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Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [destructo-2](#) (Mon Nov 28 2005 01:37:52)



I just downloaded the Grizzly Man documentary off the Internet, and I'm glad I didn't have to waste a day's pay to see it in an artsy fartsy high priced theatre house.

I wanted to be moved by the film in that inner child lover of bears way. The only movement the film inspired was one in my lower bowels. I was pretty disgusted with the various people in the film elbowing each other to out-grieve or over-dramatize the deaths.

Who do you think should win the award for worst overacting? Nominees include:

The Coroner. I loved the touch of the "dead body" in the white plastic bag on the examining table, as if the film maker caught him right before he was to autopsy some Inuit who had been flash frozen and kayaked down to the examiner's office... or was that supposed to be a reenactment of carcass Tim or disemboweled Amie? Surprisingly there was no blood or gore in the white plastic bag. My guess is that it was just some cardboard or towels made to look like a body. After his horribly overwrought lines--and they were lines, written by himself or by Herzog--were painfully acted, I was particularly impressed by the extremely awkward pauses and the scared glances into the camera as Herzog waited 4 or 5 seconds too long after the good Doctor had finished his lines to cut. During his staged lines, the Doc might have passed for one of those prime time coroners who solve crimes with their insightful analysis, except that this Doc was all conclusions and no analysis. It was amazing all of the things he commented on that had nothing to do with him examining human remains for insight. In fact, I don't recall a single "this is what I saw and this is what it meant" statement. But as a vehicle for Herzog to play up the grotesque (and interesting) elements of the story, the Doc and the Pilot were really the only dispassionate people that could be used. Those painfully awkward moments were really telling, they showed that the Doc was staged and that after he delivered his canned lines, he looked to Herzog like a puppy to ask, "Is that what you wanted?" I imagine that the Coroner will be first in line to audition for CSI:Anchorage.

The Grieving "Widow." Like Treadwell, she's a failed waitress and a failed actress. For that matter, she's even a failed widow. Her best scene is when she joins up with the good Doctor and he bestows a rubber watch on her with as much pomp and circumstance as a medal of honor ceremony. She flaunts the watch to the camera like a bride would a diamond, and they both wonder in amazement that the watch still runs, as if this is some modern Hanukkah lamp or a paid plug for Energizer batteries. Her worst scene is when she sits with buggy eyes as Herzog tries to tell her what's on the tape, as if she hasn't listened to it herself, and then she accepts his advice as if he were a shrink and she was a mentally ill but receptive patient. I find it fitting that she was fired from her job as a wench because she overacted with a propane heater and lighter fluid, turning hokey dinner entertainment into a lethal situation. I wonder why Treadwell dumped her ass, they seem like soul mates to me!

The Platonic Lover. This woman has issues. Treadwell uses her basement for storage for 15 years, he tells her he loves her, she ghostwrites a book for him, she's the last woman who sees him before he leaves and the first to greet him when he's back, and even though Treadwell moans about being so lonely and finding women so hard to figure out sexually, they've never consummated their relationship? Oh yeah, and she's got a reused can of chewing tobacco with some of his remains in it, along with a morbid potpourri of his remains even Martha Stewart would gag at... bear hair, human remains, parsley sage rosemary and thyme? The only thing she didn't cram into that little can was bear feces, which Treadwell was so enamored with, and was ultimately what he ended up as.

The Parents. Were these really his parents? They seemed like they didn't know or care much about their son since he ran off to California. Mom was a little enamored with the camera and Herzog did her a real disservice by making her seem stiff and awestruck instead of loving or grieving or even fondly reflective. I really enjoyed the part where the father recalled his final bit of parental authority over Timothy when he "put the kibosh" on Tim smoking pot in the house, even though he knew that Tim was just getting high elsewhere. You almost expected them both to shrug and say, "kids these days, what can you do?" and then go back to watching Wheel of Fortune.

Herzog. The only reason this documentary is interesting is because it's morbid. It's not compelling as a nature documentary: after 15 years in the wilderness, the best bear footage Treadwell gets is two males wrestling for a screw. It's not compelling as a tragedy: neither character fell from a high place, although Treadwell was fatally flawed, and although calamitous, there was decidedly no meaningful ending. It fails as a portrait of a character because Treadwell's only depth seems to arise from his manic depression and his choice of

drugs.

Unsatisfied with his inability to tell the story from behind the camera and crippled with plastic performances by his actors (and they were all acting), Herzog breaks the sacred barrier and enters his own documentary. What cowardice it is to sell a bill of goods on a sensationalized story based upon 6 minutes of audio, and then not play a single second of that audio. Even worse, stage a scene with the closest thing you can find to a grieving widow, listen to a bit of the tape yourself, narrate a word or two and then become overwhelmed with it all and tell the woman to shut it off, as if you're being tortured and can't remove the headphones yourself. Then, you advise her to not listen to it and destroy it... when IT is the only reason you are going to afford that time share in Maui this year.

This is tantamount to reading an article that someone has found the holy grail but have since gone missing, so you do a documentary on it to cash in on the hype, track down their footage, chop it together, and when you come across the grail in what remains of their gear you decide to destroy it, lest someone else come along and uncover that it was just a Nalgene bottle and two stupid hikers who died of dehydration and their own poor planning. Since you can't show footage of the Nalgene bottle, you show a clip of yourself looking at the bottle, off camera, and after some oohing and awing, you decide that even though your job as a documentor is to deliver the truth and let the audience decide, you shall spare them from their own inability to process the information, even though your sales pitch promised to expose the truth of the grail. All of the hype and interest in this film is in its similarities to a "Faces of Death" video, except unlike that franchise which offers 20 second clips of action and gore with no back story or fluff, this film is all fluff and no gore.

Treadwell himself. This man-child was a clown looking for an audience. After a failed attempt to play a bar tender in Cheers (and look how amazing Woody Harrelson has done since he beat out Treadwell for the part!) Treadwell decides to take his hideous acting as far away from mankind as possible--perhaps his only wise move. Just like the mildly successful idiot Aussie Steve Irwin, Treadwells show isn't about the animals, it's about how stupid the host can be and still survive for another episode. I really enjoyed the clip where Treadwell does a bazillion takes of himself sprinting through the bush in different outfits (read: he changes his head band) so he can splice it together later no matter what do-rag he's wearing in the other footage. Funny that Treadwell affects a fake Aussie accent and even tells people that's where he's from, as if being stupid with animals and endangering yourself and those around you is somehow ok if you're from down under. Perhaps Herzog could go back and get Treadwell's mom to say "the dingo ate my baby! err. I mean the grizzly ate my baby!" to round out the farce that was this mockumentary.

Treadwell does the environmentalist movement a great disservice. He comes off as a psycho idiot whose environmental stance is "all for me, none for you." Any environmentalist who needs to say "don't try this at home kids, don't do what I do, don't treat wild animals like pets and don't push your luck over and over again" is NOT an environmentalist. Treadwell worships the hot and fresh dung of a bear he was just watching, placing his hands in it and praising it for being "perfect" because it was "in her, a part of her." It's kind of ironic that he'd be so drawn to bear dung, considering that bear dung was his fate.

Treadwell is no Don Quixote, but the giants he chases are certainly all in his head. He claims again and again to be a defender of the wild life, but we never see one example of him saving anything at all. The closest he comes to saving the bears is hiding in the bushes as photographers throw rocks at a bear to get better pictures. Treadwell doesn't even come out of the bush, he doesn't scream to scare the bear off, he doesn't yell at the photographers for throwing rocks. Rather, he waits until the photogs are gone and then decides that the smiley face and the "see you next year" message they left for him are DEATH THREATS, for HIM, not the bears! I'd hate to see how he'd respond to people who were shooting bullets instead of pictures. He's not fighting for national park status, he's not fighting against eco-tourism, and he's not fighting against poaching.... but he's a "warrior" ???

The last thing that I really don't understand is the preoccupation of Treadwell and of Herzog over Treadwell's sexuality. For some reason the middle of the documentary has a monologue with Treadwell bemoaning gay men and how easily they can get their rocks off by going to bathrooms and having commitment-less sex. With all the honesty of "I did not have sexual relations with that woman," Treadwell squeaks out a "but oh gosh, I'm soooo not gay! bummer man!" at the end of his rant, as if he needed to convince himself, because there's certainly no one else around. Then there's the multiple times during the film that the voice overs assure us that Treadwell did, in fact, have sex with women... lots of them... to the point where when a woman that Treadwell didn't have sex with shows up, they have to differentiate her as a "platonic" friend. Funny how all these women that Treadwell brings along to warm his tent never show up in his years of footage... and the one who does is only there twice... and a third time off camera being killed, after she wanted to leave him and not come back. Wow, how romantic.

Others have commented on how it seems odd that Treadwell would be such a hypocrite to constantly want to defend the bears as a warrior and on way too many occasions speak of dying FOR them or even BY them... to change at the moment of death and ask Amie to bash the bear's head in with a frying pan. I don't see this as a change at all. It was ALWAYS about him. It was always about creating a mythical character who could commune with the animals to the exclusion of all others. To name the bears is to own them. Treadwell didn't want to accept money in return for his talks because that would mean he'd have to in some small way give up ownership of his bears. For some people, what they do in the face of their own death is telling of their character. For others, the moment of death is meaningless or anticlimactic or unrevealing of anything other than a single emotion or instinctual response. Since we are truly denied knowing what Treadwell's last moments were like we are left victims of Herzog's creation of the event. I'm just surprised that Herzog didn't add in some lines like "remember me, finish my quest, protect the bears" followed by Herzog interjecting "the reason I made this film is to sear this man's courage into the public memory, to continue his quest, and to protect the bears, I can only hope, in the most humble of ways, that I have succeeded."

This documentary, like Treadwell's death, was boldly meaningless. It was more fabrication than fact, and it didn't give us the one bit of satisfaction we wanted... hearing Treadwell being eaten by a bear.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by [destructo-2](#) (Mon Nov 28 2005 19:50:13)



While only 7% of the film critics seem to have their heads on straight, the rotten reviews on the tomato site really do sum it up:

"I guess the movie is fascinating in a train-wreck kind of way, but I wasn't sure if the documentary is a tribute to Treadwell or just exploiting a tragic accident."

-- Cheryl Dawson and Leigh Ann Palone, THEMOVIECHICKS.COM

"Wild Kingdom was never like this... In Herzog's bizarre rerun, Treadwell gets to be the star of his own movie. The only thing he had to do was die."

-- Thomas Delapa, BOULDER WEEKLY

"Herzog's pretentious manipulation of the material turns what might have been an interesting nature film into a biased character study."

-- Edward Douglas, COMINGSOON.NET

"Herzog comes across as the worst kind of cinematic jackass—the filmmaker who doesn't trust his own work to speak for itself."

-- Carlo Cavagna, ABOUTFILM.COM

I enjoyed watching this film because it was a train wreck.... that doesn't mean you give awards to the drunk conductor or the suicidal guy who parked his car on the tracks. Especially when you can clearly see that they had to recreate the wreck with a playdough train and a tonka truck with the director's hands controlling each of them.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Spud00](#) (Mon Nov 28 2005 22:07:21)

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i liked those biased reviews and comments. that was real, umm intelligent of you.

i dont disagree that some of the people in the doc. proolly acted out their lines but what the hell, is that the directors fault? *beep* no.

and that was the sickest comment in the world, it felt like a *beep* essay. the fact that you have so much to write about jsut details the fact that you dont understand it.

anyone who raps off about a film or a doc like this is just really stupid. like go back and take an american college course on sociology again and just submit another "review". *beep* its pathetic. people dumb as you should not be able to express their views like that. or there should be a warning saying that "this review is created by a person with only a high school diploma or even an american "college" diploma"

the only thing that is a train wreck is the pathetic excuse you call your life.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [kippylou16](#) (Tue Nov 29 2005 06:33:33)

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I'd have to agree with you Spud!

