



Twentieth Century Fox

Sigourney Weaver in a scene from "Alien" (1979).

# Far-out ladies: space films starring women

BY MAKENZIE WHITTLE • The Bulletin

**W**hile sci-fi films have been boldly going to the far reaches of the cosmos since the dawn of movie-making, women haven't always had a seat in the ship.

Luckily, this trend seems to be fading away in a Hollywood that is clamoring for more diverse casts and stories to tell, but there are still blind spots to overcome.

Since March is the beginning of Women's History Month, here are a few movies about women in space.

**"Alien (1979) and "Aliens" (1986)** — Though they're filmed with the male gaze, they still feature one of the most hardcore women in film history with Sigourney Weaver's portrayal of Ellen Ripley. The first two of the franchise are really the only ones worth visiting or revisiting and the sequel manages to be just as good, if not better than the original. Both masterfully use special effects and body horror techniques to drive up

the suspense and keep viewers on the edge of their seats even if the xenomorphs and films may not be as scary as they once were. Stream them on HBO Max or rent them on Amazon Prime, Google Play, iTunes, Vudu or YouTube.

**"Contact" (1997)** — While it takes its sweet time actually getting to space, the journey of one astronomer's discovery of an alien radio signal to jettisoning off to a distant planet in the Vega system is dramatically interesting. Starring Jodie Foster as Dr. Ellie Arroway, the film takes her and us an audience through a lot of the more bureaucratic side that will come with any potential alien contact we make and has an impactful

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