He has survived the Peruvian rainforest, braved the wilds of the Thai jungle and shot in the heart of Antarctica. Now Werner Herzog is to enter the classroom, offering students the chance to benefit from his years of experience making movies in extreme locations and under inauspicious circumstances. In short: it is for those who have a sense for poetry. For those who are pilgrims. For those who can tell a story to four-year-old children and hold their attention. For those who have a fire burning within. For those who have a dream. Herzog once promised to eat his shoe if [Errol Morris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Errol_Morris) completed the movie project on pet cemeteries that he had been working on, in order to challenge and motivate Morris, whom Herzog perceived as incapable of following up on the projects he conceived. In 1978, when the film [Gates of Heaven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gates_of_Heaven) premiered, Werner Herzog cooked and publicly ate his shoe, an event later incorporated into a short documentary [Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werner_Herzog_Eats_His_Shoe) by [Les Blank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Les_Blank). At the event, Herzog suggested that he hoped the act would serve to encourage anyone having difficulty bringing a project to fruition.

Herzog is known for using people from the locality in which he is shooting. Especially in his documentaries, he uses locals to benefit what he calls "ecstatic truth." He uses footage of the non-actors both playing roles and being themselves. Herzog and his films have been nominated for and won many awards.

Herzog's films h and achieved popularity on the [art house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_house) circuit. They have also been the subject of controversy in regard to their themes and messages, especially the circumstances surrounding their creation. A notable example is [Fitzcarraldo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fitzcarraldo" \o "Fitzcarraldo), in which the obsessiveness of the central character was reflected by the director during the making of the film. [Burden of Dreams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burden_of_Dreams), a documentary filmed during the making of Fitzcarraldo, explored Herzog's efforts to make the film in harsh conditions.