

# Heart of Darkness

Although inspired by Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, the film is often seen as a separate work.

It is a possible look at a look of nature and what's really out there.

Coppola replaced European colonialism with American imperialism.

# Filming

The film was shot in the Philippines, and the setting is a jungle.

It was shot in the Philippines, and the setting is a jungle.

Apocalypse Now was one of the first movies made in Hollywood about the Vietnam war. As the war is now seen as a defining moment in 20th century American history it has spawned numerous other films: *The Green Berets*, *The Deerhunter*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Platoon*, *Hamburger Hill*, the *Rambo* movies, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Casualties of War*. These films constitute a distinctive sub-genre within the 'war film' category.

Academy Award for Best Cinematography  
Academy Award for Best Sound

Nominated:

Academy Award for Best Picture  
Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor (Robert Duvall)  
Academy Award for Best Art Direction  
Academy Award for Directing (Francis Ford Coppola)  
Academy Award for Film Editing  
Academy Award for Best Writing

This hasn't got much to do with Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, which certainly inspired its last sequences with a mumbly Brando, nor with the Vietnam War, painted as a kind of bloody, highly-coloured game. But the film remains an epic about war itself with many unforgettable sequences and a hallucinatory dramatic power that is almost palpable. The experience nearly killed Coppola, caused Martin Sheen to have a major heart attack and spawned a fascinating account, in both written and film form, of its intensely precarious making in the Philippines. Despite every disaster, the film proved successful, both commercially and artistically - an object lesson in stubborn persistence, imagination and technical brilliance. It says a lot about America and Americans too, though very little about the Vietnamese.

— Derek Malcolm (Film critic and historian)

# Apocalypse Now

# Legacy

The film is a landmark in the history of the New Wave.

It is a landmark in the history of the New Wave.

Apocalypse Now was one of the first movies made in Hollywood about the Vietnam war. As the war is now seen as a defining moment in 20th century American history it has spawned numerous other films: The Green Berets, The Deerhunter, Full Metal Jacket, Platoon, Hamburger Hill, the Rambo movies, Born on the Fourth of July, Casualties of War. These films constitute a distinctive sub-genre within the 'war film' category.

Academy Award for Best Cinematography

Academy Award for Best Sound

# Heart of Darkness

Although inspired by Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, the film deviates extensively from its source material

Kurtz as god-like leader of a tribe of natives and Willard seeking him out parallel experiences in book

Coppola replaced European colonialism with American interventionism

Although inspired by Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, the film deviates extensively from its source material

Kurtz as god-like leader of a tribe of natives and Willard seeking him out parallel experiences in book

Coppola replaced European colonialism with American interventionism

Filming

The original conception had been to make the movie on location in Vietnam, presumably with the war raging around actors and crew. But by the time shooting began in 1976 the Americans had withdrawn from Vietnam and an alternative location had to be found. Coppola selected the Philippines. He negotiated with Ferdinand Marcos, then the President of the Philippines, to hire Philippino Air Force helicopters and pilots, and construction began of the main set, Kurtz's compound, deep in the jungle.

From the beginning the project was beset with problems:

Weather

Characters (Keitel, Sheen, and Brando)

Theft/Bodyguards

Multiple Endings

Narration Rework (Michael Herr)

Sound (1st with Dolby surround)

OVERBUDGET!!!!

Legacy

The movie is widely regarded by many as a masterpiece of the New Hollywood era, and is frequently cited as one of the greatest films of all time



The May 1, 2010 cover of the Economist newspaper, illustrating the 2010 European sovereign debt crisis with imagery from the movie, attests to the film's pervasive cultural impact.



Academy Award for Best Cinematography

Academy Award for Best Sound

Nominated:

Academy Award for Best Picture

Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor (Robert Duvall)

Academy Award for Best Art Direction

Academy Award for Directing (Francis Ford Coppola)

Academy Award for Film Editing

Academy Award for Best Writing

This hasn't got much to do with Conrad's Heart of Darkness, which certainly inspired its last sequences with a mumbling Brando, nor with the Vietnam War, painted as a kind of bloody, highly-coloured game. But the film remains an epic about war itself with many unforgettable sequences and a hallucinatory dramatic power that is almost palpable. The experience nearly killed Coppola, caused Martin Sheen to have a major heart attack and spawned a fascinating account, in both written and film form, of its intensely precarious making in the Philippines. Despite every disaster, the film proved successful, both commercially and artistically - an object lesson in stubborn persistence, imagination and technical brilliance. It says a lot about America and Americans too, though very little about the Vietnamese.

----Derek Malcolm (film critic and historian)