

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/pulling-through-challenging-roles>

Gale Anne Hurd discusses the challenges of taking on an important role early in her film career. Working as the one-person marketing department for legendary filmmaker Roger Corman, Hurd made many personal sacrifices while gaining valuable experience that led to her next opportunity.



Transcript

So, I had to start over and learn something from the very beginning.. I'd had no training in marketing.. So I had to learn the skills I needed.. I had to give up a personal life completely.. I lost a boyfriend - he wasn't the right guy for me anyway.. However, I did one smart thing.. I made a deal with him before I accepted the position.. I said Roger, I don't think I'm going to be very good at this.. First of all, I have no experience, secondly it just doesn't seem like a good fit for me, but if I do this job for six months - and you have to promise me you won't fire me in this six months - that you will then give me a job on the set of a film production.. He said absolutely..

So I worked 18 to 20 hour days, seven days a week.. And I relied on the kindness of strangers and friends who pulled me through, who helped me in every imaginable way.. And the interesting thing is, after all these many years, this is 1978, 1979, we still have reunions of the groups who worked for Roger Corman and toiled away doing the impossible.. You had to - you either - you would sink or swim, very much like a startup...