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Film Connection
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While viewing *Burden of Dreams* I couldn't help but feel somewhat underwhelmed by my own approach. Werner Herzog has taken such an immensely profound path to filmmaking that it seemed to break the will of most who participated. How can one person be so dedicated to something that he is willing to risk pride, embarrassment, health, and more? Herzog truly believed in his dreams of filmmaking and story telling which is one of the most admirable qualities a person can have. Pure and intense dedication to specific path.

Herzog consistently pushed the limits while making *Fitzcarraldo* and although he failed at times, his persistence triumphed. He takes an approach to filmmaking with a philosophy of purity. Regardless of the obstacles deemed impossible to overcome, he vowed this film would be life or death for him. To believe in the story and visualizing an idea is what the main importance was. Not necessarily the financial problems or the disagreement between crew members. One must put all into his or her craft in filmmaking to create such originally pure pieces of work.

To get an even greater reality out of the film, the work portrayed on screen must actually be done. The film industry today relies much more on post production work by visual effects artists and less upon actually performing. Sometimes, thresholds must be crossed in order for the sake of making the film. Prohibited locations, ill advised methods, on the go implementations are all pieces to sometimes creating the more genuine piece of film. Herzog performed tasks that put people's lives at risk, brought discomfort to cast and crew, as well as soured the film's investors. Taking this guerrilla approach to filmmaking is intense and at times dangerous. Most films are made with law abiding techniques, well thought out situations and much better working

conditions. It's completely mesmerizing to see what went in to making *Fitzcarraldo* and how each person there sacrificed a part of them for it.

I have a great appreciation for Werner Herzog and the accomplishments he has made with his approaches. I can only hope to achieve some of what he has. Having the intense passion like him but then having the courage to follow through with them is a marvel. Filmmaking requires dedication in a way that cannot be feigned. Regardless of whatever obstacle or problematic situation arises to halt one's film, one must persevere and do whatever possible to achieve the dream at hand.