Werner Herzog’s philosophy on film is that you cannot be a coward if you want to be a filmmaker.

Sometimes the money isn’t there, so make the film anyway. Sometimes the locations don’t work out the

way you’d hoped they would, so make the film anyway. Sometimes (often times) things on the set/with

the cast/with the equipment/with the funding/etc… go wrong, so make the film anyway. Do what it

takes to make the film, no matter what.

In Werner Herzog Eats His Shoes, Werner goes above and beyond to prove that you cannot be a

coward if you want to be a filmmaker. He said he would eat his shoe in order to help get his friend’s film

made, and when the time came, he didn’t back down. In Fitzcarraldo, when seemingly everything

that could go wrong did, he pushed through to the very end and made his film. He has worked in

the jungle, the rainforest and even Antarctica, each one providing monstrous difficulty, yet he always

overcame them for the sake of the film.

Guerilla filmmaking is very different from the typical filmmaking we see come out of Hollywood.

Whereas Hollywood has large sums of money and large sets to shoot in, guerilla filmmaking is

oftentimes underfunded and always out in the thick of it. Werner Herzog is a perfect example of a

guerilla filmmaker as he is constantly roughing it to create his films. As I mentioned before, he has

traveled throughout the world, often times in dangerous places just to create his movie. Most

filmmakers would probably never go quite that far in order to make their film come alive.

While this isn’t the type of filmmaking that I’m interesting in creating, it’s hard not to be

impressed and inspired by Werner Herzog’s passion, audacity and bravery. He’s a one of a kind

filmmaker that any aspiring filmmaker, regardless of style or genre, can admire and respect.