

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/partners-and-mentors-play-a-role-in-success>

Film and television producer Gale Anne Hurd shares how partners and mentors played a critical role in the making of her first film, *The Terminator*, with director Jim Cameron. Hurd also offers some secrets to building a successful career.



Transcript

So one night after Jim and I had been working very, very hard to get the first set ready to shoot and I was the assistant production manager at this point.. And we needed to - we had to shoot the next morning.. And even though I was the assistant production manager, I did whatever was necessary, which meant getting a Hudson sprayer and working all night spraying the sets, so we would have something to shoot the next morning.. And Jim and I made a promise that night before the first day of shooting, that after working 36 hours straight, he knew he could trust me.. And I knew I could trust him.. We promised that we'd learn our craft.. I'd go off and produce a film, he'd direct a film.. And then we would make our first independent film together.. We kept that promise.. Jim directed *Piranha Two*, *The Spawning*..

It's about flying saltwater piranha.. I produced a movie that was a rip off, a teen rip off of *Smoky and the Bandit*, which was called *Smokey Bites the Dust*.. It cost \$280,000.. I don't recommend any of you go to Netflix and watch either film.. Jim has conveniently taken *Piranha Two*, *The Spawning* off of his resume.. I'm not sure if it's still on IMDb, you can check but we kept our promise and we collaborated on the *Terminator*, which we co-wrote.. It took four years of knocking on doors to get the film made, but my mentor Barbara Boyle had moved on to a company called Orion Pictures.. She talked her bosses into co-financing the film and distributing it.. And my mentor Roger Corman talked to the completion guarantee company Film Finances and told them that I would be able to deliver the film for the budget and they signed on.. Now without both of those and without having learnt the film industry from the bottom up on set I would have failed, so secrets of success..

Tell the truth even if it makes your path harder.. Never give up, always give back, don't make a play until you have the right product, skills and mentors and the right partners...