... Ian Holm  
 Parker ..... Yaphet Kotto

In the spring of 1976, Dan O'Bannon wrote a 20-page story for a possible film about a monster stowaway on board a spaceship who kills off a number of its crew, influenced by such old movie favorites of his as THE THING and IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE (1958). In O'Bannon's words, it was designed as "a mood piece, a science-fiction terror piece ... very Lovecraftian", and planned for under a million dollars if filmed non-union, or \$4-5 million if studio-made. His fellow writer, Ronald Shusett, persuaded O'Bannon to go for a bigger budget and a major studio production.

Writer-director Walter Hill got ahold of the script, did a fast rewrite, and with his company, Brandywine Productions, submitted it to 20th Century-Fox. Since the studio saw the science-fiction trappings of STAR WARS and the blatant shock elements of THE OMEN, they bought it. In the course of the filming, O'Bannon's simple story was inflated into a \$10 million epic JAWS in outer space.

Incense was constantly burned on the set to give the film a pastel look, which might also account for the bored, drugged stupor of the actors and Scott's interminable, languid plot exposition in his style. Many problems occurred as several ideas were tried and failed, the most major of them being the alien itself looking too much like a man in a suit, which it still does, so most of the abundant monster footage was cut before release.

After its artily moody, somber beginning, ALIEN becomes a drawn-out, standard monster-on-the-loose movie, with its un-resourceful truck-driver types dealing illogically and ineffectually with the menace, like stupidly standing and staring at it. Appropriately, Ridley Scott directed from his tv commercial experience, like a series of bits and pieces calculated to sell shock moments as if they were products.

But the film has been enormously popular and commercially successful, despite mixed reviews at the time. An Oscar was voted for its special effects, and the British Film Academy gave it their award for Soundtrack.

- Dale Winogura