

## Procrastination in Film, Story and Screenwriting

Q.

I see procrastination in almost every movie. For example, in Star Wars, Luke seems to procrastinate. What's that all about? And how do I make my hero overcome it?

A.

Better described in terms such as attachment, lack of capacities etc, the result is nevertheless the same – a lack of movement forward. Procrastination is common in many movies, for example in *The Incredibles (2004)*, “what are you waiting for?”

How to overcome the procrastination? In a sense, that's the function of the whole story. Lets use a Hitchcock movie to demonstrate.

In *Rear Window (1954)*, very roughly:

In Act I, Grace Kelly wants James Stewart to marry her but he procrastinates.

In Act II, James Stewart sees a murder and goes about gaining the capacities to confront the murderer. As those capacities are gained, so the procrastination dissolves away. This is done in a very specific way and this act should really be divided into two.

In Act III, the murderer is confronted and the procrastination is overcome.

So the solution to your problem is to create a monster and destroy it, after which the capacity to overcome the procrastination is gained.

[Procrastination represents much deeper forces and interactions (Id, Superego etc). In the above example, the State of Imperfection is the procrastination. Often procrastination is state-gated; one common gate is the clinging to the Ordinary World and State. Again, the monster helps to overcome this – for example, in *Star Wars (1977)*, stormtroopers kill Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru. To understand this and for a much deeper and practical analysis see the 510+ stage Hero's Journey at <http://www.clickok.co.uk/index4.html> ]