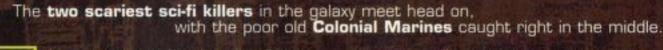




Aliens versus Predator





A t four movies to two, the Aliens have got the Predator pretty well whiched on the big screen, so he's looking to your PC monitor to even the score, Rebellion Software's original Alien versus Fredator, a first-person

3D combat game, appeared on the now sadly defunct Atari Jaguar, and was generally reckoned to be just about the only decent thing on that ill-fated console. Rebellion are now working on a new version, to be published by Fox Interactive for accelerated PCs. Twentieth Century Fox hold the copyright to both the Alien and Predator movies, so I guess you can't blame them for wanting to get the most mileage out of their products. Their software branch have been responsible for a couple of excellent titles over the past year, including Croc. Motorhead and the X-Fries game.

everyone gets a different demo. It was a good idea, and we were sent a copy of the excellent Predator demo. However, we share a floor with Ultimate PC, so we got to look at their Colonial Marine demo as well – and it rocks. If any other games mags writers are reading this, how about a trade? You could end up with all three demos...

All the demos share certain features in common. You start off with minimum weaponry with a mission to accomplish, and you have to find your way through a maze of enemy-infested tunnels. The game runs on its own proprietary 3D engine – and a highly superior piece of programming it is too. The lighting effects look as good as anything Urreal has to offer, with coloured lights, smoke, mist and shadows. The levels are dark and atmospheric, and when a Xenomorph comes charging

towards you across the ceiling, with

the entire scene strobe like madness.

THE LIGHTING EFFECTS LOOK JUST AS GOOD AS ANYTHING UNREAL HAS TO OFFER, the flickering of broken lights making

In this latest offering, you get to assume the role of either an Alien, a Predator, or a Colonial Marine, the heavily armed but helpless cannon fodder from the second movie in the series. Each has different abilities and different goals, but they all have two things in common: everything else in the world is out to kill them in a variety of disgusting ways, and they are utterly alone.

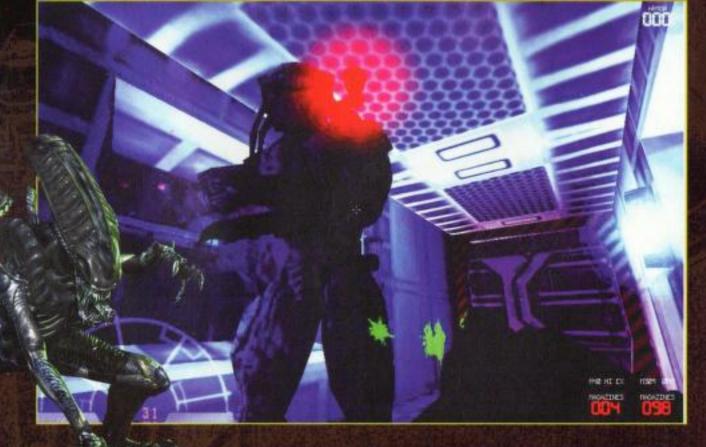
you will have to fight back the urge to panic. The action in this game is very fast, and you'll need sharp reflexes and a good aim to survive.

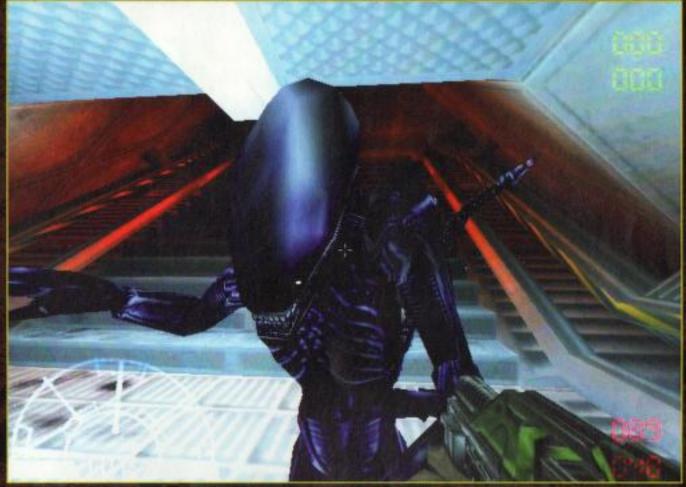
Depending on which race you choose, you will have a

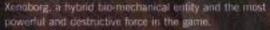
There are a series of games demo disks doing the rounds of the games mags at the moment, as Fox are wisely attempting to spread their PR budget around to maximum effect. To this end they have produced three different disks, one for each species, and have sent them out to different magazines so that different mission to accomplish. All three missions take place in Pandora Base, a secret biological warfare research facility working on the genetic biology of the Alien Xenomorph. As the Alien, your goal is simply to survive by killing everyone else with a variety of weapons, including claws, tail and acid venom. The Alien can run at terrifying speeds across walls and ceilings and use acute senses to track down its prey. With the help of genetic technology it can be transformed into a



Okay, so the Predator has bandy legs, bad hair and a squint, but do you want to tell him about it?







