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**Werner Herzog Philosophy of film**

I recently viewed two films by Werner Herzog; Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe and Burden of Dreams. After watching these films it is my opinion that Herzog’s philosophy of film making is “just do it.” He is quoted as saying money doesn’t make films, but it’s initiative that makes film.” As is common with Guerilla filmmaking, Herzog believed that if someone wanted to make a film, they should do whatever it takes to get the film completed. This unyielding philosophy caused Herzog to film himself eating his shoe. The same shoes he wore when he made a vow to his colleague Errol Morris that he would eat his shoe if Morris ever got the guts to complete a film project due to his overwhelming procrastination. Ultimately, Errol Morris completed the film “Gates of Heaven,” and Herzog filmed the documentary “Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe,” to prove that he was a man of his word and to motivate other dawdling film makers.

Herzog was a man who would “do it now, and talk about it later.” He was determined not to be a quitter. During the filming of Burden of Dreams, in the Amazon jungle, a documentary by Les Blank, recording the production of Fitzcarraldo, Herzog faced insurmountable difficulties throughout the making of the entire film. He lost valuable film footage when he had to scrap the first taking of the film due to illness of one his actors, Jason Robards, next another actor “Mick Jagger” who was under contract for another job had to bail out causing Herzog to start the entire project over with new actors. Nearly five years later, coupled with various other problems dealing with locations and permits among various other tumultuous issues, determined to see the film to fruition, Herzog stated, “I live my life of end my life with this project.”

Herzog unlike many film makers today, assisted in building his own set, working with the native people on the location in which he filmed and living among them as part of the daily routine. His main viewpoint was to make films that focused on social issues and educating the viewer more so than the demand for entertainment as we see with filmmakers today. Herzog’s philosophy of film was that film makers should have a since of responsible film etiquette and films should inform and enrich the audience through the images that are produced.