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Tue Nov 29 2005 23:24:37)



What bias do I have? I didn't create "Destructo's Take on Grizzly Man" that didn't win awards or get acclaim, so I really don't gain or lose anything by helping or hurting this film on the IMDb boards, I didn't know anyone in the documentary before, so I'm not a friend or a foe, and I don't have any love nor hate for Herzog.

So what is my bias? Do you even know what that word means? This movie isn't pro or anti environmentalist or hunter, it isn't red state or blue state, it isn't pro nor anti brown bears, so any position I have on bears, the environment, hunting, politics, or any other "bias" really doesn't apply and certainly didn't enter my comments. If you can SEE otherwise, please quote me and explain.

Now, to ADDRESS your points, instead of some ad hominem attack on "spud"...

>>i dont disagree that some of the people in the doc. proolly acted out their lines but what the hell, is that the directors fault? *beep* no.
<<

Herzog had over 100 hours of Treadwell's footage to SELECT to show. We, I, you, certainly have the right to discuss why he chose specific footage, what he emphasized and we can even make guesses at what he left out and why. Now, we also have footage that Herzog himself shot. Herzog chose who he wanted to film, when, where, and why. He also had every right to not show footage he felt was a lie or misleading or ACTED.

A documentary should DOCUMENT the truth, not CREATE it. Not RE-INTERPRET it.

It's a fraud to allow a Doctor testify to things he did not have knowledge of and it's NEGLIGENT to not have him testify to what he did,

in fact, see. It's not documenting to hide very specific DOCUMENTS and facts that we know to exist and to front a misinterpretation of them as the ONLY "fact." Herzog felt it very necessary to jump in and comment on where he disagreed with Treadwell... but we have many minutes of the good Doc telling us all about things he did not see and nothing about what he did see.... nothing even about what he could tell from viewing the remains!! Herzog doesn't cut it. Herzog doesn't do a voice over. Herzog doesn't even supply another expert or witness to contradict it. SO WHERE AM I WRONG to conclude that Herzog wants us to listen and believe it all as truth?

Herzog most certainly had a HUGE role in creating the scenes that he shot as well. Do you think the Good Doctor decided to create a fake corpse on the slab? Did the Good Doc light that scene to ephasize the fake corpse or did Herzog? Now tell me who arraged the ceremony where the Doc gave the fake-widow the watch. If it was the fake-widow who PAID for this film, then Herzog is a victim of allowing the money to dictate his art. If it was Herzog, then why can't I call him out on it? If it was the Doc, then Herzog is a victim of a subject making Herzog's film and Treadwell's death a story about himself, the Doc. How about the inane staging of listening to the tape? How about that tape... they don't give us a transcript, they don't even really describe what's on it, except to say that Treadwell valiantly told Amie to save herself. Why did Herzog not tell us what we KNOW to be on that tape from the people who listened to it. Why don't we learn that he told Amie to come out of the tent because he was being killed? How come Herzog doesn't tell us that Treadwell told her to hit the bear with a frying pan? Why don't we learn that Amie was telling him to play dead at first and later to fight back?

If Herzog interviewed you or me for this film talking out of our asses and he included that footage in HIS documentary, is that OUR fault, or HIS? It's his. He is making statements via interviews. He chooses who to film. HIS name is on this film, not Treadwell and certainly not the Good Doc's.

What's wrong with writing an essay? Why should I stoop to your level and say one sentence things that make no logic or rational sense and spend more time with childish insults than explaining and documenting my opinions?

This is my favorite line: "the fact that you have so much to write about jsut details the fact that you dont understand it." (sic). Wow, you are such a genius. This makes so much sense. Because I DON'T get "it," I have so much to say that refers directly to what I saw and is supported by analysis. How about idiot comments like "this is amazing" or "Herzog is so cool" are valueless. They say nothing. No one cares what you think if you can't explain why. Even if you explain why, it's even better if you're convincing. You didn't address any of my points, you just throw out insults that are meaningless.

I don't need to take any more sociology to realize that you're pathetic. You disagree, but you can't say why and you can't defeat my criticisms, so you try to attack me with poor grammar. I graduated with honors from Stanford in Industrial Engineering and Finance, I hardly need you to tell me to get "an american "college" diploma", " since I seriously doubt you have one from any country or university yourself. I'd say you would classify as a train wreck except you haven't even left the station, you have to be going with some speed in some direction before you can derail, crash, and burn. You seem to lack direction and speed. In fact, you'd need fifty generations of breeding up just to be white trash and a quantum leap in intelligence just to be grossly inadequate.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Spud00](#) (Wed Nov 30 2005 20:38:16)

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hahahaahhahahahahaha
that was sik. you feel good about yourself now? hahahahhha
you prolly voted for bush.

You don't get it



by - [ghenrikson-1](#) (Sat Dec 3 2005 13:20:59)

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I'm no fan of Treadwell's, but I liked some of the points Herzog was making. The comparison with Steve Irwin is good. Treadwell is Irwin taken to his natural extreme. He is the perfect representation of the madness of a human race so totally separated from wilderness that it no longer understands what a wild animal even is. We have become like infants wanting to reach out and grab at the furry animals. We see them as children with fur.

Frankly, I don't find Treadwell all that much nuttier than the idiot tourists who wander around Katmai ever season on bear watching tours. They're all cut from the same bad cloth.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [static_soulfood](#) (Mon Dec 5 2005 17:43:48)

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🔗 **UPDATED** Mon Dec 5 2005 17:44:34

I really dug this movie. The best part was when the guy got eaten by a bear. Good stuff.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [B.T.K.](#) (Thu Dec 8 2005 19:51:39)

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Your totally right.
The "crying" widow was so badly staged. The watch gift was so *beep* tasteless. Its ridiculous

The incredible Fox footage.. Man wtf. If you give wild animals food and shelter, they come to you. What's the point?!

And I think he wanted to copy the crocodile man. Crocodile man, the animal abuser numero uno.

But, he was a brave man, a pansy wouldn't survive that long...

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [coliamkitkat](#) (Fri Dec 9 2005 10:21:17)

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UPDATED Fri Dec 9 2005 10:23:28

The only reason this documentary is interesting is because it's morbid. It's not compelling as a nature documentary

Maybe this documentary is only interesting to you because of your morbid curiosity, but Herzog found the subject matter compelling as a character study of Treadwell. It is never trying to be a nature documentary. You want one of those? Go to PBS or the Discovery Channel.

Herzog breaks the sacred barrier and enters his own documentary

There aren't official rules out there for documentary films, so I don't know where you get this "sacred barrier" from. And Herzog would be the first person to say that he doesn't make traditional documentary films.

Herzog never tries to set Treadwell up as a hero and certainly does not agree with Treadwell's view of himself as a "warrior" so I don't know what the point was of your multi-paragraph rant about Treadwell the man. That's like watching a documentary about the Holocaust and criticizing the movie because the Holocaust was a horrible thing. It's not really relevant to the quality of the film.

I wanted to be moved by the film in that inner child lover of bears way

Sounds to me like the movie ended up not being the kind of movie you wanted it to be, which is why you're all tied up in knots over it. Again, it's NOT a nature documentary, and never promised to be one.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [nimrod_18037](#) (Thu Dec 15 2005 18:39:30)

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I actually read all that, and all I can say is that you are a sad, sad person. In that you must be very sad, quite often.

<http://www.geocities.com/thehkfilmproject/>

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [thehoneybunny](#) (Sat Dec 31 2005 20:20:49)

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it's really annoying when people type *beep* instead of what they really want to say.

quite *beep*ing ridiculous.

[Post deleted]



This message has been deleted by the poster

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [frenchcookie](#) (Sat Jan 14 2006 13:57:54)

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You only get paid \$10.50 a day?

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [jandrplank](#) (Tue Jan 17 2006 11:56:49)

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I just wanted to throw my two cents in here, and state that I read your entire "essay" from start to finish, and I completely enjoyed your insight, and the fact that I finally feel like someone else watched the same pathetically scripted movie I did. I especially loved the connection between Timothy's affinity for bear dung, and the fact that he ended up as such. Quite fitting.

... I also have to agree with someone's train wreck comment... I just couldn't look away. I think it was a big oversight for the Golden Globes to not nominate this film under the musical or comedy category. What I find more hilarious is the fact that there truly are people out there

that COULD watch this film and take it seriously.

oh, and to the a-hole who can't read: i'm sorry if thoughtful analysis hurts your brain. but that's not a reason to make the rest of us stick to monosyllabic words. "movie, good. death by bear, bad". i personally would have liked to meet those bears to thank them myself.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Wed Jan 25 2006 17:30:07)



Yeah, besides the people who had to pay to see this, the real victims are those bears. I feel sorry they got shot for having the good taste to eat Treadwell and anyone who would possibly consider breeding with him.

Too bad they didn't get Herzog, the Cornoner, and the "Widow" before the park rangers plugged them.

Why Herzog's career and Treadwell have survived as long as they did defies "Survival of the Fittest."

[Post deleted]



This message has been deleted by an administrator

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [rswslb](#) (Sat Jan 28 2006 23:09:09)

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UPDATED Sat Jan 28 2006 23:09:43

I would have to agree with destructo on this one.

This entire documentary seems fabricated and parts were almost cartoon like.

He already stated any point I would so I'm not going to retype it.

I will say one thing though. Why is it that when someone actually sits down and puts some thought into a message board, they are ridiculed and attacked for doing so?

I'd rather read a message board of "essays" than a forum full of idiotic responses.
If you don't agree with it fine, just don't read it.

Two cents, in.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [kgilbert_1999](#) (Sun Jan 29 2006 08:02:19)

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I just wanted to say how much I appreciatd your well-written post. You made some outstanding posts. We watched Grizzly Man last night and it left a bad taste in my mouth. My husband and I just kept glancing at each other and saying, Some of this is so odd, so staged, and almost everyone in this film needs some serious help and are trying too hard.

I'm glad I saw the film but I agree with a lot of what you said.

The Grizzly Details



by - [destructo-2](#) (Tue Jan 31 2006 11:19:15)



A lot of you have sent me nice PMs about the post and asking for links to some of the articles that DO tell what was on that tape.

Here's a copy of a response to the PMs. There are links throughout that will lead to some articles that have quotes and first hand information on the attack. Thanks for the nice comments.

I'd say it's worth a download or a rent, but it certainly isn't worth all the praise it's getting. My main problem with it is that everyone claims two things. 1) That Herzog the "director" did an amazing job. But he didn't. All of the footage shot by him is just fake. And 2) That Treadwell was some kind of environmentalist that was saving bears.

MOST of the film is Treadwell's. It shows that he's off balance. It is entertaining in the manner that Steve Irwin is entertaining. IT's not about the Alligators, it's about the crazy Austrailian. Well, same thing with Treadwell. It's the Crazy American who plays with dung.

As entertaining as it was, the parts that Herzog shot will leave you disappointed and unfulfilled. He COULD have told you about the death.... which he certainly uses to advertise this film, it's the whole appeal, isn't it? That's certainly how I heard about it. It was the "guy got eaten by bears and filmed it" movie.

If you have netflix or a free rental, certainly watch it just so you can confirm. The actual story IS intriguing. People pretend that Herzog is making some statement on how twisted Treadwell was. But that's not the case. WE CAN see that, but I doubt Herzog could... since at the end of the day (and the end of the film) when Herzog chooses to talk to us with a voice over, he treats Treadwell not as a depressed and psycho weirdo, HE DEBATES his philosophy!!!

Any way, I did some googling and found some blogs that linked to the original press articles from pre-film. Here are some links that will get you a good start.

<http://maisonbisson.com/blog/post/10725/>

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/142982_bearattack08.html

<http://www.katmaibears.com/timothytreadwell.htm>

<http://www.katmaibears.com/grizzly-attack.htm>

http://outside.away.com/outside/news/200401/200401_blood_brothers_1.html

That should get you started. There are many links from some of those sites. The people commenting on the actual deaths weren't that hard to find.

<http://www.bangornews.com/news/templates/?a=123595&z=304%20class=>

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/01/25/1074965434970.html?from=storyrhs>

I can't off hand find the really funny blog that had the best links to the original news reports and the quotes from people who had heard the tapes. Try google with "treadwell fryingpan" and similar... from the quotes you can find. That should rule out most of the movie pages and get back to the pages that actually talk about what's on the film.