As the Predator, your goals are more complex, You are part of the crew of a captured scout ship, but you have escaped in the confusion following a sabotage attack. You the research records before setting the base self-destruct device and getting off the planet before it explodes.

The levels are well-designed, with a non-linear approach which can have you re-visiting a location several times during the course of a game. The scenery looks appropriate.

to the Alien movies, with a kind of industrial heavy metal theme. This is not

simply a shoot-'em-up; you will need to use your head to stay alive. If you go up against the Aliens with all guns blazing, you won't last long.

Alien versus Predator is also designed to be played orline, with opponents taking on the three different roles in the game in what should be a pretty interesting deathmatch. When you don't know what form your enemies are going to be, you can't really prepare for them. Details of the on-line game options are not yet available, but expect something a bit different. Alien versus Predator will be released in the spring of 1999.

THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A SHOOT EM-UP; YOU WILL NEED TO USE YOUR HEAD TO STAY ALIVE, IF YOU GO UP AGAINST THE ALIENS WITH GUNS BLAZING, YOU WON'T LAST LONG kind of industrial heavy

start off armed with only the retractable wrist blades, spear gun and shoulder cannon, but you have the advantage of the famous light-bending camouflage, and infra-red and electromagnetic vision. Your mission is to locate and free your captured crew-mates and find some missing parts of your ship before you can escape.

As the human Colonial Marine, you will have the hardest task of all. You have just returned from a solo training mission, and you have used up all of your equipment. You will have to find new weapons and ammunition before you can proceed with your mission, which is to locate five data tapes containing

















Alien Vs Predator: Interview with producer bave stacker

C:When the Atari Jaguar console was launched, a game called Alien Vs Predator was released for it. Is the Fox game in any way related to it?

DS: The Jag AvP was based on the 1989 comic of the same name, which was based on the concept of getting Humans, Aliens and Predators all into the same environment at the same time. This title is likewise based on that idea.

TC: What has been involved in your role as producer of AvP?

DS: My role has been to facilitate the development of the best game that I possibly can, any way that I can. This includes working with the development team, the testing team, the marketing and sales team, the music and sound team, the press, etc. Additionally, on this title we have been trying to delve into the Fox archives and use as much real reference and authoritative source material as we can find.

TC: How long has the new game been in development?

DS: Although a lot of R&D work has been done and directions have changed a little, we view the current rev of the game having started around one to one and a half years ago. Before that, it wasn't really the game that we currently have.

TC: Did you study the Aliens and Predator movies before coming up with a game design?

DS: Yes, without a doubt the movies and all background material were closely, closely scrutinised by the people involved. Personally speaking, though, I've been scrutinising these movies for years anyway out of passion for them.

TC: I've heard the game will offer players three different gaming perspectives – kind of like three games in one. What are the differences?

DS: Well, Marine, Predator and Alien. This is the key feature – you don't just play different characters, you play entirely different species! An Alien can't pick up a Pulse Rifle and start shooting, a Marine can't turn invisible and a Predator can't climb walls and ceilings. Each character has unique abilities and strengths and, as you'd expect, weaknesses.

The player will have to learn to adapt to the different methods and strategies if they want to experience the full breadth of the game. I guess you could just play one character if you wanted, but you'd be missing out on a lot of cool stuff.

TC: How many levels and missions are there in the game?

DS: AvP works in a kind of weird way that means that I don't like to think about numbers because it starts to drive you loopy. Let me try and talk you through it and see if you get what I mean.

Each species has a bunch of unique episodes that tell their 'story'. Let's assume I'm an Alien. When I play this character in single player these episodes are what are presented to me first. After that, depending how well I've done, I may open up bonus levels that are from the Marine and Predator Stories, but I can play them from the Alien perspective. This applies for all three species.

Additionally there are a clutch of levels that are designed for multiplayer games. However, these will also be available in single player mode just for the hell of it! Further to this there are single player levels that will be available as multiplayer levels too! Sometimes by more than one species!

Whew... have I left anything out? Nope, I think that covers it.

TC: The physics in the game have been described as unique. What makes it different?

