

Watching the documentary, "Burden of Dreams", I was intrigued with Warner Herzog's pursuit of his dream project, "Fitzcarraldo". The many many hurdles he faced in simply telling a story was beyond belief for me to view. The statements made on this film to be ring true. Having faced what Herzog endured would have defeated a lesser filmmaker without a single doubt.

Herzog believed that telling a story and putting it on film is something that is simply not for the faint of heart. Once you have the opportunity to achieve your dream, there's nothing to stop you from going forward...Nobody but yourself. I've read many back stories on several of my favorite filmmakers and their method of guerilla film making. Particularly George Lucas and Spike Lee come to mind. The idea of being able to tell the story you want to tell in the way the want to tell it fascinates me. Herzog's method really defines guerilla film making at its most intense. His four year struggle combined with his shooting schedule and intense locations and conflicts with the local tribes and political issues they faced, was something often difficult yet intriguing to watch.

The parts I found most interesting was the fact that after filming forty percent of his film with original actors, the late great Jason Robards and famed rock star Mick Jagger to illness and album and tour responsibilities. Also the fact that near the end of filming, prostitutes from nearby tribes were brought in to entertain some of the crew. His method and style of extremely challenging and dangerous locations to shoot, his specific use of unconventional time constraints would not be attempted by today's modern film makers. Besides Robert Zemeckis, he is likely the only other director (as well as the first) to start a film on the outskirts of Brazil, lose his actors, and have to reshoot the entire film from the start over a four year period. That's simply passion of getting your work out there the way you want it. Herzog stated near the end that he may never want to do another film...Of course he went on and made many more films and continues to this day.