"I'm being killed out here" is probably your best bet.

Good luck finding some truth in all this. :C)

Re: The Grizzly Details



by - [proteus122](#) (Thu Feb 2 2006 16:53:11)

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Thanks for the links Destructo. I found the www.katmaibears.com ones the most interesting as they were written by a man who had run-ins with the nutbar. Your original post was very insightful but I've got to tell you some of it was PURE COMEDY GOLD! It will not be forgotten and I'm, no doubt, going to borrow from it.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [dgross-3](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 14:52:34)

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UPDATED Fri Feb 3 2006 14:53:44

I totally, utterly agree with destructo-2.

I have also had a flash of insight:

"After a failed attempt to play a bar tender in Cheers" ...

By baiting, and being eaten by, the bear, T'well was subconsciously recreating the tension of the abusive relationship between lousy actor and (a) the director and/or (b) the reviewers.

It seems you went in here expecting something else...



by - [The Hawaiian Stallion](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 16:57:00)

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Not gonna really argue some of the stuff as I do thing some of the people were hamming it up at times, but then again most people act different in front of a camera knowing that possibly millions of people will see this and try to act like their image of what they should be.

As to often ragging on Tim, in some cases I can see where you're coming from but at other times it seems you're only angry because other people liked this which is never the smart way to do things, its not even nominated for an Oscar.

Treadwell obviously had some mental problems and you rip apart his reasoning and actions like he was a coherent man. He most likely wasn't all there and even though I don't doubt his ego was pretty big and ruled a lot of things in his life, it doesn't make much sense on your part. Its easy to find fault in someone with a few blown circuits and a cop out in my opinion. I mean seriously, the man is in love

with bear poo and honestly doesnt seem to understand how nature works, especially during the scenes where he finds the dead bear cub and fox pup.

Do I agree with what Tim did? No on a lot of occasions I think he was in the wrong however I do think the documentary had a point. It wasnt just portraying a man and his often misguided quest, it was taking a look at humanity through this man. People are hypocrits almost by nature, we like being in the spot light, and so on. Herzog mentions this through out the film, its not like he tries to portray Tim as anything but a weirdo with a strange, almost sick fascination with bears.

You call this movie fabrication, and in a sense Treadwell was trying to create a greater image of himself but the movie doesnt do that, it shows us the man at his highs and lows, his goods and his bads, the beautiful and the ugly and it seems you somewhat misunderstood that. Your post was a long one and I may have missed something where you talk about this, but it just seems you're angry at a lot of stuff you dont really need to be.

Treadwell was a strange one but a unique one, and a lucky one. I for one dont like where the human race is going as of now and I can agree with Tim, as someone else who's lived far from man with little contact with them, I can agree their is a magical feeling you get from pure unadulterated nature. No I dont agree with some of his actions but I found the movie strangely moving, not exactly sure why, maybe because it wasnt just a peak into a sad strange man's life in the wilds and his untimely end but because Herzog gave us a look at ourselves.

Just my take.

"I came here to chew bubble gum and kick ass and I'm all out of bubble gum", Nada from "They Live!"

Re: It seems you went in here expecting something else...



by - [Daverat](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 17:37:05)

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I didn't see Herzog as trying to glorify Tim treadwell at all. Rather, I felt that given the context of Herzog's own life, he was showing his audience the consequence of unmitigated narcissism.

We all believe our own *beep* a little too much sometimes but usually have people in our lives whgo love us enough to provide us with a reality check when we are buying our own PR too frequently. Most of us also have people who love us enough to seek a civil committment if we go off our rocker and want to become "one with the bear" or something equally insane.

Sadly, no one in Treadwell's life loved him enough to intercede. Clearly he was a man incapable of protecting himself from himself. One wonders if his mania could have been redirected with proper treatment and/or medication. His conflict with his sexuality was so painful to watch. With some caring and loving intervention, perhaps he would not have needed to flee civilization in a quest to avoid the issue.

I was angry with herzong at first for not asling the following questions:

To the "widow" and "platonic chick" - what the EFF is wrong with you that you encouraged this man who clearly needed professional help?

To the Parents - Where were you when your child needed you most and why did you not have him forceibly committed?

I got over that anger when I saw that those questions were meant to be asked by us after viewing the film.

Re: It seems you went in here expecting something else...



by - [destructo-2](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 17:55:32)



Very nice observations The_Hawaiian_Stallion... I've come to like Treadwell more and dislike Herzog more.

The fabrication I spoke of wasn't really aimed as much at Tim as it was at Herzog. Tim was a wacko, but I think he was honest (he really didn't understand that he was doing little or no good, wasn't saving any bears, and was really just running away... but how can you know you're crazy... it's a Catch-22).

Most of the nasty things I said about Tim were aimed at the people who were on this board back when I wrote that who were convinced that Tim was a green-party hero and successful animal rights activist / protector of nature. Most of them are gone now, replaced by people who notice that Tim was more than a bit off.

But the new people don't recognize that Herzog is a hack in this documentary.

Herzog, I feel, was being manipulative. The film Tim shot of himself... well, speaks for itself. Sure, Herzog chose what clips to show, but in a lot of them, we get to see several minutes of Tim... so it wasn't selective cuts... and we have to guess that it's still representative of Tim's work.

But the shots Herzog does. Wow. Those are just so cheezy and fake. I've read as much as I could find on what Herzog said about this film, and NEVER have I seen him say that it is supposed to be ironic, or comedic... or even staged. He always acts like this is a _REAL_ documentary...

Herzog never addresses the issues that are really going on with Tim. His voice over is such a tangent. Herzog seems to want to debate Tim's view on nature instead of recognizing how insane the whole thing is. How Tim's actions lead to the death of an innocent girl, Tim,

and several bears.

I can't help but feel that Herzog is trying to pull one over on us.

Re: It seems you went in here expecting something else...



by - [destructo-2](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 18:02:01)



I very much agree with you Daverat.

The Questions you want answers to. I wanted them too. Very much.

That's kind of what I meant when I said that Herzog wants to debate Tim's view on nature... what he should have asked the hard questions.

I almost felt like the real story was "how could this happen... and what did happen" ... but Herzog didn't ask any of the hard questions.

The problem is that we have no ability to ask those questions. Herzog did. He should have.

I'm still kind of mad because I don't feel I got to see what I wanted to see, and I don't just mean the death scene. What we got in the end was Herzog's THEORY ON RANDOM ACTS IN NATURE AND CHAOS!!? What? What?

Did we ask you, Herzog, what you felt nature was all about? No!

Re: It seems you went in here expecting something else...



by - [Daverat](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 18:44:45)

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destructo-2 - good points all of them. I'm inclined to agree with you in your current sympathy for Tim the self-deluded wacko. I was very angry with Herzog to the point of shouting at the Tv screen several times, annoying my husband to no end. (BTW - this is my husband's Screen name and IMBD account. Please don't read some of his/my posts and think I'm as wacked as Tim!)

I was yelling:

"How dare you let the parents off that easy! Why not ask them "did it ever occur to you to have him put in-patient on a 51/51 hold?"

I also shouted several times:

"Where the heck did this nutjob get the needed cash to do this year after year and who are the people funding him? Have they even met this guy, cuz if they did, why didn't THEY try to have him committed?"

To the earth-mother chick who deposited his ashes with bear fur and such - I was screaming...

"Perhaps your precious Timmy would satill be alive if you hadn't freaking enabled him!"

My husband got mad at me and left the room so I could scream at the Tv by myself.

On the second run-through, I was more contained and I grasped or at least I believed that Herzog WAS asking those questions but not directly. I support his view that nature is not all cuddly one-with-the-universe happy horsecrap and that nature can be random and cruel - something Tim couldn't see.

What I perceived, and I can be convinced that I was wrong in that perception, was that Herzog wanted people to go ballistic as I did and scream at the screen or simply recoil in the horror of all this madness. TO have turned this film into a battle of the talking heads commenting on the nature of Bipolar disorder would have made it just another Bill Kurtis type A&E special expose.

No, I don't like everything Herzog did and the extremely kind way ge dealt with the people most to blame for this tragedy, but his film shocked me. I had no idea that there was this dumb pudding named Tim Treadwell out teasing bears in Alaska. I vaguely remember the reports of his death, but I had no idea how awful the truth really was. Treadwell has done real harm to the environment he claimed to love and the cause he thought he represented.

Re: It seems you went in here expecting something else...



by - [destructo-2](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 18:51:23)



Yeah, totally agree.

Even though I dish on Herzog... this is ceratinly a provocative film, intentionally or not. It's not worth forgetting about... so I guess that means it's a success.

I mean, there are plenty of crap films that I'd never even care to comment on, let alone come back to multiple times.

But in all the publicity, I've never heard any of the "establishment" question the cheeze... or even address wether or not it was tongue in cheek in parts or not.

It's not that I don't get the joke, it's wether it really is a joke or not.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [Ernest the Sheep](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 19:00:54)

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UPDATED Fri Feb 3 2006 20:56:55

Dude, I did make an attempt to sift my way through all your turgid prose but you will have to forgive me for skimming a few bits. It really was heavy going. You have obviously gone to a lot of trouble to diss the film.

I must say that most of the little details you have brought up I did not even notice while viewing the film. I'm not saying they weren't present, but you were obviously on the look out for them. Are you sure you don't have any ulterior motives?

I agree that a lot of the participants in the film have their various character flaws. But why are you carrying on as if this were some fault in the film it self? Do you not get what the film was all about? I think not, given that you go on to suggest that the film was only interesting because it was morbid. A totally false assertion. It was interesting because Tim was an interesting character himself. If it had not ended the way it did it would have still been a fascinating insight into a troubled mind along with some great footage of the bears.

You are of course entitled to your opinion dude, but I reckon you are way off the mark on this one.

That is the question.....

by - [Daverat](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 19:02:06)

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>>It's not that I don't get the joke, it's wether it really is a joke or not.<<

That is certainly a legitimate question to ask, destructo-2, because if ever there was a film that was uninentionally hilarious at moments, it's GRIZZLY MAN.

During the first viewing, in-between shouting at the TV in anger, I was laughing so hard I was choking. It was usually something that Tim was saying that caused me to double over in rueful laughter. The things he said and did were so incredibly ludicrous you just had to laugh. Eventually, however, even though TIM continued to say majorly stupid stuff, I just couldn't laugh anymore. Instead I wanted to just be sick at the utter waste of it all.

Do you think Herzog edited it that way to forcen us into laughter first only to horrify us with the senselessness of Tim's actions and death later on?

Re: That is the question.....

by - [destructo-2](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 20:31:28)

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Maybe Herzog didn't get the joke, because he treats Treadwell like a Philosopher.

What?

After showing us an hour of footage of a man that needs help, he decides to intellectualize with him? Some BS about chaos and savage nature.... WHAT? What about the insane guy? What about those fake interviews? What about all the people who heard the tape and describe exactly what happened...

Mainly that Tim first wanted Aimee to wack the bear on the head with a pan.. "Get out her, I'm being killed" or something very similar to that?

The more times I see this film, the more I am convinced that Herzog is on a different planet. I don't think he would think his film would be so hilarious. If he is being intentionally funny, he's very good at keeping a straight face and being apparently serious.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [ddreams987](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 21:19:43)

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So if this is a mere character study, why linger on the "platonic friend" character who cries over Treadwell's loss?

Why does Herzog have the doctor speculate on events he could not have possibly known the outcome or cause of? We get the coroner's take on the bear attack, for example, at the end of the film. He says how Treadwell did "the right thing" and tried to save Aimee's life. How could he have known this? Both of them were dead. The whole point is that we have no idea how it actually happened. Keep in mind, this wasn't some forensic scientist brought into a crime scene to discover what series of events lead to some murder/suicide. This is a guy who saw two dead bodies that had been attacked by a bear. He even admits that all he received in the metal tin were body parts, so

how can he possibly form any opinions on what happened, let alone his opinions on what he heard on the videotape. He is not qualified. At one part, the coroner even starts talking about the "conviction" of the two's relationship. As if Herzog realized halfway through that he had been narrating his own half-baked movie and couldn't bring in another narrator at this point, so he had to have someone explain what he couldn't otherwise use filmmaker technique to convey.