DS: Most of the physics is to do with allowing the player (mostly as an Alien) get around environments by clinging to any surface. This is just a great feeling when you corkscrew through an air vent chasing some hapless human!

TO: I understand you have created a brand new 3D engine for the game. What features set it apart from others, such as Quake II or Unreal?

DS: Eeek! Well, see my previous answer for starters. There's lots of other cool stuff like dynamically rippling water, particle systems for blood, buillet holes and textural damage. It throws fifteen thousand polygons around on a PII 200 with no problem. There's a particle-modelled gas system that allows you to set people on fire in a spectacular way, translucency for closked Predators, lights, water, glass, etc.; real-time streaming of FMVs on world polygons, alternative vision modes for all characters (especially the Predator); hierarchical thousand-plus polygon characters; complex layering of animations on top of one another; much more smooth and curvy environments, top flight 3D and environmental sound effects.

TC: I've heard that, unlike other first-person shooters, AvP will involve more than just using weapons. What strategy elements have been built into the game?

DS: Again, this relates to utilising the abilities of your character to achieve your goal. This will vary from level to level, and you will find yourself playing the same level as a whole different game when you are another species.

TC. Something that is frequently torgotten about in games is sound. Will AvP use sound to create its atmosphere?

DS: Sound is as important in AvP as it is in a movie. We have put a lot of resources behind getting super high quality effects and music, as well as developing with technology like the SoundBlaster Live to maximise the dramatic effect of all this aural work.

TC: With Fox also involved in TV and movies, do you think we will see a TV series or movie called Allen Vs Predator?

DS: Y'know I certainly think there's a lot of fun to be had when these guys get together. It'd make for a hell of an interesting movie, that's for sure. Some purists may think that it's the wrong way to take it, but who's to say the movies have always gone the right way? There's more than one way to skin a human, after all! As long as it wasn't the only new Allen or Predator stuff that ever came out, I'd love to see it happen.



Alien Resurrection



The series of Aliens films has steadily gotten worse as the years have passed, and yet, strangely, the games based on them are still getting better and better...

C owners are rightly getting very excited at the moment about a forthcoming game from Fox Interactive called Alien Versus Predator. This is a first-person game allowing you to play as either an Alien, a Predator or a Colonial Marine. So far it's been looking very impressive — much more so than the PlayStation's previous Aliens game, Alien Trilogy, which appeared back in the far off days of PlayStation history (so long ago in fact that it's been available on Platinum for quite some time). Now Fox have started the PR hype concerning their latest Aliens game, Alien Resurrection.

This is based around the eponymous film that saw Ripley return from death as a human-alien hybrid and her

efforts to kill more aliens (this time genetically modified by

the mysterious 'Company') and help a crew of mercenaries

escape. It all took place aboard a military research vessel.

and featured all manner of genetic experiments, new aliens

(and plenty of them) and a new and improved Ripley. The

This new one comes out almost two years after the film's

been using every available minute of this time in making

release, but don't worry because it looks like Fox have

Alien Resurrection a potential smash-hit title.

film wasn't very well-received by the critics and didn't

Deep space yonder

The game will be played in the third-person perspective with a 'smart camera' that will adjust your position to give the player the best view of the action as you race down the corridors of the Auriga, the ship that the game is set on. The action will kick off just after some aliens escape and start to kill their way through both the ship's crew and the contingent of marines on board as well. All the while, the deranged Dr. Wren is continuing his diabolical genetic experiments in preparation for his expected return to Earth.

The gameplay itself is promised to involve more than your standard 'run around and shoot the aliens' style, with you needing to work in tandem with Father', the ship's

omnipresent talking computer. The computer will call for you to complete

TO GIVE IT A SENSE OF URGENCY, YOU'RE ALSO TRYING TO DESTROY THE SHIP BEFORE IT REACHES EARTH AND THE ALIENS ESCAPE - A TERRIFYING PROSPECT!

specific tasks and missions in each level until you can eventually destroy the evil Dr Wren's mutated human embryo experiments. To give the game a sense of urgency, you're also trying to destroy the ship before it reaches Earth and the aliens escape — a terrilying prospect!

also trying to destroy the ship before it reaches Earth and the aliens escape – a terrifying prospect!

