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Film Connection

Assignment 21

Creating a budget for a film can be very intimidating as well as stressful. Although having a big budget versus a small budget can make a difference, there are a plethora of movies that have been made with a very small budget. The difference between a small budget vs a larger one is that when dealing with a smaller budget you have to focus on having a greater story and characters. One example that comes to mind is Saw (2004) that was created to be filmed using a small budget and required nothing more than a few characters and location(s). How that came about though was that James Wan created a short to sell the story and it allowed him to create the movie. Some examples of larger budget movies are ones dealing with Marvel or Starwars. There are many ways in dealing with budgets whether it be a larger or a smaller budget, it's all accumulating to a whether there's a good story to tell. Creating a budget can be tough but in the end if you are able to get something together, whether it be a thousand dollars more or less, it's rewarding because it's giving you the creator to make the film that you envisioned. Every film that's ever been made always has a story in how it was made to the end product.

When creating my story I knew the direction I wanted to take it in and create a unique world and story. In today's film world there are a lot of sequels, prequels, and reboots. Looking for inspiration I wanted to take elements of the movies Indiana Jones with the tone of Blood Diamond, giving it elements of action and adventure withthin a believable world. The story itself focuses on a group of scientists embarking in the most uninhabitable parts of the jungle in South America when they discover a type of plant that could be a cure for all types of disease. They find themselves in a inactive volcano that's secretly hiding a lost paradise, Eden. They come to realize that the plant has been keeping those who stay in Eden alive for centuries, leading to the antagonist wanting to destroy it for their reasons leading to the protagonist saving the day in the end with Eden collapsing and the antagonist being able

to save their dying son with a piece of the plant. Overall the story itself is ambitious in that it would require locations in the jungle which in itself can be very difficult. Other than the jungle being the main setting the other location could be any type of big city. The climax of the film builds with the volcano erupting with the world within the volcano crumbling and breaking apart. To be able to create all of this and it's budget, it would need to be funded in the millions given that it's mostly filmed in the jungle and all of the special effects needed for the end.

To be able to gain traction and get funding for this project there are different ways to approach it. One is a kickstarter campaign to contact everyone I know from people I don't know and to try and get the word out. I would set the limit to something much smaller like five thousand to fifty thousand, just to see if I could reach anything in between or at five thousand dollars. Once I would accumulate that certain amount I would create a trailer for it and try to get anyone who would be interested in making it or expanding upon it. With today's social media and it's services it's very easy to get the word out for people, whether it be someone wanting people to donate to a charity for their birthday. For me I know social media would be the best outlet and realistic approach in trying to get a big budget. There are many different ways one could go about in trying to get a budget for their story but in today's age I feel social media is the safest and best bet given how people like myself can get succumbed to it.

There is another way too in raising money for a story that is a longer one but has been known to work. Having a big budget for my story "Eden" I know social media could be the best route although I could do it differently. One way would be to create a short story that's ten to twelve minutes long that resembles Eden and is something I could film with friends or people I know. After finishing the short project I could submit it to as many festivals as I could get in and use it to spread the word about my much bigger and more ambitious film, Eden. An example somewhat like this is Christopher Nolan's film Following, that was made on a very small budget that he and his friends filmed within a year. He and his brother wrote the story for Memento and after going through many festivals and showing the

movie *Following*, it allowed him to gain money for his more ambitious and similar movie, *Memento*, which we all know how that ended well for him.

Of the many ways one can create a budget for a film, either mentioned in the chapters that I've read throughout this program or using other methods, the biggest achievement is that one of the hardest things has already been accomplished and that's creating a story. A budget can help significantly but it also comes down to having a good story which could be made on a shoe string budget or a huge one. For me in regards to a budget, I would take Nolan's approach and try to create something in a similar fashion that's akin to my bigger story *Eden*.