Why does Herzog have the less-than-compelling scene of him handing off the wristwatch, as if it is some pseudo-sentimental passing of the torch? Herzog sitting with the woman, saying "You must never listen to this videotape. You must never see the photographs at the coroner's office. Destroy this tape or it will be a white elephant in your room all your life," offering Dr. Phil advice in the middle of his own supposed documentary.

While Herzog attempts to make it abundantly clear that he is fascinated with Treadwell and attempting to construct a character study, it is a farce. There is no objectivism in Herzog's unfocused, emotionally-whoring exploitation of this man and his survivors.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [ddreams987](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 21:31:22)

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Don't be upset that he owned you and you aren't intelligent enough to adequately respond to his analysis.

Fool.

Re: That is the question.....



by - [Caulk Rocket](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 21:37:33)

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Herzog is no hippie, I don't believe I've heard about him being sympathetic to any of those causes. You could have made your own documentary with the time taken to write all that crap here. What a waste of time.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [ddreams987](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 21:49:37)

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"I must say that most of the little details you have brought up I did not even notice while viewing the film. I'm not saying they weren't present, but you were obviously on the look out for them. Are you sure you don't have any ulterior motives? "

Hmm. So either you're a dense clot who isn't attentive and/or intelligent enough to notice the same level of detail and implication in film, or the original poster has some dark, mysterious purpose to serve by calling this film on the pile of bear-dung it is? I'm going with the former. Dude.

"I agree that a lot of the participants in the film have their various character flaws. But why are you carrying on as if this were some fault in the film it self?"

You obviously missed the parts of the rant in which he details the flaws of the film itself. Not to mention the fact that many of the interviews in Grizzly Man--the coroner for example--are presented as fact by the filmmaker. Sure, maybe the coroner is just a flawed individual who can't present an unbiased account of something he is unqualified to talk about in the first place, but how the hell are we supposed to know that? Herzog decides what to show us.

ddreams987 passes the IQ test with flying colors



by - [destructo-2](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 22:10:57)



many of the interviews in Grizzly Man--the coroner for example--are presented as fact by the filmmaker. Sure, maybe the coroner is just a flawed individual who can't present an unbiased account of something he is unqualified to talk about in the first place, but how the hell are we supposed to know that? Herzog decides what to show us.

EXACTLY!

It's like a sick sick joke that is so off color that it isn't funny. You're waiting for the joke teller to say "HAHA, just a joke" ... but that never happens. We do however get Herzog talking about Tim's philosophy of nature.

WE GET THAT TIM IS INSANE. We didn't need a voice over to tell us that. We don't need Herzog to tell us anything about Tim's misplaced nature theories.

What we do need is Herzog to clarify if he thinks his witnesses are credible or not. If they are an intellectual joke, why be so blatant with the voice over to tell us that he disagrees with Tim, but NOTHING to tell us that he disagrees with the Coroner or the "widow" (who just so happens to be the Producer of this little mockumentary, her being featured was probably a condition of her turning the tapes over to

Herzog) or Tim's parents ????

There's no laugh track. There's no bah-dum-ching. There's nothing to tell us that Herzog doesn't place absolute faith in the veracity of the people he filmed and chose to include in his work!!! Quite the contrary. He sifted through hundreds of hours of Tim's footage to select the parts he wanted to show us. Are we not to believe that he didn't have a choice in who to shoot when he was behind the camera?

I'm not sorry that I don't spew forth some trite sentence like "thiz flims R suxorz" and expect people to respond. My arguments are documented and if you cared to read it, you'll appreciate WHY I conclude what I do. If you don't find the examples credible, then you can dismiss the conclusions. EASY.

But ddreams987 has obviously read what I had to say and gone one step further to condense the point down to the key observation.

HERZOG decides what to show us.

ddreams987 is a very smart human being.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 22:19:44)



OMG, that is the greatest comment I have ever read on IMDb. I couldn't have written a better one myself.

You are obviously a graduate of a very good school. Are you a woman and single? Want to get married?

I really read your post thinking, did I write this, this is exactly what I think about the film and the coroner and about Herzog using them the way he did.

You are truly genius level IQ and you obviously see the big picture. You know what is going on. You can observe and come to conclusions without someone else telling you what and how to think.

The fact that someone like you read my post makes the entire thing worth doing. I was wondering there for a while... with all the "you must be a hunter" comments.

To quote Jerry Maguire.... you complete me. :c)

[Post deleted]



This message has been deleted by the poster

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [actlikeuknowme83](#) (Fri Feb 3 2006 22:42:05)

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haven't read a single post, and I have to say I am not a morbid person by any stretch. But, without doing any research while watching this doc., I thought it was a joke. I honestly thought this was like 'windy city heat'(obscure reference, but apt) or something to that effect. But, after watching it I looked up this Timothy Treadwell guy and saw that he was really mauled to death. I was a little surprised, but obviously I would have to assume this was a serious doc. being on the discovery channel and all. Anyway, like I said, I am not a morbid person, but I found it hilarious. It is very clear that this guy got exactly what he wanted and deserved, so really, I feel no compassion for the man. He wanted to be a martyr for animals and he got his wish. Unfortunately for him, he did nothing right and clearly knew very little about the animals he tried to habituate. This was extremely evident when he struggled to even find a word to describe the dueling bear's defecation. He is a sad figure and I just found it entertaining in the sense that this guy was crazy, and I'm glad someone caught it on film - even if it was him. It was DEFINITELY entertaining, and I recommend watching it, fabricated or not.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Ernest the Sheep](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 01:37:14)

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There's no need to be rude about it dude. But no I don't recall many of the particular details that destructo-2 cites. What of the white plastic bag in the examining room? I don't really care. Neither do I care about the many character flaws in the participants that destructo-2 so keenly points out to us. It's all part of what makes the film what it is.

I also realise that scenes were staged. I would have thought that would have been pretty obvious. Again so what? That is the way Herzog has decided to present the material. I think you are perhaps getting a little tied up with what you perceive a doco to be. The film is obviously not a doco in the same sense as you are likely to find on the history channel or the nature channel. I'm guessing you have not had much experience of the doco genre outside regular tv?

Sorry dude, but I can't see that destructo-2 has pointed to any legitimate flaws that would influence my judgment of the film. Sure there are a few uncomfortable moments when Herzog maybe pushes things a bit far, but I can live with them. But then I had no particular

agenda in mind before watching the film. It's so obvious that destructo-2 did. I like the way he ever so sincerely tries to convince us that he wanted to be 'moved' by the film. Contrast this alleged sensitivity of his with the tedious rant which follows, and also his subsequent facile gloating posts about Tim's fate in other threads. The guy is so transparent. He's just a big fraud and is probably too scared to respond to my posts himself as he knows that I'm way too clever for him.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Ernest the Sheep](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 01:40:27)

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reply

"in the middle of his own supposed documentary"

I think that's your problem dude. You are judging it in terms of what you perceive a doco to be.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 01:59:46)

edit

reply

delete

And 6 minutes later...

"It's all part of what makes the film what it is"

Poop is poop. Gold is gold. Things are what they are. Do you have a point?

I also realise that scenes were staged. I would have thought that would have been pretty obvious.

There's a difference between filmed after the fact and STAGED. If you take staged to mean "arranged: deliberately arranged for effect," then my beef boils down to: the staging was insulting to the audience. The scenes were more of a gimmick than informative or touching or even illuminating.

"Wouldn't it be clever if you stood next to this fake corpse. Yes Yes... that's very dramatic"

"How about we award some token you found on the remains to this woman who is a producer on this film and as close to a "widow" as we can find... yes, oh, you have a watch... hurm, that will do. Give it to her in a little ceremony, and tell her how amazing it is that it still runs, and how it's proof that Tim was a brave man and still loved you, yes yes, and I will film it"

"Let's have some footage of me listening to the tape and tastefully asking that it be turned off because I am so deeply moved"

This is all BS trying to CREATE something to film... not documenting a story, CREATING something to document. That's pretty fake and it is very insulting to an audience to expect them to just suck it up.

No one cares about your judgement or whether you're convinced. Your entire point is what exactly? 1) You don't remember the film. 2) You don't care that it's staged 3) You don't give a crap that it's cheese 4) You are brilliant enough to recognize that it was staged, but miss the meaning of that 5) You fail to realize that this just aired on the Discovery channel, not the IFC channel 6) You assume ignorance when you present zero evidence of any knowledge yourself 7) You accuse me of an agenda, but you fail to list one specific piece of evidence that would suggest what that agenda is or how it has resulted in what I wrote

So how exactly am I a fraud?

And no, you're not clever in the least. You are, after all, a sheep.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 02:41:32)

edit

reply

delete

Your powers of debate and logic are insurmountable. Your single point is A=A. Reflexive identity. This film is this film, therefore it can't be bad, because it is good.

This is a joke. Therefore it is funny. So you must laugh.

See, it doesn't work. You have to provide evidence and observations. Make an argument. Deconstruct my argument, perhaps.

But no, we have the Herzog groupie favorite "It's not cinema verite" ... except you lack the experience or vocabulary to present the real argument you're trying to make.

To quote you, "Pretentious hacks with delusions of worth such as yourself are a dime a dozen." I'd say that pretty much describes Herzog

as evidenced through this film. I don't care if all his documentaries are like this or if he doesn't believe in being honest or anything else of the sort. If that is his "way of the film maker" then I find his way as stupid and annoying as this film.

I say 'he is telling lies' and your response is "he is a liar, of course he is telling lies." You and several other posters miss the point. I'm talking about the morality of lies, whether a film maker should lie, whether they were good lies, or how easy the lies were to see through. You seem content to stop at "he always lies, that's it" and you fail to address not only my points, but the merits of this film.

Since you provide no alternate definition of what a "doco" should be. I'll just say that this fails as:

- a nature documentary
- a snuff film
- a mockumentary
- a dark comedy
- a character study
- an investigative report
- a news report
- a historical anecdote
- a relationship study

Really now, do you have a category that anyone else other than you was expecting with a documentary on the Discovery channel? Please fill us with your wisdom of how this met your expectations and what form of "doco" this was supposed to be and how it fulfilled that with grace and aplomb.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Ernest the Sheep](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 12:09:02)

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Of course you are a fraud dude. Why else would you go to such an effort to diss the film? Why would you make such a pathetic attempt to feign sincerity about your attentions before launching into your tedious gloating diatribe against Tim and the film? Dude, who do you think you are kidding? I'm laughing at your transparency dude. As I said before, I'm way too clever for you.

I think you need to work a little harder and try not to state your opinions as fact. I certainly had no misunderstandings of what the film was going to be about before I watched it. As I said if you were expecting the type of regular doco that is played on the nature channel then that is unfortunate. If you don't like to be surprised about a film then maybe you could educate yourself a bit more about the film before watching. You're a phony dude. A big phony.

PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY PHONY

Had enough dude, or do you want some more?

Okay then dude.

Your criticisms of the film, that of them that I managed to get through in that tedious tirade of yours, were far too superficial for me to really even care about. It would be as if I went over to the Donnie Darko board and started to rant on about how the film could not possibly make any sense. It would not make one single iota of difference to how the people feel about it. Just as your pathetic rant is not going to make one difference to how people feel about Herzog's film. As I said dude, you just aren't clever enough to influence how people feel about this film. So I suggest you just go back to your hunting or whatever it is that you dude. But don't feel too bad dude, it wasn't that bad an effort from you, but in the end you are still somewhat of a light weight. See ya.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Ernest the Sheep](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 12:23:19)

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UPDATED Mon Feb 6 2006 16:10:04

Relexive identity? Sounds like something I learnt in maths class. LOL!

