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### Harrison Ford and Reactions

Harrison Ford is one of the most famous. But three of his most famous roles are in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *The Fugitive*, and *Witness*, which are the films which were chosen to critique his performance. Harrison Ford has a unique charm to his style of acting, really he seems like he fits every character he embodies even if they are not totally like his personality. What makes his performances so good is the ability to listen and react, which is why he was such a great action star. Harrison Ford is also one of the most underrated dramatic actors of all time, mainly because he is associated with his action background, but he can give great layered performances like in *Witness*, where he earned his first and only Academy Award.<sup>1</sup> Harrison Ford has a unique acting style in which he thinks and reacts, but it can make him be type cast in certain films like action or thrillers.

The parts of Harrison Ford's performances which are important are the amount of thinking and his reactions, which is what make him a great actor. *The Fugitive* in which Harrison Ford plays Dr. Richard Kimble, an innocent man on the run from Tommy Lee Jones US Marshal Samuel Gerard. Ford's performance in the film is more subdued than his action roles because he's not playing an action star like he would in *Indiana Jones*, he's playing a doctor. His eyes are really what sell this performance in the film, especially when he's interacting with Tommy Lee

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<sup>1</sup>*Witness*. Directed by Peter Weir. Performed by Harrison Ford. USA: Paramount, 1985

Jones. The best scene of the film is probably the scene on the waterfall in which Harrison Ford is backed against the wall, he gives the moment in which he listens then acts, you can tell through his eyes he is going through the options and finally jumps off the edge.<sup>2</sup> Another example of this is in *Witness* where Ford is playing an agent protecting an 8 year old Amish witness in an Amish community, in which they go into town and the townsfolk are going very belligerent with the Amish. His character watches the confrontation and then acts upon it by punching the belligerent townsfolk, the best part of the scene is right before he confronts the people. He has had a bad day and it shows on his face and in his eyes, so you can tell he is about to do something and he then delivers a punch to the man who's taunting him. It shows him thinking then reacting which makes him so unique and so good.<sup>3</sup> Harrison Ford's most famous character is Indiana Jones and he gives a great performance in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. The best scene of the film is the ending of the film where there is a tender moment between his father (Sean Connery) and Indiana, where Indiana is reaching for the holy grail, but his father pulls him out of it. This moment shows the playing with the eyes, because the audience believes he's going to reach for instead of going to his father. But when his father says "Indiana" instead of calling him junior, you can tell in his eyes that means more to Indiana Jones. Harrison Ford then acts to this moment and climbs up and gets rescued by his dad.<sup>4</sup> Harrison Ford's great part of his acting style is listening with his eyes and then reacting on an instinct.

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<sup>2</sup> *The Fugitive*. Directed by Andrew Davis. Performed by Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones. USA: Warner Bros, 1993. (35:00)

<sup>3</sup> *Witness*. Directed by Peter Weir. Performed by Harrison Ford. USA: Paramount, 1985. (1:25)

<sup>4</sup> *Indiana Jones and the last crusade*. Directed by Steven Spielberg. Performed by Harrison Ford. USA: Paramount, 1989. (1:56:00)

Harrison Ford's acting is something which works well in the action film genre but his thinking and reacting does not work well in many dramas. He always has to be in some sort of motion, so his dramatic stoic roles are not as great, which make him typecast as the action star or a dramatic star in motion. He needs to take more of the listening and reacting without going into a motion, it makes it more serious and less action based. All of his films are great when he's in action, but he needs to have more of the dramatic subtleness which other actors like Jack Nicholson.

Harrison Ford became a great action star with memorable performances in the original *Star Wars* trilogy, *Indiana Jones* trilogy (yes, there are only three), and *The Fugitive*. He is most known with the thriller and action drama, which he is able to listen through his eye movement and his reactions are what make him so good in those roles. The audience knows what he's thinking through his eyes and then seems to decide on an action, and then executes. This can get him typecast in some roles and it shows when he does a more stoic drama instead of a thriller style drama. Harrison Ford's acting style is unique and it makes him so likable and he seems to be typecast because of this acting style.