There will be thirteen levels in all, each with different backgrounds as befitting the different areas of the ship, from the crew areas to engine rooms to the dark underbelly with its cargo holds. To complete the levels you will have to play as one of five different playable characters. Obviously one of these will be Ripley, but there will also be the option to play as one of four of the mercenary characters, like the one in the wheelchair or Winona Ryder's character. You'll also be provided with an awesome array of weaponry from measly pistols right up to flame-throwers, smart gurs and even more heavy duty stuff, all lifted straight from the films to give the game an authentic feel, indeed, at this point the graphics









The highly detailed storship interiors give the game a gritty and realistic feel, just like the movies

exactly break any records at the box office. Perhaps this was because the story wasn't the most original, or that the French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet, famous for his weird films like Delicatessen and The City Of Lost Children, was a bit too original for American audiences. Nonetheless, no matter how much of a letdown the film was, Fox are still quite happily churning out Aliens-related computer games.

te the movies













You get to play a wide choice of characters from the film, all with different special abilities



seem like they could be impressive enough in the look and feel, like the film. Judging by these screenshots, you can make your own mind up, although bear in mind that Fox have a reputation for a high standard of graphics. Even Alien Trilogy on this platform doesn't look too bad for its age.

One of the most intriguing prospects of this game is the fact that due to the game engine employed, the environments will be fully destructible and the player can blow up or damage almost anything. To some extent this was seen in Alien Trilogy, with the glass being shot out and shower curtains being destroyed in the hunt for power-ups and ammo. To what extent you will be able to cause damage remains to be seen, but if the hype is to be believed, it will be on an unprecedented scale.

The best yet?

This hype is also making claims about the speed of the game, which it's promised will not let up at all and, coupled with the soundtrack to the game of dialogue and sound effects lifted from the movie itself, could well ensure that this game will be a heart-pounding experience when it appears early this year. The game certainly looks to be one of the most impressive PlayStation games of recent times in terms of graphics (the cut scenes in particular are worth watching out for) and the sound effects. What remains to be seen is how well the final product plays - will it be the next Resident Evil or Gran Turismo, or will it simply follow the film and be a disaster? Fox's record so far on the PlayStation with games like Alien Trilogy, Croc and the Die Hard Trilogy being their most successful - seems to suggest that Alien Resurrection will be a game to watch for in 1999. Find out if this is true with our review some time soon.

Alien Invasion

For those of you who have been in deep-space hibernation for the past twenty years, here's a brief look at the screen history of the Aliens and the Predator...

Alien (1979)

Orrected by Risley Scott
Storring Signormey Weaver John Hort, Ian Role
Harry Dean Stanton and Tom Skerritt

The first of the Allier movies was far more a horror from than it was science fiction. Echaing the monster movies of the fittes, it features the discovery of an unstochable slied creature which



embryonic face-hugger to the gigantic acid-origoning in intimities which stalks the hapless crew of the Nostromo through the claustrophotic condities of their decined thin. It berrows elements from the stasher movies such as Hallowein, as one by one the minor characters wander off into the darkness to be sitted off ("Here kithy!") until only the burgion Flighey and John the oldes cat, survive. At the end of the firm she believes she has killed off the monster, but of course it returns in the sequel.

Aliens (1986)

Directed by James Cameron Starring Sigourney Weiver, Carrie Henn, Michael Biehn Paul Raiser and Lance Henriksen



The securitines Ripley industring to the Aleria home planet with a bunch of mache and over-confident Colonial Marines. They set out to wipe out the

creatures, but of course they have the times famed on them when it turns out that there are hundreds of the boastles awarning around the place. Contains the coclent line even in a move. It say we take off and rules the site front orbit – it's time mily way to be really sure. This time Ripsey manages to rescue one Marino, a little girl and a mangled anomal before everything prows up. Won an Occar for visual affects.

Predator (1987)

Directed by John McTierman

Starring Areold Schwarzenogger, Carl Weathers, Elpidia Carrille and DM Duke

An elide special forces commando taum are sent on a reaction mission to the jurgles of Central America but find themselves being burded down to an



movinitile enemy. This turns out to be an alian funder, who has shapped off an earth to getter a few trophies. The Predator (for it is no) picks off the commandos one by one with a variety of nesty alian wrappers, onto only Armolis left. By use of low curving and a few Ewok-styll traps. Big Arm is eventually victorious, emerging virtually unreathed from ground zero of a nuclear application. Even is a free after Alia.







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NBA Live 95, 97 & 98
NBA Shortout 96, 97 & 98
NBA Zone 1, 26 & 98
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Pandemonium 1 & 2
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Pérol 1 & 3D
Parache Chollenge
Pro Pichell
Project Overkill
Rape Reser
Rally Cross
Rapid Rocce
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Reymon
Reboot
Resident Evil 1 & 3'
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Rood Rob 1 & 3D
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Shodowmoster
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Solkoder
Takkee 1, 2 & 3
Temper X3
Temper X3
Temper X3
Temper X4
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