You know what your problem could be dude? I reckon you may have been educated to a level far beyond your ability to conduct reasoned logical thought. Your arguments are tiresome. You don't seem to possess any worthwhile insight. It's like you are some sort of savant. It's a real pain to even read.

But to be fair dude, if you genuinely reckon I have not adequately addressed some good points in there with all your dross then feel free to feed them to me one by one. I just can't be bothered dealing with them all at once.

See ya!

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 12:37:15)

[edit](#) [reply](#) [delete](#)

Did you meet Tim in rehab, Dude?

You must be a surfer, dude, because you've made a lot of effort to not go anywhere. I don't even see a single thing worth responding to.

You'd need 10,000 years of upscale breeding before your descendants would be white trash. In other words, you'd need a quantum leap in intelligence just to be grossly inadequate.

See yah, DUDE!

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



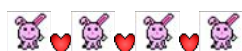
by - [mollys-lips](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 12:49:15)

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[reply](#)

Maybe this documentary is only interesting to you because of your morbid curiosity, but Herzog found the subject matter compelling as a character study of Treadwell. It is never trying to be a nature documentary. You want one of those? Go to PBS or the Discovery Channel.

Funny that they showed it on the Discovery Channel last night!



Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [morlock9](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 12:56:45)

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It's clear the Tim didn't know who he was, and interpreted the world through two-dimensional rose-tinted glasses only the way a self-righteous "recovered" drug addict can.

His lack of knowledge of even the basics of brown bears is laughable, but that's likely due to his drug-damaged mind. Even an average intellect, if spending thirteen years in a very specialized area, should be more "bear-savey" than Tim was, even if only through osmosis. Christ, didn't he read journals on the subject in his spare time? There are tons of field studies on bears and Tim didn't refer to any of them.

Tim found his niche among the bears, and with his Prince Valiant haircut- aging though he was-found a way to get laid a lot in the off season. I suspect that was a prime motive to keep him going back to the woods. How many elementary school teachers did Tim get dates with after one of his free "gee whiz!" presentations to the students? Trouble was, once past the initial excitement and novelty, most women would soon realize how shallow and limited he was.

So, all in all, a sad picture of a misfit whose final legacy will be a real-life illustration of why Park Rangers do not want you to Feed the Bears.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 13:03:06)

[edit](#) [reply](#) [delete](#)

Amen. Notice it didn't show up on the IFC or Sundance channels. It wasn't shown during a discussion of how honesty in documentaries is over rated, nor how "cinema verite" is now cliché and gauche and post modernism is all the rage... how fiction and non-fiction are just meaningless labels. It's all about the message, no?

The brown bear wasn't a Grizzly.
Tim wasn't an environmentalist.
Herzog isn't a documentarian.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Ernest the Sheep](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 13:38:01)

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But dude, you are the one who has made all the effort to get nowhere. And haven't I already told you that? So why are you feeding my lines back at me dude? It's a bit lame don't you think?

Anyway dude I'm rapidly losing interest. In fact I'm almost beginning to pity you. So lets end our discussion here before that happens.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [mollys-lips](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 13:40:21)

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Some North American Brown Bears are Grizzly bears (those who are not coastal/Kodiac Bears)

Other than that, I totally agree. Most emphatically with the part about Tim not being an environmentalist. He did something that no true environmentalist or naturalist would do--he interfered. Not just the physical interference of setting up camp so near the bears, and encouraging the bears to have physical contact with him (something that is far more harmful than rock-throwing photographers). He actually interfered in the natural ebs and flows of nature. One example of this is his carving of a stream for the salmon. That simply isn't his place. That is the same thing as a filmmaker or naturalist interfering with a lion taking down prey because you thought gazelles were cute.

You wouldn't see Jeff Corwin do that!



Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [xredgarnetx](#) (Sat Feb 4 2006 14:58:40)

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If I recall correctly, Herzog is openly gay. That might explain a lot of things about this movie.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Sun Feb 5 2006 10:58:40)

 [edit](#)

 [reply](#)

 [delete](#)

So we have:

Werner Herzog isn't a documentarian, he's a fabricator that uses true events as an ingredient to tell a reworked story. I wonder if he tells the people in his films that he's going to use them in the way he does. "I am going to make you look awkward and stupid to help prove my theory that life is absurd!"

Tim Treadwell isn't an environmentalist, he's just a bear fetishist who didn't accomplish much, if anything, to help the bears. He certainly didn't protect them against any sort of threat and he did get a few of them shot.

The "widow" isn't a widow, she was fortunate enough to get possession of a tape of a man and a women getting eaten by a bear and she parleyed that into a modicum of fame and fortune and some guaranteed screen time for herself.

The coroner seems to know about everything else in this drama except bodies. He's a psychic, a spritual diviner, and a budding Shakespeare thesbian.

and so on, and so forth.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Bodhi65](#) (Sun Feb 5 2006 11:07:10)

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The whole thing felt, to me, like a South Park episode ... Come to think of it, doesn't Tim Treadwell look a lot like Trey Parker?

=====

Excuse me, I believe you have my stapler...

Ask yourself this...



by - [Daverat](#) (Mon Feb 6 2006 12:53:26)

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Destructo - I've enjoyed reading your comments because the feelings you are expressing so mirrored some of the feelings I had while watching the film. I don't agree with you that Herzog buys into the delusions of the subjects he is filming but that is because I am quite familiar with Herzog's other works and believe his lack of editorial comment serves a different purpose.

I discussed this thread and your observations with my husband, himself a director and he asked me this:

Is it possible that the intense reaction you are having to the material, the anger at the subject's denial and delusions of granduer, the disgust with the whole sorry mess that was this tragedy - that all of that was the intended outcome when Herzog refrained from making any comment about the mental states and/or credibility of any of the film interviewees?

Herzog comments on Treadwell because he must. Treadwell is the cause of all this heartache. His hippy-dippy brotherhood of Nature view of reality cries out for comment. In refuting that reality, Herzog DOES actually address the credibility of any of the other people in the film. if they share Tim's deeply flawed concept of nature, then they too are deluded.. right? No further comment needed.

I submit to you, Destructo, that Herzog might be very satisfied with your intense revulsion to these people.

It's possible that in order to gain access to Tim's footage, he had to let the 'Widow' and others speak without being contradicted by him in voice-over. It's also possible, that in his condemnation of Tim's "The Lion shall lay down with the Lamb" philosophy of nature, he DID refute the "widow" and others.

What do you think of my proposal?

If this film was intended to provoke debate, I believe in Destructo's reaction, Herzog succeeded in that!

Re: Ask yourself this...



by - [c_till](#) (Mon Feb 6 2006 14:26:15)

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UPDATED Mon Feb 6 2006 14:34:17

I think you are giving Herzog too much credit. Scripting or arranging dialogue, and inserting yourself into the doc ala Michael Moore suggests a personal agenda (ego, bias etc...). The quality of this work is low. Just because someone ascribe's a purpose to the film (masterful manipulation or a new art form) does not remedy this.

Whether or not the film psychoanalyzes the subject, there were many areas that were avoided or simply not covered that would have contributed to the film. To suggest that this was all the work of some great genius flies in the face of what is in front of us.

Re: Ask yourself this...



by - [super_worm](#) (Mon Feb 6 2006 15:10:26)

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Someone else here posted a link of an interview where Herzog talks about how he stumbled upon the story of Treadwell and felt he had to make this film.

Herzog might disagree with TT sentiments but he does not condemn him for having those sentiments. If you are familiar with Herzog then you might agree with me that it is characters like Treadwell that Herzog is interested in. I think Herzog is enamored with Treadwell and saw a fascinating story to be told. He used the interviews to further push the bizarreness of the story.

Herzog doesn't care about bear conservation and the film is neither about or against the validity of Treadwell's work. Rather, it is about the madness that could push some people to do extraordinary things, dangerous things. Things that most people don't understand.

Being an artist himself, Herzog is interested in the motivation that resulted in the video footage we saw.

Re: Ask yourself this...



by - [c_till](#) (Mon Feb 6 2006 17:33:35)

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UPDATED Mon Feb 6 2006 17:35:36

Again, I think Herzog is being given too much credit.

"Herzog might disagree with TT sentiments but he does not condemn him for having those sentiments."...suggests objectivity

"He used the interviews to further push the bizarreness of the story"...suggests subjectivity. I prefer the latter.

Either way, if he is going to use interviews to push the bizarreness of the subject, at least make them real/believable instead of contrived and amateurish (this could not have been done intentionally). Standards for filmmaking keep getting progressively worse. This is just one more example.

Herzog seems to exhibit a healthy sense of ego in this film by making himself a central figure. I don't buy the artiste argument. He just simply got in the way. It was not cutting edge. It was sophomoric.

Re: Ask yourself this...



by - [destructo-2](#) (Mon Feb 6 2006 20:33:10)



This film is certainly substantial, hard to ignore, and very difficult to just write off. I wonder why I come back to this thread and this board so often, seeing as I usually diss and forget about other films. Was it the story? Certainly a good chance. Was it the feeling that I recognized what I thought was fraud? Very possibly.

I'm from Colorado and I know at least two people who were in "Bowling for Columbine" who have told me that they strongly disagree with how they were presented and how their stories were edited by Michael Moore. In a sense, that didn't bother me because I knew that Moore was out to make a propaganda piece.

I didn't expect the same thing here. After the initial shock of Tim's behavior, the comedy of those interviews just bothered me to no end.

Is it possible that the intense reaction you are having to the material, the anger at the subject's denial and delusions of grandeur, the disgust with the whole sorry mess that was this tragedy - that all of that was the intended outcome when Herzog refrained from making any comment about the mental states and/or credibility of any of the film interviewees?

The material is amazing: some guy who has no visible means of income lives in Alaska part time for 13 years and hangs out with bears, only to be eaten on the last day of the extended trip. Not to mention that his personality is over the top too. But Tim didn't piss me off. I'd have even watched his video when he got around to splicing it.

So it has to be your second observation. That Herzog chose to use the footage he shot with the people he chose and if he was involved in what they had to say, the script he wrote. What about the people who don't recognize that this film was absurd in that regard? Heck, very few people understand it like you do, that it wasn't a nature documentary at all and that Herzog doesn't care much for the Bear except as the hand of fate that it serves and how it acts on his character of Tim.

I don't get why Herzog decides to address Tim's view of nature though. He doesn't address Tim's efficacy at all (well, on second viewing, I did hear one line where he comments that Tim's enemies are perhaps more in his head -- still, pretty light treatment). Not to be crude, but it seems to me that addressing Tim's view of nature is like discussing a rapists view of fashion. Sure, fashion has to do with sex, and rape has to do with sex, but in a documentary about a serial rapist, ignoring the acts and pontificating on their fashion sense is absurd!

I would agree with you that Herzog would be pleased with my reaction, and in a way, I'm pleased with the film Herzog made because it's very fun to discuss it with people. Hell, I like talking politics against crappy leaders as much as I like talking it in favor of good ones.

I wonder though, if Herzog is so heady, that it's just fine with him that his work go unappreciated for what it is by the vast majority of people who see it.

If he wanted to make the Spinal Tapp of documentaries, I just wonder why he didn't clue us in. All the more absurd.

Re: Ask yourself this...



by - [Daverat](#) (Sun Feb 12 2006 12:54:01)

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>>>good ones.

I wonder though, if Herzog is so heady, that it's just fine with him that his work go unappreciated for what it is by the vast majority of people who see it.

If he wanted to make the Spinal Tapp of documentaries, I just wonder why he didn't clue us in. All the more absurd. <<<

Aha! There you are. Have you seen his Mockumentary about the Loch Ness Monster? it was done shortly before this film and it too is centered on the madness of obsession and the sub-realities that people create in order to live in a world more to their liking. When you view these films back to back, it explains a great deal.

As for Herzog caring whether he reaches the masses or not, his career has demonstrated that he does not. Watch the Loch ness film. I bet we'll have much more to talk about when you have.

