

EXCLUSIVE!

Alien resurrected

ALIEN 5 | As District 9 director Neill Blomkamp prepares to resuscitate Ripley, he tells us what the future holds for the Alien franchise...

“So I think [*this is*] officially my next film,” tweeted director Neill Blomkamp in February 2015, perhaps becoming the first director to land a job via Instagram. Having impressed 20th Century Fox a month earlier by Instagramming concept art for an Alien project he’d been working up, Blomkamp then officially signed on to direct *Alien 5*, the first official sequel since 1997’s *Alien: Resurrection*. Here’s everything you need to know...

IT STARTS WITH AN IDEA

“I spent a good chunk of 2014 working on an idea that I really love,” Blomkamp tells *TF*. Though he won’t be drawn on specifics, he has confirmed that his film will in fact be a direct continuation from *Aliens*, ignoring the third and fourth films in the series. Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) looks set to reunite with a scar-faced Hicks (Michael Biehn). Meanwhile, shots of a corporate bunker hint we could finally see the inside of evil corporation Weyland-Yutani...

THE MONSTER’S MOTHER

Though Weaver’s yet to sign on, she’s definitely interested, and even contributed ideas while chatting to Blomkamp on the set of *Chappie*. “I spoke to her about it a lot,” he reveals. “She told me how she felt about the character

and the history of Ripley. It was very interesting. I was like, ‘There’s a way to tie what she’s saying into my idea in a way that’s pretty awesome.’”

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

“I have a very detailed treatment,” Blomkamp says of the plot. “I started writing the script, and then I was like, ‘I don’t know if I should step into that Ridley Scott/James Cameron world.’” Given that he’s taken the plunge, we imagine Blomkamp is now feverishly typing – though it remains to be seen if he’ll work alongside regular co-writer (and wife) Terri Tatchell (*District 9*, *Chappie*).

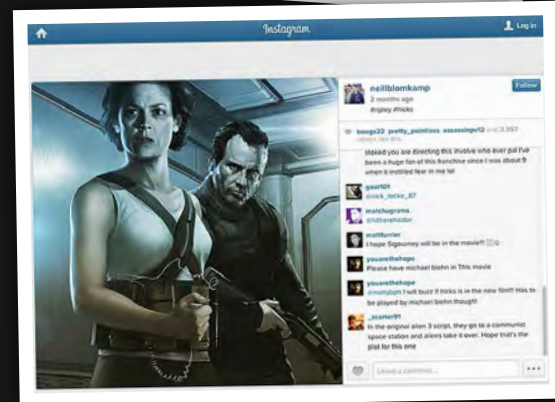
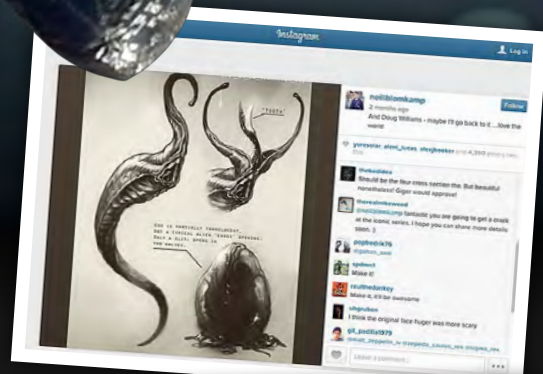
CROSSOVER CRAZY

With 20th Century Fox also prepping its *Prometheus* sequel (“it’s written,” director Ridley Scott confirmed last year), and Scott producing Blomkamp’s film, we’re expecting some sort of crossover between the two, not least because Blomkamp’s art showcases the alien craft from *Alien* and *Prometheus*, plus what looks like a humanoid Architect.

TALKING ABOUT EVOLUTION

“There are certain existing mythologies, like the world of Alien, that I’m bound with on a genetic level, that I just cannot get out of my system,” Blomkamp says. “I’d love to be part of that lineage.” With his concept art promising both nostalgic nods to the past and scary new developments (including a new breed of facehugger with a nasty-looking tooth), we’re sure he won’t disappoint. **JW**

She’s back: you can’t keep a good xenomorph down.



ETA | 2017 *Alien 5* is expected to open in two years' time. *Prometheus 2* is expected to open in 2016.