

LANGUAGE LEVEL: A1-BASIC

SIGOURNEY WEAVER

ALL-AMERICAN HEROINE

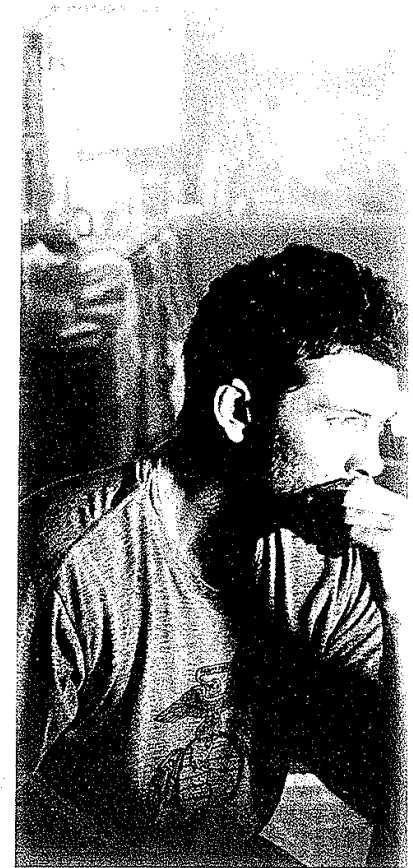
Su papel en *Avatar* ha devuelto a la actualidad a esta carismática actriz, que se hizo muy famosa con *Alien*. Hoy, Sigourney Weaver lucha a favor del ecologismo.

American actress Sigourney Weaver, famous for her role as Ripley in the sci-fi movie *Alien*, is still lost in space, fighting¹ aliens. She co-stars in the movie event of the decade: James Cameron's amazing² 3D sci-fi film, *Avatar*.

RESPECT

Avatar is Cameron's first movie since he directed *Titanic* in 1997. Weaver thinks it will change the way films are made. Weaver was very happy to work with Cameron again – he directed *Aliens* (1986), the record-breaking sequel³ to *Alien*. "He respects women," she

explains. "He knows we're intelligent and strong. The character I play in *Avatar*, Grace, sacrifices her life for her beliefs, that's her passion. Only Cameron could invent that character."



Alien surprise

One of the greatest film moments of all time occurs⁴ in Weaver's first great success *Alien*. It's the moment when an alien bursts out of⁷ the body of a fellow⁸ astronaut, played by John Hurt.

Director Ridley Scott wanted the actors to look genuinely horrified, so he didn't explain the scene in advance. John Hurt spent four hours as the studio prepared a fake⁹ chest and created a horrific alien from animal and fish organs.

Weaver remembers, "They called us onto the set where everyone was wearing¹⁰ raincoats¹¹, and there was this terrible smell."

Suddenly the alien explodes out of his 'chest,' and blood fills the air as the alien disappears across the room. Actress Veronica Cartwright fainted¹², the other actors were shocked and horrified. Weaver remembers, "I only thought of John at that moment. I forgot we were making a movie!"



THE GREAT GATSBY

Sigourney Weaver was born Susan Weaver in 1949. She later changed her name to Sigourney after a character in F Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*. Weaver had a privileged childhood⁴ – she's the daughter of ex-NBC TV president Sylvester L. Weaver – but was an unhappy child. The

GLOSSARY

- 1 TO FIGHT: luchar, combatir
- 2 AMAZING: increíble
- 3 SEQUEL: la continuación, segunda parte
- 4 CHILDHOOD: infancia
- 5 TO BE BULLIED: ser intimidada, ser objeto de burlas
- 6 TO OCCUR: tener lugar, producirse
- 7 BURSTS OUT OF: sale disparado
- 8 FELLOW: compañero
- 9 FAKE: falso
- 10 TO WEAR: llevar puesto
- 11 RAINCOAT: impermeable
- 12 TO FAINT: desmayarse