Great response, Destructo. Thankyou for taking my last post seriously. Your insights are quite provocative.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Austdiggitv](#) (Mon Feb 13 2006 01:56:07)

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Ok...first of all, and for the most, part this is a well-argued, well-reasoned thread IMO. An A for Destructo...While I thought this movie had enough redeeming qualities to become, if nothing else, worth discussing, it was not, as argued, without weaknesses. This movie does qualify as a documentary for the most part, simply b/c of the stock footage. Herzog had to edit, and attempt to tell a compelling, coherent story. The attempt wanes unsatisfyingly when we must willingly suspend our disbelief, and accept the faithful word of the filmmaker to fill us in on the story's culmination. "Turn this off now," smacks of an explanation re: the omission. Isn't a documentary's modus operandi to show, and not tell???

The lingering, unanswered questions left by this doc are probably as compelling as the movie's best moments. This film has to be a documentary. The main character's motivation was never really established, just observed. Treadwell's character never demanded empathy, and only a bit of sympathy. However, this was a snapshot that, if nothing else, was unique in scope and provocative, not to mention some cleverly placed clips providing comic relief.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Robert Scott](#) (Thu Feb 16 2006 19:05:07)

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UPDATED Thu Feb 16 2006 19:06:59

"This documentary, like Treadwell's death, was boldly meaningless. It was more fabrication than fact, and it didn't give us the one bit of satisfaction we wanted... hearing Treadwell being eaten by a bear."

My thoughts exactly. Instead, we get Treadmill fondling bear fecal matter... Which leads me to believe Timothy Treadwell was in fact Andy Dick's doppelganger.

Good final words...



by - [Daverat](#) (Mon Feb 20 2006 13:35:35)

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>>>So, all in all, a sad picture of a misfit whose final legacy will be a real-life illustration of why Park Rangers do not want you to Feed the Bears.<<<

Here, here! Well said.\

and...

Thank you Destructo2 for a fine thread discussion. it was worth sticking it out to the end. Hope to see you on the boards my friend.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [madcatzara](#) (Tue Feb 21 2006 05:21:39)

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destructo-2, I agree with everything you say. All of the things you pointed out were things that irked me during the film. This film has to be the most frustrating film of all time for many reasons. During the noble 'widow's scenes, members of the audience groaned as a collective whole. But mostly they laughed.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [chrstna-2](#) (Tue Feb 21 2006 11:12:14)

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obviously fabricated- anyone in their right mind would have spotted this. no need to argue when mister coroner came out, who resembles Henry Winkler from arrested development. however, i dont think there is any need to make a big commotion about the film's authenticity. u guys have succeeded in what herzog wanted: a commotion out of nothing.

im not familiar w/ herzog's work- he is some hotshot director right? judging his work on this movie (which i watched last nite) and from his other movie, the enigma of lochness, i think the guy is just pulling our strings. & from reading the comments, i think he did a good job pulling a lot of viewers' strings. he loves to manipulate people and loves to play the devil's advocate just for the sake of debate. i think herzog loves complex and puzzles, rather than just summing up things w/ a one-line statement, like so many of us. i always feel that i am animated in watching his films and herzog tends to bring an animation presence to things or issues that "should" be dead or easily resolved. i dont know if thats genius or if its unnecessary stupidity- considering what type of person u r. i think a rare filmmaker like herzog is great for the film industry and viewers. what i am a little worry about is herzog's ego. his 2 films i watched, which were categorized "documentaries," seemed to be more about herzog himself than the actual issue at hand. i think sooner or later, if he continues making films like lochness and grizzly, he will be scorned by critics and audiences alike. however, there will be those who will watch his "documentaries" solely to see the makings of a trainwreck- and yes, count me in because i love my animal friends.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Tue Feb 21 2006 16:55:42)

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I agree with your assessment chrstna-2, except I'll say that it's fun for me to mock Herzog regardless if he feeds off praise or scorn. It's much too fun to pass up the opportunity to criticize people who think that this is a nature movie or people who DON'T REALIZE how CHEEEEEZY Herzog's footage is.

It's kind of like watching a crappy magician and pointing out how he does the tricks. It's a lot of fun.

And, I'm glad you love your animal friends, but I think that Herzog cared as much about the bears in Alaska as he did the monster in Loch Ness.... pretty much nothing.

Again, as I've stated before, this film and the hype around it isn't bad enough to just forget... but it's not good enough to remember. If that makes any sense, it basically means it's a hot topic right now and it's fun to argue over it.... much more fun to argue over this than serious matters, because in the end, it's not about being right or wrong, it's about using your mind and appreciating what others have to say. It's hard to do that when you discuss religion, politics, and other hot topic issues.

Frivolity and Fun.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [To0L](#) (Wed Feb 22 2006 09:50:29)

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destructo-2, wow, well written. I agree that the interviews were stilted and lame. Although that would probably be my only critique of the film, as big as it may be. There is a certain morbid interest in the deaths of course, but I don't disagree with Herzog's decision to not let us hear the tape, it's almost more effective IMHO to NOT hear it. I thought the character study was interesting, and yes, Herzog didn't give a crap about the bears, and it WAS NOT a nature film. I see it as an interesting character study that has some really horribly staged interviews and ceremonies and some breathtaking nature footage. Not great, but good.

With that being said, we need more users like destructo-2 on here.

<http://www.dvdafictionado.com/dvds.html?cat=1&id=filmz0mbie>

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Wed Feb 22 2006 14:45:47)



Thanks ToOL. :c)

I am coming to agree with you that the essence of this film has nothing to do with anything that you would think it's about based on the name, the advertising, even on viewing it the first time if you weren't paying close attention.

I guess that's the source of the vitriol, the fact that I felt that someone was intentionally trying to deceive all of us and they did a pretty crappy job of it. Not an entirely ineffective job though, seeing as there are plenty of people on this board who are trapped in the illusion that this is a pro-nature tree hugging movie about one of their fellow nature lover travellers.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [To0L](#) (Thu Feb 23 2006 09:03:17)

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Well personally I don't think the title of the movie is decieving to what the actual film is about, I mean it's called "Grizzly Man" not "Grizzly Bears". Hence it being about the man, and not the bears =)).

<http://www.dvdafictionado.com/dvds.html?cat=1&id=filmz0mbie>

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Thu Feb 23 2006 14:33:21)



Yeah, but they're not even Grizzlies. They're the comparatively nicer coastal brown bears. Point being, it's a lot of hype.

From Tim to Herzog to the promotion company, lots of people were bending the truth to make things seem to be very different than they actually were. And, as you can see, there are plenty of people who got lost on various levels of the deception... thinking that Tim actually save bears or stopped poachers, that Herzog made a film that was in good faith, or that it was a nature documentary that should be shown on Discovery or Animal Planet (not that I'm complaining that these channels are getting into experimental cinema, but it's not the usual animal fare).

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [thinkGreener](#) (Fri Feb 24 2006 21:50:51)

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Treadwell does the environmentalist movement a great disservice. He comes off as a psycho idiot whose environmental stance is "all for me, none for you." Any environmentalist who needs to say "don't try this at home kids, don't do what I do, don't treat wild animals like pets and don't push your luck over and over again" is NOT an environmentalist.

YES! Treadwell was not an environmentalist. Neither is Herzog. It isn't just their actions, but their motivations.

Tim might have loved the bears, but love does not make one an environmentalist. It's easy to see that Tim wanted to own and to horde and to exploit the same way a pedophile "loves" children.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [destructo-2](#) (Sat Feb 25 2006 14:21:23)

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Wow thinkGreener, I'm glad to see someone who has a pro-environment agenda that isn't some parrot of moveOn.org or the liberal extremist party. There are plenty of unthinking idiots and trolls like Helen who have nothing to say and don't address points, they just blab aimlessly.

The fundamental difference, IMO, between doers and the demanders is that doers get results. I'm sure the enviroFreaks have a really hard time accepting the fact that a pharmaceutical company like Phizer has done more than all of their sign waving to save wild animals in their natural habitat.

Viagra working to get Asian men hard has done away with the interest in killing wild animals for their organs which were once believed to help with virility... but they don't really work and Viagra does. So there you go, the wild tigers in Asia are one step further from extinction.

But that's just unacceptable to the protester types. They think throwing paint on people is the way to go!

I'd say the same thing about the Green movement with fuels. Make it cheaper than gasoline and just as easy to fill up, and green will prevail. It's all about ease and price. I doubt anyone really has an emotional attachment to gas. If a greener car cost the same and had the same performance and it cost the same or less to fill up and most gas stations allowed you to fill up... then boom.

Price and convenience, not idealism.

It worked for the tigers and it will work for alternative fuels. Plus, with alt fuels like those made from Corn will finally put those farmers we're paying \$\$\$\$ to NOT GROW corn to work. I love that... we artificially inflate the price of corn when we could give it away instead and use it for \$\$\$ industries like fuel.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [docwho-1](#) (Sat Feb 25 2006 14:38:45)

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I have to agree, either this is total balony, or the documentary style is very unrealistic and full of actors.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [thinkGreener](#) (Sun Feb 26 2006 00:22:37)

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It's not that they were actors (well, Tim was a failed actor want to be)...

But they did act.

So, pretty much everyone in this film was playing the part of themselves. Not being themselves, playing the part.

It's actually what Herzog does... he fabricates, just like the title of this thread, and Herzog doesn't even like to call his films documentaries... he doesn't believe in the truth of film... he DOES have an agenda and admittedly so.

So yes, this is a horrible nature documentary. It's a horrible documentary. But it's not a horrible film. And it is a FILM. It's as much fantasy as reality... and since Tim's reality was mostly fantasy too, it's a whole lot of fantasy!

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [destructo-2](#) (Sun Feb 26 2006 06:56:33)

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Another comment on the real people ACTING bit, thinkGreener, is that the real people were commenting on things that they really shouldn't have been commenting on... or if they did, the director really shouldn't have included it if this was a legit operation.

Like the coroner. Man, this guy was the catch all authority for everything except what you'd want to hear out of a coroner or medical examiner. He knew so much about Tim and Amie besides what they looked like as bear food that it virtually proves that he was given a script to recite or that he did some "research" on his own.

For instance, how would he have known Jewel? At all. And why would she be in Alaska? Oh yeah, she was the co-ex-producer. I imagine the morning of the shoot went something like "ok, here's some things I want you to say Doc, be sure to work in this and this and this, then, during this next shot, I want you to act all ceremonious and hand this watch to me, and then I'll cry and then you can say these endearing lines we had the intern come up with... Herzy baby, how does that work with you?"

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [destructo-2](#) (Sun Feb 26 2006 22:13:23)

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I saw a few minutes of the extra footage tonight on TV, not enough to rant on it, but what I did see seemed very retrospect to me. They mentioned how much fascination there was over the missing audio and even about the hatred audiences felt toward Tim and they even had a splash screen about "Some people say he got what he deserved."

One thing that really surprised me is that his friends almost all agreed that he would have liked the film and Jewel said that he was finally the rock star that he wanted to be.

I almost wonder. No I DO wonder if those friends know about Herzog's style. That he really did USE them for his own creation and distortion. I would have expected someone to say that they felt betrayed or that Herzog's agenda was not the same as Tim's.... or that he only chose the most controversial clips of Tim's work and didn't present a fair picture of him.

Just seems strange to me that the people I saw comment on the film itself didn't notice the absurdity that a lot of us viewers did!?!?

Puzzled.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [pyromaniaretard](#) (Sun Feb 26 2006 22:55:01)

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I agree that Timothy does not qualify as an environmentalist. I think he had serious issues. But I'd like to say that author of this thread is incredibly insensitive to Treadwell's condition. Personally, I liked the film, and I sympathize with Treadwell.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Petroles](#) (Sun Feb 26 2006 23:03:10)

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Destructo -

I've been reading your posts, and I have to say, you make a lot of sense. While I do find the movie compelling, I can't help feel as if the whole thing is staged. The Coroner scene in the lab almost drove me to turn off the movie, as it is so obviously fake and over-dramatized.

As for Treadwill himself...

