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Fire works

PROMETHEUS | Ridley's sci-fi comeback blazes a trail for 2012.

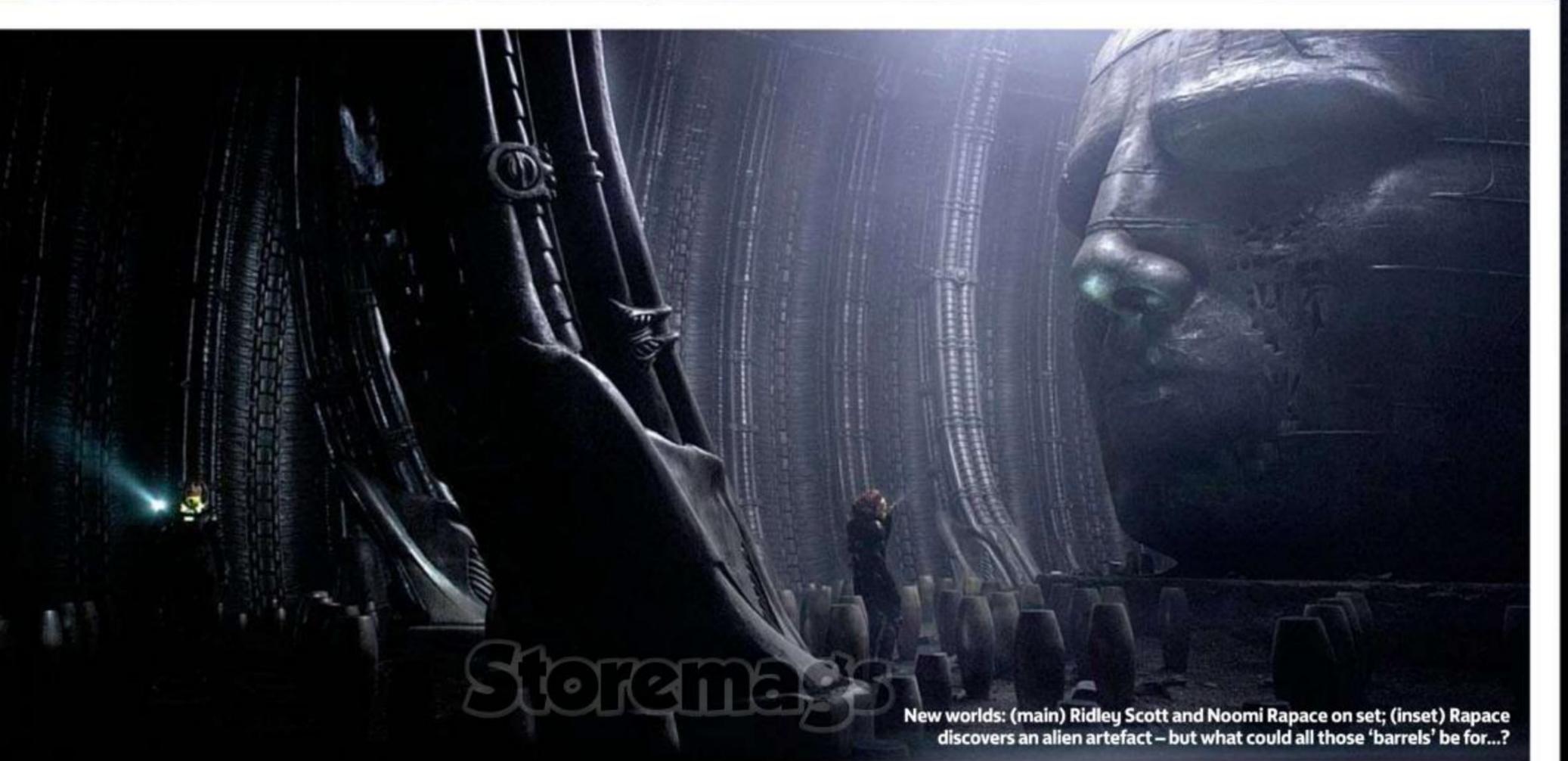
➤ “The best time I’ve had in a number of years making a movie,” is how Sir Ridley Scott sums up *Prometheus*, the 74-year-old’s long-awaited return to the genre he left such an indelible impression on three decades ago with *Alien* and *Blade Runner*. And it seems his stars had just as much of a blast working with him at Pinewood this summer, despite all the secrecy that surrounded a project that’s been variously dubbed a prequel, a reboot and a stand-alone installment in the xenomorph franchise.

“It was so top secret,” says Rafe Spall, whose role as a crew member on the good space ship *Prometheus* saw him joining a heavyweight cast headed by Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender and Charlize Theron. “Ridley doesn’t want people to find out about it, and one thing you learn in life is you don’t mess with Ridley!” While *Buzz* wouldn’t want to risk Ridley’s wrath, we can disclose the plot involves an expedition to make contact with the “space jockey” race of aliens introduced in the 1979 original. Where it goes from there is open to conjecture, though Scott has revealed the ending evolves into “a pretty good DNA of the *Alien* one”.

So where does the myth of *Prometheus*, the dude who stole fire from the gods, fit into >>

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New worlds: (main) Ridley Scott and Noomi Rapace on set; (inset) Rapace discovers an alien artefact – but what could all those 'barrels' be for...?



'Fans of the genre won't be disappointed. It's going to be brilliant...'

Rafe Spall

the equation? Internet whispers suggest it's the science of terraforming (i.e. the modification of a planet to replicate earth) that's fire's equivalent here, under the watch of Theron's Meredith Vickers (see the *TF* Interview over on page 122), the representative of our old friends Weyland-Yutani. "That's one of the familiar things from the *Alien* movies - there are corporate interests at play," says writer Damon Lindelof, who goes on to insist that Theron won't be as "slimy" as Paul Reiser's treacherous Burke in *Aliens*. "She's not the fast-talking, snake-oil face of the company," the *Lost* man continues. "As we were developing the script, she had some really cool ideas that made it not the suit you're used to."

With Rapace channelling Ripley in her role as scientist Elizabeth Shaw, a blonde-quiffed Fassbender as an android called David and Guy Pearce turning up as an unnamed (as yet) character, *Prometheus* already looks like *the* event of summer 2012. (Olympics? Pah.) "Fans of the genre won't be disappointed, and people who've never seen *Alien* won't be disappointed," gushes Spall. "It's going to be brilliant..." NS

ETA 1 JUNE *Prometheus* opens next year. For more 2012 gems check out our preview which starts on p69. For more news see totalfilm.com