

## Success from Failure

One of my favorite actors of all time is Harrison Ford. Almost everyone knows him from his roles as Han Solo and Indiana Jones. Still to this day I enjoy watching the *Indian Jones* and *Star Wars* original trilogies. Every summer as a kid away from school I would watch these movies over and over. It is now interesting to learn that he was not always a successful actor, or an actor at all in his early life. In 1960, Harrison Ford attended Ripon College in Wisconsin to study English and Philosophy. It was there where he discovered his love for acting when looking for an easy grade in drama class. He was quoted “I was terrified to get up in front of people, but I really enjoyed the storytelling part.” Ford later quit college and moved to Hollywood to land his first job with Columbia Pictures and Universal. His first film was a small part in *Dead Heat on a Merry-Go-Round*. He only had one line and the studio executives were not impressed. Ford said in an interview that an executive told him he didn’t have what it takes to be a movie star. He then became a carpenter to help bring in more money.

Harrison Ford received his first big role in 1973 from George Lucas in a film called *American Graffiti*, but even after the success of that movie he was still not getting much recognition. He continued as a carpenter and small role actor until 1977 when he worked with George Lucas again in *Star Wars*. After that he was in one big movie after another proving the executive that told him he would not be a movie star completely wrong. In 1980, he was again Han Solo in *The Empire Strikes Back*, and then in 1981 he was in another famous role as Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Harrison Ford was the lead man in the 1982 Ridley Scott film *Blade Runner*, Han Solo again 1983 in *Return of the Jedi*, and Indiana Jones two more times in 1984 and 1989. He has done many films since then including the new film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Although he was considered a failed actor at the beginning of his career, his opportunity to aid in the storytelling of *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* has helped make him a success ever since.

I chose Harrison Ford because I have always loved his roles as Indiana Jones and Han Solo. He has been in many other movies portraying a variety of characters, but those two are my favorite of all time. It was very interesting to read that he became a carpenter because he couldn’t make it as an actor, and that it took over ten years to land his breakthrough role. This applies to my journey because I can relate to giving up on my dream of finding a career to pursue something else to supplement income as Harrison Ford did with carpentry. For over ten years he continued to believe in his dream even though he was unsuccessful. His patience and passion to pursue what he loved despite early discouragement is an inspiration that can encourage me as I pursue a career that I love.

Harrison Ford Biography. Retrieved from <http://www.biography.com/people/harrison-ford-9298701>