

CHAPTER II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR AND THE SYNOPSIS OF *CAST AWAY* (2000) AND *THE MARTIAN* (2015)

A. Biography of The Director

1. Biography of Robert Zemeckis

Robert Lee Zemeckis was born on May 14, 1952 in Chicago, Illinois, America. Robert is an American filmmaker and screenwriter. Zemeckis was interested in movie since he was child. Zemeckis was graduated from University of Southern California. In 1973, Zemeckis won the Student Academy Awards of his film *Field of Honor*.

I Wanna Hold Your Hand, his first film as a director and screenwriter. This comedy movie was released in 1978. In 1980, Zemeckis directed a satirical film, titled *Used Cars*. Beside those movies, Zemeckis is also directed many other movies with different genre, some of these movies are: *Romancing the Stone* (1984), an action film; *Back to the Future* (1985), an American science fiction and comedy film series; *Forrest Gump* (1994), an American comedy drama film; *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988); a fantasy neo-noir film; *Back to the Future part II* (1989) a science fiction adventure comedy film; *Cast Away* (2000), an American epic survival drama film.

2. Biography of Ridley Scott

Sir Ridley Scott was born on November 30th 1937 in South Shields, County Durham, England. He is an England film director and producer. Scott went to Royal College of Art in London. His first film is a *Boy and Bicycle*, a black and white short film that was made for his final show in his college.

In 1968, Ridley Scott and his brother, Tony Scott, was founded Ridley Scott Associates (RSA), a film and commercials production company. During 1970s Ridley Scott made many commercial advertisements at RSA. Five members of the Scott family are directors, and all have work for RSA.

Scott has been nominated for three Academy Awards for Directing. Those three films are *Thelma and Louise* (1991), *Gladiator* (2000), and *Black Hawk Down* (2001). In 1995 Ridley and Tony Scott received the BAFTA Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema. In 1977, Scott won the Cannes Award for Best Debut Film Award for *The Duellists*. In 1979, Scott won as the Best Director and the Best Science Fiction film in *Alien*. In 2003, Scott was knighted for his “service to the British film industry”. In 2015, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Royal College of Art in London. Scott also won many awards as the Best Director from his films like *The Martian* (2015), an American science fiction film; *Gladiator* (2000), an epic historical drama film; *Thelma and Louise* (1991), an American road film and *Black Hawk Down* (2001), a British American war film.

Other films that also directed by Scott are *Alien* (1979), a science fiction horror film; *Blade Runner* (1982), an American neo noir science fiction

film; *Hannibal* (2001), an American crime thriller film; *American Gangster* (2007), an American biographical crime film and *Prometheus* (2012), a science fiction film.

B. The Synopsis of *Cast Away* (2000) and *The Martian* (2015)

Cast Away was released on 2000. This movie was directed by Robert Zemeckis. This movie tells about an employee of FedEx named Chuck Noland. Chuck Noland got assignment to deliver the packages to Malaysia. Chuck Noland has a girlfriend. Before Chuck Noland leaving, he gave some presents to his girlfriend and promised that he would return in the new year. In his way, Chuck Noland's plane got an accident because of a storm that caused the plane landed on the sea. Chuck Noland was safe from the accident, but he stranded in an uninhabited island.

Chuck Noland tried to find a way to get a help. He tried to survive in the island. Chuck Noland exploited anything in the island to make him comfort and save. Chuck Noland made a hut from woods to stay and to protect him. Chuck Noland got food from stab fish with spear, and he drinks from coconut water. He also exploits some boxes that come stranded with him.

Chuck Noland found a cave and he stayed there. He made fire from wood and stone to make him warm. Chuck Noland was lonely in the island. He found a ball in the box and he draws it eyes, nose, and lips to make it resembles a face of person. Chuck Noland talked with the volleyball every day. He and the volleyball are friends and he named the volleyball, Wilson. It is the way to make him not feeling lonely and keep his soul normal.

Chuck Noland collected big woods and he made them into a raft that would be used to return to his home. Chuck Noland used the raft to leave the island. Unfortunately, there were big waves crashed him in his way back home and it caused Wilson lost. It makes Chuck Noland felt deeply sad. When Chuck Noland feels surrender, there is a cruise through and finally Chuck Noland saved and comes back to his home.

After Chuck Noland got home, he returned to his office and he also wants to meet Kelly, his girlfriend. Unfortunately, Kelly is already married and has a baby. Chuck Noland felt very sad and disappointed because he lost his beloved girl.

Another film that is similar to *Cast Away* is a film from Ridley Scott, entitled *The Martian* (2015). Besides its similarities, *Cast Away* (2000) and *The Martian* also has differences. The differences between *Cast Away* (2000) and *The Martian* (2015) is the setting of the story.

The Martian (2015), is an American science fiction film from Ridley Scott. *The Martian* tells about an astronaut named Mark Watney, who has a mission at Mars with the crew named Hermes. Mark Watney and his crew work and live at Mars. There was a storm and causes Mark Watney was left behind by his crew at Mars because they presumed that Mark Watney was dead. The crew thinks that Mark Watney was dead because he did not any signs and cannot be contacted.

Mark Watney awakened after the storm because of the sound of a low oxygen warning and he can get back to the hab. He begins to make a video diary

and realizes that his only chance of rescue is to rendezvous with the crew. Mark Watney immediate concern is the food availability for his survival in a long time. Mark Watney become a botanist, and he improvises a farm inside the hab utilizing martian soil fertilized with human waste, water produced by extracting hydrogen from leftover rocket fuel and potatoes intended for thanksgiving dinner. He also modifies the only functional rover for longer journey in preparation for the long distance travel.

Mark Watney used the lander's camera, he established rudimentary communication with Earth. NASA gives instruction to Mark Watney to modify the rover to link with pathfinder so they can communicate via text.

Mark Watney begins the 90 sol journey to Schiaparelli and prepositioned Area IV MAV. He removed many components from the MAV including the nose cone to lighten it. The MAV however does not reach the needed speed and altitude, therefore the Commander Merissa Lewis used maneuvering thrusters to change course and explosive decompression of Hermes's internal atmosphere to reduce speed. Commander Lewis used a manned maneuvering unit to reach Mark Watney but it is not enough. Mark Watney pierced the glove of his pressure suit and uses escaping air to propel himself towards Lewis. The crew affectively rescuing him after being alone for 543 sols on Mars. Finally Mark Watney was safe and can back to the Earth. After Mark Watney returned at Earth, he becomes a survival instructor for astronaut candidates in NASA.