

The Alien Movies Are Deeply Political, No Matter What Conservatives Say

A new TV show based on the franchise promises to explore 'inequality.' Good.



Photo: 20th Century Studio

The showrunner for FX's upcoming *Alien* TV series [told 'Vanity Fair' that "it's not a Ripley story,"](#) a reference to Sigourney Weaver's legendary xenomorph-killing character in four of the hit franchise's movies. What *Fargo* and *Legion* creator Noah Hawley said next, though, has stirred up controversy, at least amongst look-at-me! look-at-me! conservatives.

Hawley was respectful of Ripley, calling her "one of the greatest characters of all time." He then went on to admit the *Alien* movies are "not just monster movies." Now here's where Twitter right-wingers lost it: Hawley told 'Vanity Fair' he wants to explore themes in his show like "inequality." That word triggered some sort of "woke" alert that summoned the clean-shaven trolls, like lawyers to a car wreck. Other words that inspire similar face-clawing hysteria: compassion, fairness, honesty.

This tweet from Dave Rubin sums up the reaction to Hawley's interview:



Dave Rubin ✓
@RubinReport



I've been saying for years that Wokeism is a parasite that fully infects the host and then eventually bursts forth like in the movie Alien.

The circle is now complete...



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@DiscussingFilm

Noah Hawley says his 'ALIEN' series is not a Ripley story and will instead explore "what happens when the inequality we're struggling with now isn't resolved."

Filming is eyeing to begin in Spring 2022.

(Source: [vanityfair.com/hollywood/2021...](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2021...))

11:51 PM · Jul 1, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Photo: Twitter

I'd say this is the most pointlessly histrionic post on social media but I know I'd be wrong. Young Rubin will find something else to be just as outraged about but today, it's a TV show that hasn't started shooting based on a movie about a future where all-powerful corporations frequently use blue-collar employees as bait to catch a killing machine they hope to tame and sell as weapons.

In this sci-world, space travel is for-profit and management

keeps a close eye on their workers with undercover androids. I imagine those cyborgs come in handy when busting intergalactic unions.

I really don't know why conservatives are complaining about a movie where conservatism wins but clicks don't click themselves, you know? Rubin is one of those Very Online People who will jump at any opportunity to Tweet the word "woke," which is a right-wing political marketing term these boys use to sell a sort of soothing balm for white men with hurt feelings.

Right now, there are thousands of people mimicking Rubin's opinions about *Alien*, a non-scandal scandal. It's a fun virtual version of an audience participation game. This is a crowd that loves to chant.

Ridley Scott's original, 1979's *Alien*, is a deeply complex monster movie but it wasn't the first movie to suggest multinational corporations were a danger to individuality. The late Ned Beatty's explosive cameo in Paddy Chayefsky's 1976 nightmare-ish TV news satire *Network* is a memorable monologue about corporate power replacing the state. Even a hokey, if still entertaining, junk sci-fi flick like 1975's *Rollerball* starring James Caan knew that the future belonged to fat cats, not presidents.

These movies, all of them almost fifty years old, are also blatantly political. In *Alien*, the real monsters are the executives who see the humans who work for them as

disposable. I don't think there's a better encapsulation of modern capitalism.

The headache-inducing irony of the Rubins of the world is they're like the androids who act like villains and heroes in the *Alien* movies, life-like robots who sometimes secretly pretend to be human. Or the bad ones do, at least.

These political scolds defend free speech but what they really want is to return speech to the good ol' days when the culture was simpler — white hats versus black hats, boys falling in love with girls — and by simpler, I mean controlled exclusively by Dave Rubin & pals. They seem like First Amendment heroes on the outside, but inside, they are petty scolds who are directly threatened by any story that suggests people of all colors and sexualities and genders and beliefs should collaborate for the good of the species, not just the Dave Rubins.

It is disingenuous for Rubin to somehow suggest *Alien* is just a movie about humans being chased by a deadly extra-terrestrial. There isn't any subtext in *Alien*. The company is evil, full-stop. And Dave Rubin is a company man, clearly. If he were a character in the *Alien* movies, he'd be a Weyland-Yutani Junior Vice-President. Human Resources, probably.