



PRE.VIEW

PULSE-QUICKENING MOVIE AND TV NEWS

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FIRST LOOK

**ALIEN:
COVENANT**

OUT 19 MAY

THERE WILL BE ACID BLOOD

Ridley Scott's new *Alien* promises to up the scares — and the gore — in a thrilling franchise reset

WORDS HELEN O'HARA

THE *ALIEN* FILMS have a long history of synthetic characters villainous and heroic, but *Alien: Covenant* offers the first visual evidence that Weyland-Yutani manufactures identical models on an industrial scale. That's how we get Michael Fassbender's second synthetic, Walter, joining his doppelgänger David in Ridley Scott's prequel-sequel.

So how does Walter differ from the previously beheaded David? "Walter is the next evolution of David, or several evolutions down the line," explains Fassbender. "[He was] made in a way that doesn't incorporate emotions, because, as we found out, that started to make people uncomfortable."

Alien: Covenant sees the crew of the Covenant colony ship emerge onto the surface of a new world. It's not their original destination: they have detoured to answer a distress call. And given this franchise, it's a good guess that "distress" will soon be too mild a description.

"What's great about this story is the characters are so different," says Fassbender. "They're not just filling out a spaceship, their characters have been thought about. It harks back to those really cool characters in the original *Alien*, where there are great relationships going on outside of the [alien]."

Great characters we grow to love before they're horrifically kebabed by a vicious xenomorph? Brace yourselves, because things are about to get gory.