If I were a bear, I'd have mauled and eaten him out of principle for being a jackass.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [lucas_ewalt](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 00:07:41)

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Destructo,

If you view this movie as a mockumentary, in the same vein as This Is Spinal Tap, then it works very well. It might actually be better than Spinal Tap. It's probably the funniest movie I've seen in a long time. Either Herzog is a comedic genius, or else he has no idea what he's doing. The only tragic part is that I'm positive it's not supposed to be a mockumentary.

And I think the only reason we didn't get to hear the audio is because it contains something along the lines of "STUPID F&*&%%#!\$ BEARS!" and that probably would've ruined Herzog's movie.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [sean_edw](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 07:13:54)

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The coroner had listened to the audio recording of the bear attack. He stated that after the attack had been going for some time, that Treadwell told Aimee to run away. The coroner felt that based on the tape, and his analysis of the injuries to the corpse, that Treadwell realized he was doomed, and tried to do the right thing by at least saving his companion. Seems pretty reasonable to me.

Why not just say you didn't like the film and be done? You trying to convince everyone that your opinion is the only valid opinion?

Grizzly People



by - [the_Brav](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 09:17:55)

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This film was a grisly comedy and I firmly believe that the foundation, Grizzly People, most likely owns that amazing oceanfront property the 'pseudo widow' lives in. Anyway to check into that???

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [mark-malloy](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 10:07:38)

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film is a powerful thing..Treadwells freinds for the most part seem to think he would have liked the film..b.s. I say herzog did a lot of putting words in peoples mouths..some call it writing dialog.. and twisting the facts to suit his own needs..in a search for the truth my ass !Treadwell would not have cared for the film..and Herzog is an ego-maniac poser ! One of these days these so-called friends of Tim's will realize Herzog just blew smoke up their ass and used a Man's lifes work as he wished . The hell of it is even tho Herzog tries to make it something it is not the footage is still riveting even tho the narration and acting suck !

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Calex82](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 11:06:05)

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How do you know Treadwell wouldn't have cared for the film?

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [mark-malloy](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 11:37:20)

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Calex ,

I don't really..but it's obvious that at least 1 of his friends an actor named Queeney I believe that was the name did not think treadwell was as paranoid or psychotic as the film makes him out to be..said he would not have liked the rant on the park service included..guy seemed to me to be a true friend ..did not hold it against Tim for lying to him accepted him for what he was .Now ol Jewel that's a different story always 1st in line to kiss old Werners ass .

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Calex82](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 11:51:24)

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It seems like he would have liked it according to more than one person.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 18:55:13)

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-- sean_edw wrote:

Why not just say you didn't like the film and be done? You trying to convince everyone that your opinion is the only valid opinion?

The unexamined life is not worth living, and an unexamined film is not worth viewing.

The joy is not in being right, it's in being challenged, and this thread is an open challenge to agree or disagree and to either improve on things I've said or to disagree and tear them apart.

If everyone agreed with me, this film wouldn't be nearly as popular as it is, since some people thing it's a nature doc, others appreciate Herzog's style, others think that Treadwell is a crusader, and still others do enjoy it as a mockumentary.

I don't recall ever saying anyone else doesn't have a right to an oppinion... after all, they're like anuses, everyone has one and most of them stink. Once you pass freshman English, you'll appreciate the difference between an oppinion and a reasoned hypothesis. Arguing opinions is pointless, but reasoned debate is ABOUT confrontation.

Look up Lincoln/Douglas. You'll understand.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 19:12:04)

 [edit](#)

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🔁 **UPDATED** Mon Feb 27 2006 19:54:46

Calex82 -

I don't KNOW, I THINK. It's COGITO ERGO SUM, not SCIO ERGO SUM.

Anyway, my thought is that Treadwell doesn't come off very well in this film. The footage Herzog chose was almost exclusively about Treadwell, and I would hope that many more hours exist that weren't as flashy and flamboyant, but would better show a normal acting

Tim. Or perhaps more of Tim sending a more calm and informative message.

I've seen film of myself as a kid and there's a lot about it that I don't like and wouldn't want to show. I think Tim would never have shown a lot of the footage we did see... especially the more vulnerable moments like his sexuality rant and his initial take while on the beach and goes off on the park service.

AND, even though I think it's REDICULOUS that Herzog comments on Tim's view of nature... I assume that Tim wouldn't appreciate someone else taking his footage and using it against him like that. > I feel < that Herzog didn't give a wiff about Tim's philosophy, but rather liked Tim's potential as a tragic larger than life character that he could use to make a film.

But yeah, I'd kind of be mad if the person who doesn't agree with me tries to use my footage to make my case before he tries to tear it down. That's not very sporting.

So yeah, I think there are several reasons Tim would not have liked how the movie turned out... especially since he was VERY concerned with his on screen image.

That doesn't mean the film HAD to please Tim or anything, it's just a thought experiment. A totally hypothetical with no real way to answer since Tim is dead. It's just guessing with observations.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Calex82](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 19:33:33)

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Tim wasn't a kid though. He was in his 30s or 40s. What makes you think Herzog didn't appreciate Tim's philosophy? Also, why did you write those latin words in caps? Unlike many of these bozos, I can read.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 19:53:20)



Oh, the kid bit wasn't calling Tim a kid, it's just that I haven't seen much footage of myself as an adult that I've been embarrassed about. Most of that footage is stuff that I was very prepared for like performances and debates and speeches, so it wasn't as vulnerable and ...diary / autobiographical as Tim's footage was.

The kid stuff was just footage that I would feel embarrassed by and wouldn't want random public people seeing. Which is probably like Tim and a lot of his footage.

See, there is a lot to be said for this film's interesting qualities... like all this footage about Tim that Tim filmed, but didn't edit. That's like finding your parent's old love letters.... not for public consumption....

And sorry about the caps, it's easier to use caps than italics with markup. So it's not shouting, it's just emphasis or non-English text, like you'd use italics for. It wasn't meant to be condescending.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Calex82](#) (Mon Feb 27 2006 19:54:42)

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Maybe his film was like a diary. Who wants people to read their diary?

Re: That is the question.....



by - [Graham Deans Williamson](#) (Tue Feb 28 2006 13:39:06)

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Destructo, I'm really starting to wonder whether you saw the same movie as me. After castigating Herzog for being didactic, you then unintentionally prove that he wasn't didactic enough for you by either misrepresenting or misinterpreting his own words.

"Maybe Herzog didn't get the joke, because he treats Treadwell like a Philosopher."

Which part of the film was this, exactly? Was it the part where he expressly says he disagrees with Treadwell's view of nature, the entire foundation for the last thirteen years of his life? Was it the part where he describes Treadwell's actions as - and I quote - "madness"? Or was it some other part, which was only in the cut you saw, a cut which also supplied the proof you genuinely seem to think you have that this documentary was staged? You couldn't possibly be throwing big old accusations like that around without proof, now, could you?

Re: Ask yourself this...



by - [Graham Deans Williamson](#) (Tue Feb 28 2006 13:49:06)

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But how, exactly, could he have made an objective documentary? The phenomenon does not exist - a film-maker is interested in a story for a particular reason, and that breaks objectivity. A film-maker chooses who to interview, and that breaks objectivity. A film-maker chooses which shots go into the film, and that breaks objectivity. A film about Timothy Treadwell that showed every side of his life in the wild would not last for two hours - it would last for thirteen years. Once you've started castigating Herzog for making "biased" selections like these, where does it all end?

It's interesting that you point to Herzog being in the movie as proof that it's biased. Frederick Wiseman, the director of 'Titicut Follies' among other things, was once accused of bias for not putting himself in his documentaries. Critics felt that their cinema verite style would lead audiences into looking at them as if they were the unvarnished truth, not considering the amount of planning and negotiation and editing and manipulation that absolutely has to go into every documentary. If you think it's as easy as just going out there with a camera, then try it. I guarantee you that, by the time you've finished filming, editing and scoring your documentary, you will have made omissions and inclusions that would be well open to attack as bias.

By placing themselves in the centre of the film, directors like Herzog, Nick Broomfield, Michael Moore et al do at least point out to the viewer that this is a personal reaction to the events unfolding - an op-ed piece, not a news article. I'd ask if the people who oppose this film want it spelling out, but judging by the amount of times Herzog says in his voiceover "I disagree", "I agree" or "I feel", even spelling it out doesn't seem to get the message across.

Re: That is the question.....



by - [destructo-2](#) (Tue Feb 28 2006 16:16:59)

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"Maybe Herzog didn't get the joke, because he treats Treadwell like a Philosopher."

Graham Deans Williamson wrote:

Which part of the film was this, exactly? Was it the part where he expressly says he disagrees with Treadwell's view of nature

That's exactly the footage I'm talking about. Herzog is specifically rationalizing with a mad man. The film didn't show that Treadwell had some carefully documented and consistent view of nature. It didn't show Tim's scholarship or personal feelings as if this was a PHILOSOPHY 102: Natural Aesthetics class. But Herzog uses a voice over to address Treadwell's views on nature!

Perhaps this concept is over your head, but it's kind of like talking to Joseph Mengele about his views on personal relationships after showing hours of footage of his torture experiments on other humans. The real story of Mengele is how he was a DOCTOR who violated every oath and principle of medicine. The STORY of Treadwell isn't his philosophy, it was his actions.

All this footage is about Tim as a troubled human, not about his views on nature. The bears were about as significant to Treadwell as his drugs were before, they were an object of his addiction. So why would Herzog treat Treadwell like a philosopher??? and ignore the real subject of this film, Tim's twisted view of himself.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Tue Feb 28 2006 16:19:00)

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Calex82 said:

Maybe his film was like a diary. Who wants people to read their diary?

YES! Not only is, who would want someone to read their diary, it's who would want someone else to read their diary and then publish select parts of it!!!!???

Re: Ask yourself this...



by - [destructo-2](#) (Tue Feb 28 2006 16:34:39)

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In re: by - Graham Deans Williamson on Tue Feb 28 2006 13:49:06

Oh please, a bunch of "everything is gray" relativistic bull poop. Again the idiocy is that you're trying to make it black and white while claiming you're being circumspect.

That is such a boring tactic since you are basically trying to discount the ability for people to observe and process information. It isn't that

no movie can ever be 100% objective, it's wether or not the viewer finds the subjectivity unpalatable.

I can watch the news at night and distinguish the sensationalism and bias, but still be able to decide on what parts I feel are true.

I can recognize when my dog is being nice to me to get food and when it's being friendly.

I can distinguish when people have an objective like the old friend who calls up out of nowhere and talks nice for 10 mins before the ubiquitous ride to the airport request or can I borrow \$500.

For being a fuzzy liberal type who I would guess would prefer English over Engineering, you and Helen do a really poor job of recognizing the age old respected art of a textual argument vs. a science lab. When you can't win the "here is my observation, here is what I feel it means" you ask for "FACTS!" and when you can't find facts, you want "but it's all grey!" as if we should just live life like plankton letting the tides of fashion take us places, never thinking, only consuming and being consumed.

Yawn.

So as for Herzog and his bias, it's not the artistic choices that any honest minded person would make, it's the intentional manipulation and planned lies that is objectionable. It is his choice to leave out very relevant things that don't fit his agenda.

The first post in this thread has the things I observed and what I felt they mean. If you have a better interpretation, by all means.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Calex82](#) (Tue Feb 28 2006 17:04:00)

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I feel bad for the bear who killed him because he was only following his instinct.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Tue Feb 28 2006 20:17:52)



I think there are at least 3 bears involved, as hypothesized by a nature guy who lives in Alaska and even knew Treadwell.

- The bear that killed them, likely a smaller bear that was new to the area and hadn't seen Treadwell before. The larger bear that later stole the meal from the smaller bear who was killed by the rangers. The smaller bear who was still in the area who was also killed by the rangers. This second smaller bear could have been the original bear that killed them both.

So yeah, two poor bears who had done decently enough for themselves up to that point are killed due to Tim and perhaps another bear is out there that is now a pretty dangerous threat to newer humans who it might encounter. I don't believe in the "animal has a taste for humans" idea, but if the bear that did kill them is not dead, it certainly has a twisted sense of what humans are and how dangerous they are.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [Calex82](#) (Wed Mar 1 2006 09:59:09)

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I'd read that a cub was killed by the rangers for sniffing around and following the rangers up to the helicopter. He was to be cut open but by the time the rangers got back to him, he'd been eaten.

I'd also read that it was a mean, grumpy bear that Treadwell had tried to "befriend" but didn't.

I don't think the other bear, if there is one, has reasoned that humans are now "dangerous" because of some crazy toe-head.

Re: Grizzly People



by - [thinkGreener](#) (Wed Mar 1 2006 16:07:01)

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the_Brav --

It's worth noting that Jewel Pavlovak is a producer on this movie. So yeah, you're probably right in assuming that they have a \$\$ interest in all of this.

Funny how they feel the need to retread old ground, Katmai is ALREADY A SANCTUARY!! Why don't they try and get other areas set aside or something?? Stupid people.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [alastair-32](#) (Sat Mar 4 2006 04:27:24)[Ignore this User](#) | [Report Abuse](#) [reply](#)

One point the film (and Herzog) makes is that people DO indulge themselves in self-serving assessments of the world around them. Herzog isn't interested in the compromised mental state of Tim, because the interesting aspect of Tim is his delusions - whether they be driven by madness, or by ego/evasion of social engagement/sexual confusion/desire to do good/whatever.

The coroner is not the victim of a cheezy set-up, nor an actor, but another fantasist in the character study that Herzog presents. The coroner obviously heard the tape of the killing, quite possibly in his legitimate role of establishing the cause of death, and has constructed his own narrative as to the motivations and emotions at play. That the coroner is an eccentric character isn't in doubt, but what of it? Herzog indulges this eccentricity to the same end as he chooses the video footage to portray Tim. Subjectivity in a documentary is no cause to cry out 'Illegitimate!' - this isn't a film about bears - it's a film about people, and how they cope with the world around them.

Jewel is another case in point. She's got a producer credit on the film, and Herzog's route to access to the materials to make this film. What impression do we take away of this woman however? I'd suggest we see her self-serving faux-emotional outbursts for what they are, and Herzog allows her to hoist herself on her own petard. The watch scene (which had me rolling around - as did much of the film) was the sort of movie magic that Herzog loves - I fully believe that the dialogue was off-the-cuff, but wholly fabricated - not by Herzog, but by the two 'players' with their own artificial motivations.

Is Herzog a neutral observer? Of course not. He makes clear that the whole process of film-making is an artificial construct - it's a theme he returns to time and time again, and one he refers to explicitly in the case of Tim's footage. I agree with the poster who said that Herzog's Loch Ness film would lend itself as a useful guide as to the themes the director likes to explore through the medium of documentary. While 'Incident at Loch Ness' IS the Herzog 'Spinal Tap', 'Grizzly Man' is legitimate documentary, that doesn't hide it's essential subjective nature.

OT: Why destructo-2 feels the need to bring tired old political posturing into this whole thread escapes me. Herzog has created an essentially apolitical film here - Liberalism, Environmentalism, 'culture wars', etc are so irrelevant to the point of the film. No need to wheel out your scepticism of liberal/green values.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [Daverat](#) (Wed Mar 8 2006 04:29:58)[Ignore this User](#) | [Report Abuse](#) [reply](#)

>> i think a rare filmmaker like herzog is great for the film industry and viewers. what i am a little worry about is herzog's ego. his 2 films i watched, which were categorized "documentaries," seemed to be more about herzog himself than the actual issue at hand. i think sooner or later, if he continues making films like lochness and grizzly, he will be scorned by critics and audiences alike.<<

If he never does another film - Fitzcarraldo (1982) alone would carve his name in stone. Lament what he's become, but don't lament that he never did anything great - he has.

IMO, He did a good job of mocking himself and the legends about him in the Loch ness film. of course, if you don't know all that - the film is nowhere near as funny.

Go watch Fitzcarraldo - you won't be sorry

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [Daverat](#) (Wed Mar 8 2006 05:04:53)[Ignore this User](#) | [Report Abuse](#) [reply](#)

Destructo - further up in the thread your just having fun with this but I beg to differ. in your answers to my serious questions on your perceptions and viewing experienced, you have been honest, thoughtful and sometimes eloquent. I believe that this film HAS moved you and that the experience of viewing it has changed you and caused you to question man's role in nature as agent of change versus participant. I've enjoyed our discussion and I hope to see you around instigating other serious and thoughtful discussions.

Sure, you've had your fun, but you've also done a lot of thinking on the issues raised both by the film as it was presented by Herzog and the issues raised by herzog's choice in presentation of the facts and characterization of them. I don't know how old you are, But I'm 41 and if you're a younger fella - good for you. I wish half the students I've ever had in film classes did as much thinking.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible

by - [sokaymang](#) (Wed Mar 8 2006 14:08:30)[Ignore this User](#) | [Report Abuse](#) [reply](#)

I agree with destructo completely about the coroner. His lines had the quality of being read or recited from memory. And his attempts to show emotion while he spoke were creepy, at best.

In response to someone else's comments. I don't think Treadwell wanted to martyr himself. He wanted to be a martyr like figure without having to go through the trouble of being killed. Unfortunately for him, that happened anyway.

Whoever said this film wasn't marketed as a nature documentary clearly missed all of the ads. I caught the movie on the Discovery Channel last weekend. There were so many commercials (5 minutes of the movie followed by 5 minutes of commercials) I would've changed the channel, but Treadwells plunge from reality was fascinating enough to keep my attention. The poor man was unbalanced, it

seems he thought the grizzlies were comparable to the cute Teddy Bear we see in his tent.

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [destructo-2](#) (Wed Mar 8 2006 15:19:27)



Nah, Daverat, I don't think it was all mocking. My first post was a pretty harsh reaction against Herzog because...well, I felt like I was the only one who was getting the joke. All of the posts on this board at that time were positive and glowing... and decidedly pro-environmental and thinking that this film was too.

I've seen a lot of crappy movies.... most that were never worth another thought. And frankly, I've read a lot of posts by stupid people who fall for stupid movies. This thread started out as a reponse against them and a movie that was getting a lot of praise for things I didn't feel it delivered on.

But this movie is anything but forgettable. And even though there are now a huge number of people who are seeing the same things that aggravated me in this film posting "this film sux!" I think the reasoned debate with other smart people like yourself has informed me enough to realize the greater arc of Herzog films that this movie falls in. Lacking that frame, I think all the things I said before hold pretty true... and I think most people do lack that frame. But having a bit more knowledge of Herzog to reference changes my view on this film quite a bit.

It's kind of similar to the experience I had at an art museum. After I had taken AP Art History and written off post-modernism as trash, even discounted the "greats" in impressionism ... I attended a show that had the early works of the impressionists and they were decidedly non-impressionistic. Whereas before I could write off the some of the more formless and non-disciplined artists as hacks who did ulgy and formless work because they didn't have the talent and skill to do photo-realistic art.... BAM I see painting after painting by these artists that were classical and exact and beautifully rendered.

So I had to take a step back and appreciate that even though I didn't like their eventual style... that style was a deliberate choice on their part. They had all the skill and training to produce masterful classic paintings, photorealistic portraits, still life, and even lush rococo style / romantic works. But they chose to be more fast and loose and bold and different.

Well, I can take a step back from this movie and look at it in the same manner. Although I'd still like to find some more older Herzog works to see, since I have only a limited Herzog experience.

:c)

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [ddreams987](#) (Fri Mar 10 2006 02:47:55)

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Some people talk about how lucky every person is to have been born, that single sperm with that single egg in that single day in 5 billion years had to happen, that the odds are astronomically against every one of us ever existing, that we could all win the lottery 100 times in a row before we would reach odds as unlikely as our presence here, but we're all a little unluckier for your existence.

Re: That is the question.....



by - [ddreams987](#) (Fri Mar 10 2006 03:04:49)

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Think of it this way: watch the movie up until the final 20-30 minutes. Treadwell's background is given, as well as plenty of footage of him with the bears. Slowly, however, it focuses more and more around Treadwell's trouble in life (battle with addiction, failed acting career, videotaped explosive/bi-polar behavior). The story almost takes a sick turn as it increasingly becomes the story of a madman that all culminates in the sinister videotaped death which illustrates the brutal, macabre cost of an ill man's delusions. Suddenly, Herzog's lawyer informs him they aren't going to be able to air the audio clip of the deaths. What is Herzog to do with an hour or more of movie with suddenly no ending?

Cue Herzog sitting in the living room of the woman in possession of the tape, giving her heartfelt sentimental advice about something in which he previously had no hand and certainly has no authority. If this story were truly to be a case or character study of Treadwell, why is Herzog injecting himself into this story that belongs to another man? Why the scene of them handing off the watch? And as Destructo-2 pointed out, why does Herzog suddenly address Treadwell's delusional interpretation of nature as if--although Herzog disagrees--it has some intellectual or philosophical merit.

This isn't a philosophy class debate in which the nihilists and the existentialists disagree, but both have their own rationality: Treadwell was downright insane and Herzog spends the first hour of the film telling us this. He throws out first-year maieutic keyterms like he just read the first chapter of his high school philosophy textbook. Spare me the epistemology and stick with the relevant parts of the story.

The only thing worse than butter-thick, pedantic endings are butter-thick, pedantic endings without a point.

Fitting Finish to this thread



by - [Daverat](#) (Mon Mar 20 2006 02:46:37)

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Destructo_2 stated:

>>>I think the reasoned debate with other smart people like yourself has informed me enough to realize the greater arc of Herzog films that this movie falls in. Lacking that frame, I think all the things I said before hold pretty true... and I think most people do lack that frame. But having a bit more knowledge of Herzog to reference changes my view on this film quite a bit.

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So I had to take a step back and appreciate that even though I didn't like their eventual style... that style was a deliberate choice on their part. They had all the skill and training to produce masterful classic paintings, photorealistic portraits, still life, and even lush rococo style / romantic works. But they chose to be more fast and loose and bold and different.

Well, I can take a step back from this movie and look at it in the same manner. Although I'd still like to find some more older Herzog works to see, since I have only a limited Herzog experience. <<<

Well, Destructo, I admire you. You started out in one place with this film and have really thought through it well. Your last post is a fitting end to this thread. If anyone else stuck with us and read each and every post here, I think they will feel rewarded as I do.

As much as we get distracted by people like Helen_Wheels and the Timmy apologists/boosters, what we really came here to work through were the huge questions a film like this raises about film-making, the nature of documentaries in today's age, whether a director of a documentary should have an editorial stance on his subject and so on.

Michael Moore, while a vastly entertaining artist, has slanted people's view of what is appropriate for a documentary director. We now expect all directors to insert their own conclusions or at least make some timely comment when what is happening on screen cries out for it. This film takes a different approach and the viewer sometimes wants to damn Herzog for it.

Destructo, your comment about Impressionist art is apropos. Herzog has the talent and skill to out-Moore Michael Moore but he chooses only to ever really say anything about the nature of nature itself. An odd thing to comment on but not really now that we have had this entire discussion. The reason I feel he did comment on it is that it was Tim's Hippy-dippy, happy horsepucky ideas about nature that framed the delusion that became his life and ultimately his death.

This is a serious work and a serious comment about the dangers of letting the deeply misguided alone to misguide others (such as Aimie). Despite being inadvertently hilarious at times as Tim hangs himself with his own words and as Herzog permits the self-important characters to act in character, this truly is a serious film.

Good for you Destructo_2 for going the whole way and for taking the time to think about and respond to others questions to you. Got any other films you want to talk about? ;-) mention them and I'll follow you to those boards. I've enjoyed this.

Re: Fitting Finish to this thread



by - [jyanks](#) (Mon Mar 20 2006 11:11:53)

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Destructo-

What a great post! Very intelligent & humorous commentary. You hit the nail on the head with your review. Good job! Thanks!

Re: Fabrication, Not Documentary ... this film was horrible



by - [pri mus-1](#) (Tue Apr 4 2006 10:48:09)

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